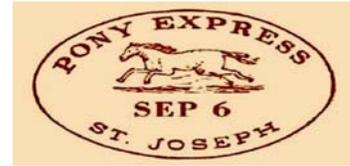


The Start Of Mail

Name _____ Date _____



Did you know that during the 1800s, the mail did not arrive at your door every day? Instead there was a network of stations called the Pony Express that delivered mail and packages. There were no mail trucks and it took many days for a letter to reach from one destination to another. The mail carriers rode on horses from one station to the next to deliver the mail. The next mail carrier would then take the package to the next destination. This was the only communication from the east coast to the west coast before the telegraph was invented. Letters were written to send to loved ones who had moved west because the telephone had not yet been invented. The Pony Express was a very important service to the people to exchange mail and packages.

Our mail service today is based much the same way as the original Pony Express. We give our package to the post carrier who then sends it on to the next station where it will be sent on until it reaches its destination. However, with automobiles and airplanes, packages can be delivered much more quickly.

1. How is the mail service today like the pony express?

2. How long did it take for letters to be delivered? _____

3. Was there only one mail carrier for the Pony Express? _____

4. Look at the picture. Why was this called the Pony Express?

5. What makes package delivery faster today? _____

6. What invention helped communication between the Pony Express and the telephone? _____

7. Pretend you are from the 1800s with no electricity, phone, or computers. Write a letter on the back of this paper to your relatives about your new home.