



PONY EXPRESS ANTICIPATION GUIDE

Read each statement and decide if it is True or False. Complete the left column before the reading by circling the T for True or the F for False. Complete the right column after you finish the reading. Did any of your answers change?

BEFORE READING		STATEMENT	AFTER READING	
T	F	California was the 31st state to join the Union.	T	F
T	F	The pack that riders carried was called a chinchilla.	T	F
T	F	California became a state in 1861.	T	F
T	F	The owner of the Pony Express was Alexander Majors.	T	F
T	F	Stations were about 50 miles apart.	T	F
T	F	The Pony Express lasted one and a half years.	T	F
T	F	There were 147 stations.	T	F
T	F	California was the first official state west of the Missouri River.	T	F
T	F	Buffalo Bill was 19 years old when he became a Pony Express rider.	T	F

DID YOU KNOW?

A rider was expected to run, transfer mail, and return within 10 minutes.

Pony Express

Name: _____

Answer the questions below. Then on the coloring page, color each numbered section with the corresponding color. If there is any space left over, color it your choice! Follow the directions provided to cite evidence from the reading.

Questions	Text Evidence	Answer
#1 What was discovered in California in 1848?	Find proof in the reading and <u>UNDERLINE</u> it in PURPLE	Wheat RED
#2 What year did the Pony Express begin?	Find proof in the reading and <u>CIRCLE</u> it in GREEN	1840 BLUE STRIPES
#3 What name was William Cody more well known by?	Find proof in the reading and <u>BOX</u> it in RED	Buffalo Bill ORANGE
#4 How much was each mail per month?	Find proof in the reading and <u>BOX</u> it in YELLOW	\$250 ORANGE
#5 How many horses were used in the Pony Express?	Find proof in the reading and <u>CIRCLE</u> it in ORANGE	Telephone BROWN
#6 How many horses were used in the Pony Express?	Find proof in the reading and <u>UNDERLINE</u> it in PURPLE	400 GREEN STRIPES

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 pony pack which could hold up to 20 lbs.

The Pony Express needed young, small, lightweight teenage boys to make the long rides across the country. One of the most famous Pony Express Riders was 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 best riders. He encountered long, hard rides in driving winds and rain as well as running into hunting parties of Native Americans. Buffalo Bill went on to be a scout for the 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 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 company to stay in business. There were 147 stations, 80 riders, and 400 horses, in addition to about 400 other employees who helped run the stations to feed and pay for their time. Another big reason the Pony Express stopped sending messages across the country was 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. This was much faster than the days it took the Pony Express to deliver a message between California and Missouri. The Pony Express stopped after the Western Union built their telegraph system on October 24, 1861, in Salt Lake City.