

Test Name: Reading Skills Test One

ReviewScan™ Test Code: 3737917

Date: _____

Your Name: _____

Teacher: _____

Class Name: _____

Express Mail

In the 1850's, a letter took three weeks to reach California from New York. Boats and stagecoaches were very slow. There were telegraph lines and railroads but neither reached all the way to California. Then, three people started a transportation company to deliver mail, packages, and important news to Western communities. They called it the Pony Express.

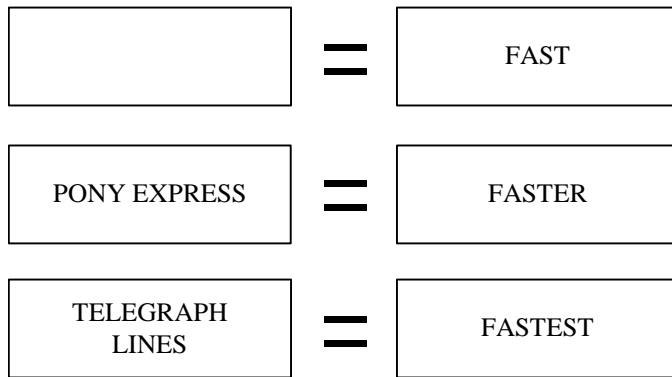
The Pony Express ran from Missouri to California as a relay system with a team of horseback riders. Each rider rode one hundred miles, stopping every fifteenth mile to get a fresh horse. Speed was very important and the horses ran fast over rough terrain. The trail was 2000 miles long and the route took about ten days. News of Abraham Lincoln's Inaugural Address reached the West Coast in the record time of seven days and seventeen hours!

For eighteen months the Pony Express was the strongest link across the country. Small towns and big cities depended on the riders to bring mail and important news. But on October 24, 1861, a telegraph line to the Pacific Coast was completed. This became the quickest way to relay information and the Pony Express came to an end.

1. The article could also be called --
 - A "Mail Delivery in California"
 - B "The Telegraph Line of the Pacific Coast"
 - C "The Fastest Riders in the West"
 - D "Why Railroads were Invented"
2. How often did the riders change horses?
 - A every ten days
 - B every one hundred miles
 - C every fifteen miles
 - D every seventeen hours
3. Paragraph three talks about which topic?
 - A how the telegraph lines work
 - B why the mail took weeks to deliver
 - C why the Pony Express ended
 - D what happened before the Pony Express was created

4. The diagram illustrates a few important points of the article.

NEWS DELIVERY



What item belongs in the blank space?

- A riders
- B packages
- C horses
- D boats

5. The communities between Missouri and California relied on the Pony Express for all of these EXCEPT --

- A news
- B mail
- C transport
- D supplies

Natural Cure

Hundreds of years ago you couldn't go to the store to buy aspirin or cough syrup. Instead, in many areas of the world, people lived off the land. They had to make do with what they found in nature. Different plants and trees were the main ingredient in many medicines then.

The Native Americans of the Western United States, for example, used the seeds and leaves of a wild buckwheat plant to ease a stomachache or headache. They used hot tea made from the roots of the Oregon grape to help increase a person's appetite. If you had a cold, a cup of flowering dogwood tea was the cure.

Native Americans were not the only ones to use plants to make medicine. In many cultures, herbs and plants were used to cure illnesses. In England many people tended their own herb gardens. The herb rosemary, if brewed in tea, would relieve an upset stomach. Sage helped cure a sore throat or cold. The herb angelica helped with a cough, and you might have used cloves to relieve a toothache. If bugs bothered you, you might rub basil on your body as an insect repellent!

Today you can find many herbs and plants in kitchens; we add them to food to make it tastier. But years ago, these same herbs were used as the ingredients of medicine. In fact, if you look on medicine labels today you might be surprised by what common herbs and plants are still used.

6. If you wanted to find out more about this subject, you could go to the library and do research under --
- A Nurses and Doctors
 - B English Herb Gardening
 - C The Native Americans of the West
 - D The World of Herbs and Medicine

7. You could use herbs today as a cure for a sore throat if you--
- A lived in the country
 - B have extra sage around
 - C have extra basil around
 - D liked to work in the garden
8. What do many of the cures in the passage have in common?
- A they use medicines
 - B they involve hot tea
 - C they don't work
 - D they aren't in use today
9. In the last paragraph, the author states "you might be surprised..." because --
- A herbs and plants are not grown to use in medicine
 - B the passage was not that surprising
 - C many cooking herbs are used today in medicines
 - D no one uses natural ingredients in cough syrup
10. What herb was used as an insect repellent in the past?
- A basil
 - B sage
 - C dogwood
 - D angelica