

ABOUT THIS PACKET

The Close Reading Passages in this packet allow students to work on comprehension skills. After reading the passage several times searching for evidence.

TASK	OVERVIEW
TASK 1: FILL IN THE BLANK	The Fill in the Blank task has students using context clues to support the correct answer. Certain words are omitted, and students will use the word bank to find the correct answer.
TASK 2: VOCABULARY	The Vocabulary activity helps kids understand new or unfamiliar words before they complete further activities.
TASK 3: CROSSWORD	Students will reread the passage searching for answers to the crossword puzzle.
TASK 4: TEXT MARKING	Students will reread the passage again looking for text-marking evidence and annotating the text.
TASK 5: TRUE OR FALSE	Now that students have read the passage several times, they should be able to answer the True or False questions with very little reference back to the reading. This task helps to show overall comprehension of the passage.
TASK 6: SUMMARY	After identifying key vocabulary words, searching for evidence and text-marking, students will fill out the final summary graphic organizer.

GRADE LEVEL	PASSAGE
4	MIDDLE
4	END
5	BEGINNING
5	MIDDLE
5	END
6	BEGINNING
6	MIDDLE
6	END
7	BEGINNING

TASK 1: FILL IN THE BLANK

Directions: Use the words below to fill in the reading.

Dressell	California	15-17
communicate	100	1860
Kansas	eat	31st

In 1848, gold was discovered in _____. 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 _____ state to join the Union in 1850.

In its place on the West coast of the United States, California was the first official state West of the Missouri River. 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, but California was the only official state with its own government.

With California so far away from everyone else, there was a small problem. There wasn't a good way to _____ with them. The covered wagon would take months to make the journey and a stagecoach was much faster, but would still have taken _____ 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.

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. _____, William Waddell, and Alexander Majors. The Pony Express began in April _____, but it only lasted about one and a half years.

There were over _____ stations across the states of Missouri, _____, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. With stations about ten miles apart, riders would stop, _____.

TASK COMPLETION SHEET

Directions: As you complete each task, color the icons found below. When all boxes have been colored, you have completed each task successfully.

TASK 1

Fill in the blanks



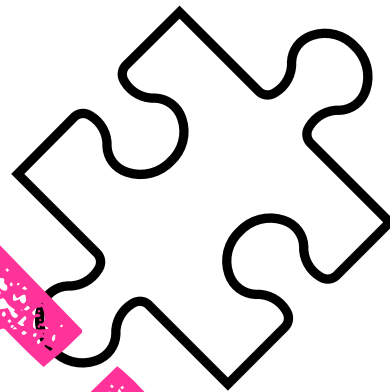
TASK 2

Vocabulary



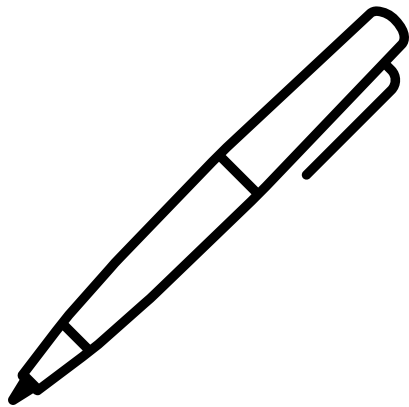
TASK 3

Crossword



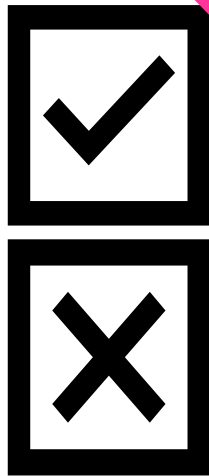
TASK 4

Text Marking



TASK 5

True - False



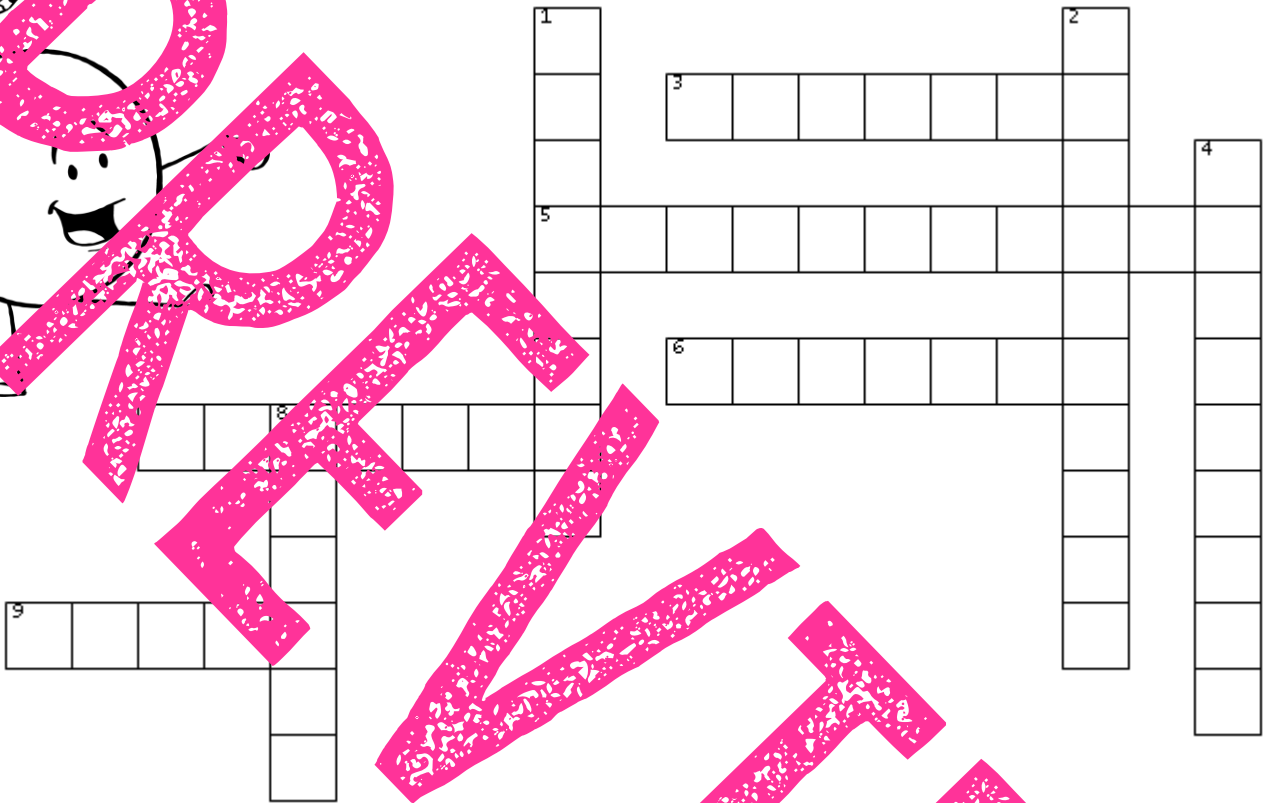
TASK 6

Summary



TASK 3: CROSSWORD

Directions: Complete the crossword puzzle by reading the clues below and entering the correct response.



ACROSS

- 3. Riders carried a knapsack called a _____
- 5. Each rider would ride about _____ miles a day
- 6. William Cody was more commonly known as _____
- 7. The month the telegraph system was introduced in Salt Lake City _____
- 9. California became the 31st state to join the _____ in 1850

DOWN

- 1. California was the first official state West of the _____ River
- 2. In 1848, gold was discovered in _____
- 4. The invention of the _____ made the Pony Express unnecessary
- 8. The mochila could hold up to _____ pounds



TASK 2: VOCABULARY PRACTICE

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



WORD



PICTURE



DEFINITION

Diagram grid for vocabulary practice with 5 rows and 3 columns. The grid is partially obscured by large pink diagonal text that reads "READ HERE".

WORD	PICTURE	DEFINITION

TASK 6: SUMMARIZE



TOPIC SENTENCE



SUPPORTING DETAIL

SUPPORTING DETAIL

SUPPORTING DETAIL



SUMMARY



MORE RESOURCES

Click on each icon!

