

# PONY EXPRESS

## SCAVENGER HUNT

Q3 How many freedoms are included in the 1st Amendment?

Q4 What is another word for liberties (found in parenthesis)?

Q5 What is a change or addition to the U.S. Constitution known as?

Q6 Many of the delegates from states would not ratify, or sign the Constitution.

Q7 The Bill of Rights has provided the foundation of freedom for all \_\_\_\_.

Q8 Who drafted a Bill of Rights that had 19 amendments?



















Q9 What word means plan of government?

Number where you FOUND the answer to each question.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

CODE \_\_\_\_\_

used as YOUR \_\_\_\_\_ with just 3 le \_\_\_\_\_

	=D		=L		=I
	=E		=M		=U
	=F		=N		=V
	=G		=O		=W
	=H		=P		=X
	=I		=Q		=Y
			=R		=Z

Record the letters for each answer to the question below, then use the decoder to find the corresponding letter. If the answer to Question #1 was a \_\_\_\_\_, then the letter \_\_\_\_\_ would be used.

LETTERS



<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6

CODE \_\_\_\_\_

### CARD #1



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 making California their home, there was a population boom. California had only been a territory belonging to the United States for two years when it became the 31st state to join the Union in 1850.

**THINK TANK**

	<input type="checkbox"/>
GOLD	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNION	<input type="checkbox"/>

### CARD #3

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

	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMMUNICATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
RAILROAD	<input type="checkbox"/>



# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✓ 10 READING CARDS
- ✓ 10 QUESTIONS
- ✓ RECORDING SHEET
- ✓ ANSWER KEY
- ✓ STUDENT DIRECTIONS
- ✓ TEACHER DIRECTIONS
- ✓ EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## CARD #1

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 making California their home, there was a population boom. California had only been a territory belonging to the United States for two

## CARD #3

With California so far away from everyone else, there was a small problem. There wasn't a good way to communicate with them. The covered wagon would take months to make the journey and a stagecoach was much faster but would still have taken 15-17 days. The Transcontinental Railroad hadn't been built yet, so there was no train route that went between California

## CARD #5

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.



TEN



WYOMING



WATER

## CARD #7

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.



FAMOUS



OLD WEST



WILLIAM

## CARD #9

For 18 short months from April 1861 to October 26, 1861, the Pony Express operation. The cost of operating the Express was too great to make the company to stay in business. The stations, 80 riders, and 400 horses about 400 other employees who worked at the stations to feed and pay for



COMPANY



HORSES

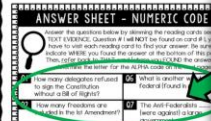
## HOW IT WORKS

### DIRECTIONS

NUMERIC ANSWERS  
IS NE STUD ANSW  
ALP invol (four code bef review

All y them read AND

It do stati stud choo diffe When what



### CARD #S AND QUESTIONS

Write the answer sheet in the box. If you are answering, sure you are writing

Record the card number where you FOUND the answer to each question in the grid below.

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

Record the card number where you FOUND the answer to each question in the grid below.

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----

## SUMMARY

TOPIC SENTENCE

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SUPPORTING DETAIL

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SUPPORTING DETAIL

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LETTERS

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
----	----	----	----

Eliminate the high

## VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Directions: Choose 5 words from the reading cards that are unfamiliar or new to you and fill in the chart below.

WORD PICTURE DEFINITION

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# 10 READING CARDS

**CARD #1**

In 1848, gold was discovered in California. This discovery led many people to pack up and move to California for their own success in gold. All the miners making California their home led to a population boom. California had been a territory belonging to the United States for 10 years when it became the 31st state to join the Union in 1850.

**HOME**

**GOLD**

**CARD #2**

In its place on the West coast of the United States, California was the first state west of the Missouri River. The distance from the Missouri River to California is over 1,500 miles from its nearest neighbor, Missouri. There were territories

**CARD #3**

With California so far away from everyone else, it was a small problem. There wasn't a good way to communicate with them. The covered wagon took months to make the journey and a stagecoach was much faster but would still have taken 15-17 days. The Transcontinental Railroad hadn't been built yet, so there was no way to communicate between California and the rest of the United States. People needed a way to communicate more quickly.

**COVERED WAGON**

**COMMUNICATE**

**RAILROAD**

**CARD #4**

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 method available at the time. The Pony Express could deliver messages from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California in just 10 days. The owners of the Pony Express

**CARD #5**

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.

**TEN**

**WYOMING**

**WATER**

**CARD #6**

The riders would also change tired horses for fresh, well rested horses so they didn't run any one horse

**CARD #7**

The Pony Express needed young, smart teenage boys to ride their horses across the country. One of the most famous Pony Express Riders was none other than William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, commonly known as "Buffalo Bill" from the American "Old West." It is said that he signed up to be a Pony Express rider at the age of 15 and was one of the youngest riders to ride the Pony Express.

**FAMOUS**

**COMPANY**

**HORSES**

**OPERATION**

**CARD #8**

He had a hard time with the hard rides in driving into hunting parties. Buffalo Bill went on to become a famous frontiersman in the American West, probably because of his experiences on the Pony Express. It has become such a nostalgic part of history from the Old West. Each rider was paid about \$100 per month.

**HISTORY**

**MONTH**

**CARD #9**

For 18 short months from April 3, 1860 to October 26, 1861, the Pony Express was in operation. The cost of operating the Pony Express was too great to make sense for the government to stay in business. There were many reasons why the Pony Express failed. One of the reasons was that the Pony Express had to run the route in winter. The weather was very bad and the riders had to stop at many stations to rest and get their horses and equipment ready for their time.

**CARD #10**

The other big reason the Pony Express stopped sending riders across the country was because the telegraph made it unnecessary. The telegraph was made up of a series of wires that represented letters of the alphabet across the country. It took only minutes. This was much faster than the 10 days it took the Pony Express to deliver a message between California and Missouri. The Pony Express stopped after the West Union built their telegraph system on October 24, 1861. The Pony Express was a short-lived service that ended in Salt Lake City.

**SALT LAKE CITY**

**MESSAGE**

**ANSWER SHEET: ALPHA CODE**

Use the decoder to determine which LETTER your answer choice indicates (based on the questions on the other page). Refer back to the card WHERE you FOUND the answer to determine the letters.

	<b>=A</b>		<b>=J</b>		<b>=S</b>
	<b>=B</b>		<b>=K</b>		<b>=T</b>
	<b>=C</b>		<b>=L</b>		<b>=U</b>

**ANSWER SHEET: NUMERIC CODE**

Answer the questions below by skimming the reading cards seeking TEXT EVIDENCE. Question # 1 will NOT be found on card # 1, you'll have to visit each reading card to find your answer. Be sure to indicate WHERE you found the answer at the bottom of this page. Then, refer back to THAT card (where you FOUND the answer) to determine the letter for the ALPHA code on the next page.

<b>Q1</b> Station were about ____ miles apart.	<b>Q6</b> The Transcontinental ____ hadn't been built yet.
<b>Q2</b> ____ invention of the ____ made the Pony Express necessary.	<b>Q7</b> Each rider was paid about \$100 per ____.
<b>Q3</b> ____ was in the knapsack that the riders carried called ____.	<b>Q8</b> ____ Cody was more commonly known as Buffalo Bill.
<b>Q4</b> California was the first ____ to officially state West ____ the ____.	<b>Q9</b> One owner of the Pony Express was Alexander ____.
<b>Q5</b> There were 147 ____ stations, 80 ____ riders, and ____ ____.	<b>Q10</b> California became the 31st state to join the ____ in 1850.

Refer to the card number where you FOUND the answer to each question.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10		



# CITE EVIDENCE



**ANSWER SHEET: NUMERIC CODE**

Answer the questions below by skimming the reading cards seeking TEXT EVIDENCE. Question # 1 will NOT be found on card # 1, you'll have to visit each reading card to find your answer. Be sure to indicate WHERE you found the answer at the bottom of this page. Then, refer back to THAT card (where you FOUND the answer) to determine the letter for the ALPHA code on the next page.

Q1 Station were about ____ miles apart.	Q6 The Transcontinental ____ hadn't been built yet.
Q2 The invention of the ____ made the Pony Express unnecessary.	Q7 Each rider was paid about \$100 per ____.
Q3 What was the knapsack that the riders carried called?	Q8 ____ Cody was more commonly known as Buffalo Bill.
Q4 California was the first official state West of the ____ River.	Q9 One owner of the Pony Express was Alexander ____.
Q5 There were 147 stations, 80 riders, and 400 ____.	Q10 California became the 31st state to join the ____ in 1850.

Write the card number where you FOUND the answer to each question.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

**ALPHA CODE**

For each answer below, then use the decoder to grab the corresponding letter. If the answer to Question # 1 was a crown, the letter would be C.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10

Eliminate the highest & lowest number used as one of YOUR answers.  
Get rid of all numbers that are not used as one of YOUR answers.

Eliminate the highest CONSONANT used as one of YOUR answers.  
Eliminate the lowest CONSONANT used as one of YOUR answers.

How many letters remain? \_\_\_\_\_  
Do not change the order.

1

**STUDENTS MAY START AT ANY QUESTION AND VISIT THE CARDS SEVERAL TIMES SEEKING TEXT EVIDENCE.**

2

**STUDENTS WILL RECORD WHERE THEY FOUND THE ANSWER.**

3

**STUDENTS WILL USE THE CLUES TO DETERMINE A 4-DIGIT ALPHA CODE AND 4-DIGIT NUMERIC CODE.**

# COMBINATION










This scavenger hunt is a winning combination of:

- ✓ **movement**
- ✓ **close reading**
- ✓ **comprehension skills**
- ✓ **secret codes**
- ✓ **citing evidence**
- ✓ **critical thinking**

**Everything a teacher dreams of wrapped up into one FUN and engaging activity!**

# OPTIONS

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

-  Anticipatory sets
-  Unit review
-  Early finishers
-  Stations
-  Sub plans
-  Partner work
-  Enrichment

-  Movement
-  Cross-curricular
-  Highly engaging

