DAILY Warm-Up 2

Name _____ Date _____

PONY EXPRESS

When people moved west in covered wagons, things came slowly. Letters and news took a long time to get from one side of the country to the other. People had to wait for months to hear news from other places. Sometimes the mail took as long as one year, and other times it didn't arrive at all.

The Pony Express was established in 1860 to help mail and news move quickly from one place to another. Riders brought mail and messages to people who were willing to pay for it. The Pony Express gave the riders $100 dollars each month.

Each rider had to weigh less than 125 pounds. They rode in rain or snow, day or night. They often rode in very dangerous conditions. Mail carriers had to ride very fast. They would change horses every 10–15 miles at a relay station. After 100 miles, a new rider would take over.

The Pony Express did not last long because it had many problems. The people who gave money to get it started did not get much money back. The letters cost too much to send. In 1862, the Pony Express ended.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. The Pony Express was . . .
   a. a place to keep ponies.
   b. a group of horses and riders that carried mail and news across the U.S.
   c. a line of horses that had many names.
   d. a train named after a pony.

2. Which of the following could be dangers that a Pony Express rider probably faced?
   a. friendly pioneers
   b. calm streams and beautiful scenery
   c. wolves and Native American attacks
   d. wagon trains and campfires

3. If you wanted to be a rider for the Pony Express, how much could you weigh?
   a. less than 125 pounds
   b. more than 125 pounds
   c. 155 pounds
   d. weight didn't matter

4. According to the passage, why was the Pony Express started?
   a. so riders could get practice riding across the country
   b. to teach pioneers how to ride faster
   c. so riders could exercise their ponies
   d. to move messages and information quickly from place to place

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LIVEWORKSHEETS