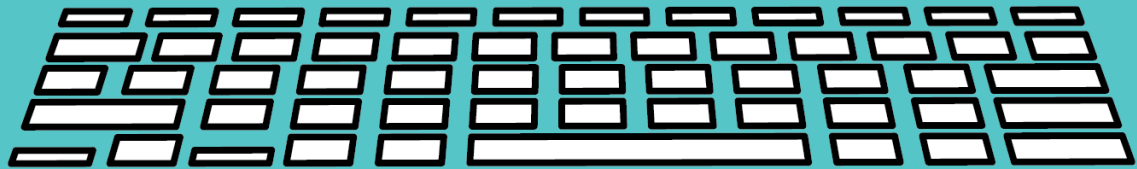
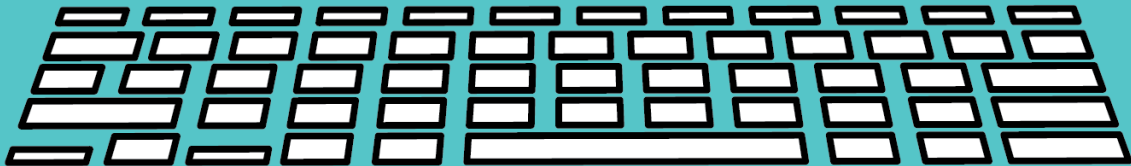


...AND IT WAS  
EXPECTED TO  
DISEMOUNT,  
TRANSFER MAIL,  
AND RE-MOUNT  
WITHIN 2  
MINUTES.

Short Answer	Type Answer Here
1. What was discovered in California in 1848?	
2. What year did the Pony Express begin?	
3. What name was William Cody more well known by?	
4. How much was each rider paid per month?	
5. What invention ended the Pony Express?	
6. How many horses were used in the Pony Express?	
7. What was the knapsack the riders carried called?	
8. What year did California become a state?	



Short Answer	Type Answer Here	Fill in the Blank	Type Answer Here
1. What was discovered in California in 1848?		9. California was the ___ state to join the Union.	
2. What year did the Pony Express begin?		10. One owner of the Pony Express was Alexander ___.	
3. What name was William Cody more well known by?		11. Stations were about ___ miles apart.	
4. How much was each rider paid per month?		12. The Pony Express lasted ___ and a half years.	
5. What invention ended the Pony Express?		13. There were ___ stations.	
6. How many horses were used in the Pony Express?		14. ___ for ___ was the first official state West of the ___ meridian.	
7. What was the knapsack the riders carried called?		15. Buffalo Bill was ___ years old when he became a rider.	
8. What year did California become a state?		16. The Transcontinental ___ had not been built yet.	



## PONY EXPRESS

In 1848, gold was discovered in California. This discovery led many people to pack up and head to California for their own success in gold mining. With all the miners coming to California their home, there was a need for California to become a territory belonging to the United States. In two years, it became the 31st state to join the Union in 1850.

When its place on the West Coast of the United States was confirmed, California was the first official state to border Missouri. That meant it was over 1,500 miles from its nearest neighbor, Missouri. There were territories owned by the United States in between the two states, California was the only official state with no common border.

With California so far away from anyone else, there was a small problem. There wasn't a good way to communicate with the East. The covered wagon would take months to complete the journey and a stagecoach was much faster but would still take between 15-17 days. The Transcontinental Railroad hadn't been built yet, so there was no route that went between California and the Eastern United States. They needed a way to communicate more quickly.

The Pony Express solved the problem. The Pony Express was founded on the idea that a single rider on a horse could deliver messages faster than any other way available at the time. The Pony Express could get messages from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California in just 10 days. The owners of the Pony Express were William H. Russell, William Waddell, and Alexander Majors. The Pony Express began in April 1860, but it only lasted about one and half years.

There were over 100 stations across the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. With stations about ten miles apart, riders would stop, eat, and get water. They would also change tired horses for fresh,

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well-rested horses so they didn't run any one horse too hard on the journey. In the mountains and on rougher terrain, the stations were closer together because the horses tired out faster. Each rider would ride about seventy-five miles a day. The riders carried a knapsack called a mochila which could hold up to 20 lbs.

The Pony Express needed young, small, lightweight teenage boys to ride their horses across the country. One of the most famous Pony Express Riders was none other than William Cody, more commonly known as "Buffalo Bill" from stories of the American "Old West." It is said that Buffalo Bill signed up to be a Pony Express rider at the age of 15 and was one of the bravest riders. He encountered long, hard rides in driving winds and rains, as well as running into hunting parties of Native Americans. Buffalo Bill went on to be a scout for the U.S. Army and a famous frontiersman in the American West. It is probably because of him that the Pony Express has become such a nostalgic piece of history from the Old West.

Each rider was paid about \$100 per month. For 18 short months from April 1860 to October 26, 1861, the Pony Express was in operation.

The cost of operating the Pony Express was too great to make sense. The company had to stay in business. There were 117 stations, 80 riders, and 400 horses in addition to about 100 other employees who had to run the service. Riders were paid and paid for their time. The other big cost was the Pony Express had to send riders across the country.

The Pony Express ended sending riders across the country because the invention of the telegraph made it unnecessary. The electric telegraph sent messages made up of a series of sounds that represented letters of the alphabet across the country in a matter of minutes. It was much faster than the 10 days it took the Pony Express to deliver a message from St. Joseph, Missouri. The Pony Express stopped after the telegraph system in their territory on October 24, 1861, in Sacramento, California.

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