

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✓ 10 SHORT PASSAGES
- ✓ 10 QUESTION TRAILS
- ✓ RECORDING SHEET
- ✓ ANSWER KEY
- ✓ STUDENT DIRECTIONS
- ✓ TEACHER DIRECTIONS
- ✓ EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

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.

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.

What was the knapsack that the riders carried called? **CODE WORD**

5 There were over 100 stations across the states of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and

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.

Each rider was paid about \$100 per _____. **CODE WORD**

9 For 18 short months in October 26, 1861, the Pony Express operation. The cost of the Pony Express was too great for the company to stay in business. In 1861, there were 147 stations, 80 riders, and in addition to about 400 of the horses that helped run the stations throughout their time.

One owner of the Pony Express was Alexander

10 The other big reason the Pony Express was sending riders across the country

TEACHER DIRECTIONS

THIS SCAVENGER HUNT HAS TWO PARTS:

Part 1: Kids will read 10 short passages which contain a "clue" or code word. After finishing each passage, students will need to write them down on the recording sheet.

Part 2: Using the code word on each reading card, students will unscramble the letters in the gray boxes to find the code word.

All you have to do is print the 10 reading cards and hide them! The more difficult the reading cards are, the more FUN the kids have AND the longer they will take to find the code words.

You will need to print **PAGE 10** for EVERY student.

ANSWER SHEET

If the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words. FOUND CARD #

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	FOUND CARD #
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											

FINAL CODE ANSWER:

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Directions: Choose 5 words from the reading cards that are unfamiliar or new to you.

WORD

SUMMARIZE

TOPIC SENTENCE

SUPPORTING DETAIL SUPPORTING DETAIL SUPPORTING DETAIL

4 DIGIT CODE

Next, using the numbers in the FOUND column in the SAME order in which you recorded them above, follow these clues.

Eliminate the highest and lowest number in the FOUND column.

Get rid of all numbers that are spelled with just one letter.

Eliminate numbers that start with the letter _____.

FINAL CODE

4 numbers remain (in order you listed them)?

10 READING CARDS

1 In 1848, gold was discovered in California. This discovery led many people to travel west and head to California for their own chance in gold mining. With all the miners heading to California their home, there was a gold mining boom. California had only been a territory belonging to the United States for a short time when it became the 31st state to join the Union in 1850.

Station were about ___ miles apart.

3 With California so far away from the East, everyone had a small problem. There was no good way to communicate with the East. A covered wagon would take months for 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.

What was the knapsack that the riders carried called?

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.

There were 147 stations, 80 riders, and 400 ____.

2 In its place on the West coast of the United States, California was the largest state West of the Missouri River. It was over 1,500 miles from its nearest neighbor, Missouri. There were territories of the United States in between the two.

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

6 They would also change tired horses for fresh, 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 muleskin which could hold up

7 The Pony Express needed lightweight teenage boys to ride across the country. One of the Pony Express Riders was William Cody, known as "Buffalo Bill". He was the American "Old West" hero. Buffalo Bill signed up to be a Pony Express rider at the age of 15. He was one of the bravest riders.

One rider was paid \$100 per ____.

9 After 18 short months, on April 30, 1861, the Pony Express operation. The cost of operating the Pony Express was too great to make sense for the company to stay in business. They had 147 stations, 80 riders, and 400 horses in addition to about 400 other employees who helped run the stations to feed and care for their time.

One owner of the Pony Express was Alexander ____.

ANSWER SHEET

If the answer is more than one word, do NOT leave a space between words. FOUND CARD #

1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

FINAL WORD ANSWER: _____

8 He encountered long, hard rides in dry winds and rains, as well as running into hostile parties of Native Americans. Buffalo Bill was known 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 became such a nostalgic piece of history from the Old West. Each rider was paid about \$100 per month.

___ Cody was more commonly known as Buffalo Bill.

10 The other big reason the Pony Express stopped sending riders across the country was the invention of the telegraph made it unnecessary. The electric telegraph sent messages made up of sounds that represented letters of the alphabet across the country in a matter of minutes, much faster than the 10 days it took the Pony Express to deliver a message between California and the East. The Pony Express stopped after the West was built their telegraph system on October 24, 1861 in Salt Lake City.

California became the 31st state to join the Union in 1850.

4 DIGIT CODE

Eliminate the numbers in the text, using the numbers in the FOUND CARD # column in the SAME column in which you recorded them about following the clues.

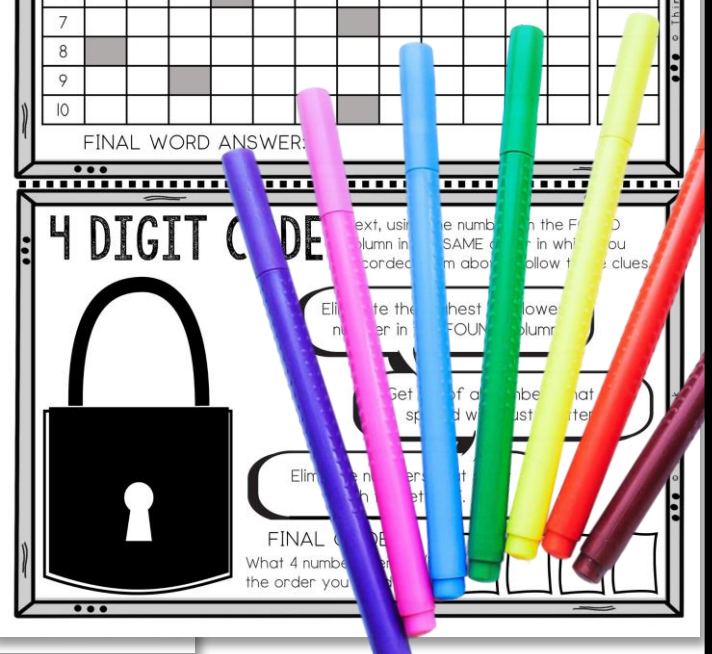
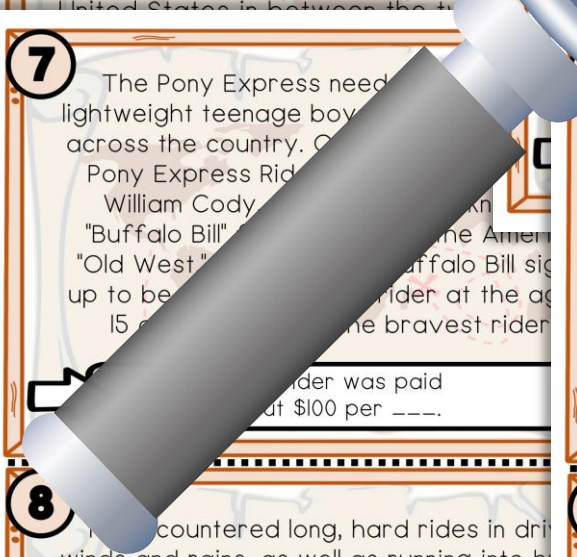
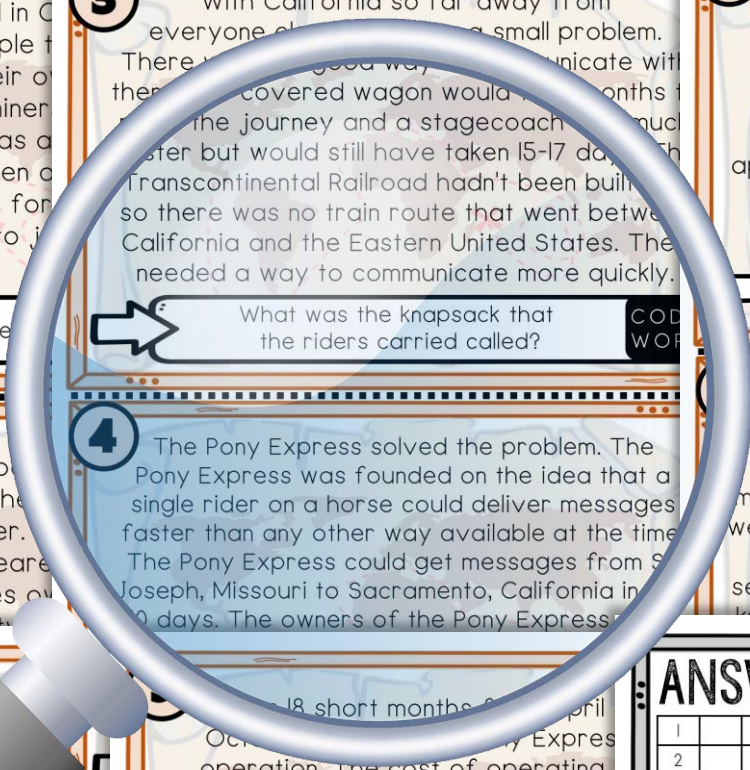
Eliminate the numbers in the text, using the numbers in the FOUND CARD # column in the SAME column in which you recorded them about following the clues.

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Eliminate the numbers in the text, using the numbers in the FOUND CARD # column in the SAME column in which you recorded them about following the clues.

FINAL CODE: _____

What 4 numbers do you have in the order you found them?

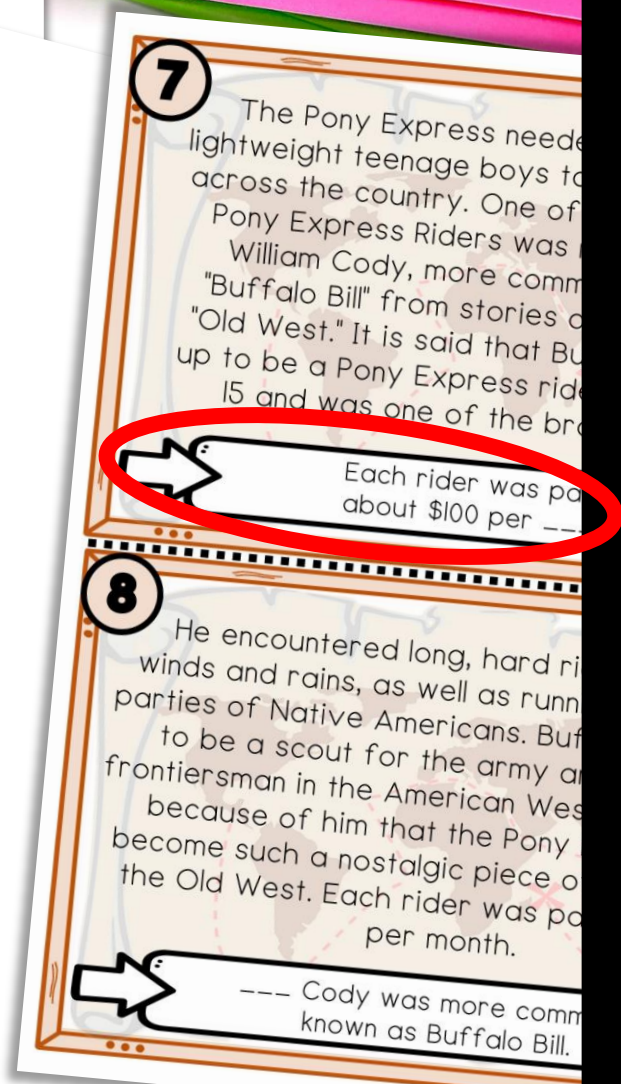


HOW IT WORKS



ENGAGING READING COMPREHENSION PRACTICE!

- 1** Students work individually (or in pairs) and visit 10 reading cards scattered around the room.
- 2** Students read the passage and look at the question at the bottom labeled "code word".
- 3** The code word for THAT card number will lead them to a different card. But here's the catch... students will NOT know where to find the code word answer so they will have to skim, browse and revisit the reading cards several times to find the answer they are seeking.



COMBINATION



This scavenger hunt is a winning combination of:

- ✓ **movement**
- ✓ **close reading**
- ✓ **comprehension skills**
- ✓ **mystery words & 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
-  EARLY FINISHERS
-  STATIONS
-  SUB PLANS
-  PARTNER WORK
-  ENRICHMENT

-  MOVEMENT
-  CROSS-CURRICULAR
-  HIGHLY ENGAGING

