

Overland or Digital Messages?

How do you or your family send messages today? Add a checkmark.

_____ mail _____ text _____ email

Write a letter to someone you care about. Remember to sign your name.
How long would it take for a piece of mail to get to friends or family?

You can put your location and the date here!



Ready for Your Badge?

FIND YOUR PARK DISCOVER YOUR NATIONAL TRAIL

1. Fill out your contact information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

2. Photograph your completed booklet and email it to:

ntir_junior_ranger@nps.gov

Learn more about the trail at: nps.gov/poex

NPS 2020



Pony Express National Historic Trail

Junior Ranger Program



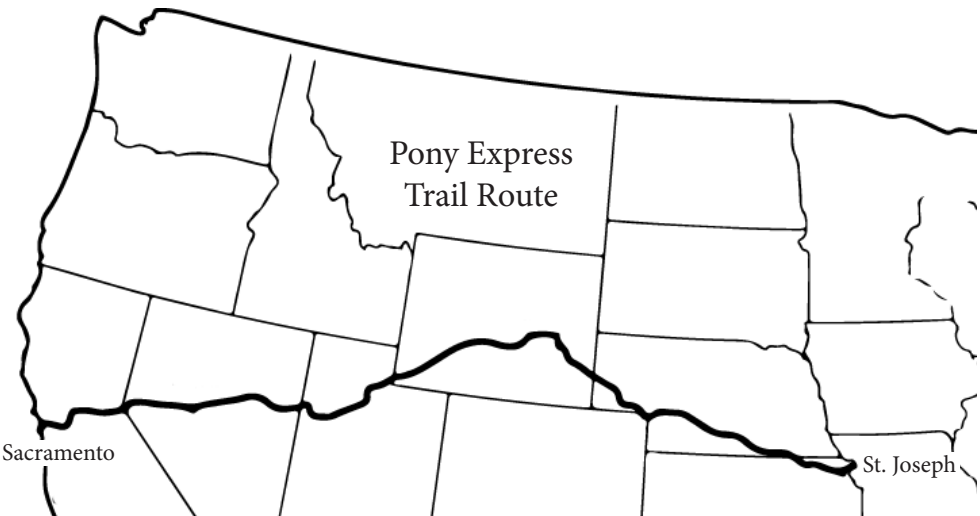
Giddy Up!



PONY EXPRESS

From April 1860 to November 1861, the Pony Express delivered mail from Missouri to California. Back then, electricity and railroads did not cross the West, so western settlers had little contact with family and friends back east. Though the Pony Express did not run for long, it was legendary for uniting the country by scheduled mail delivery in as few as 10 days.

Can you identify the eight states that Pony Express riders crossed?



Question Express (hint, look in the Pony Express map and brochure!)

It took a month or more to deliver mail to California before the Pony Express. How long did it usually take Pony Express riders to deliver mail?

_____ days

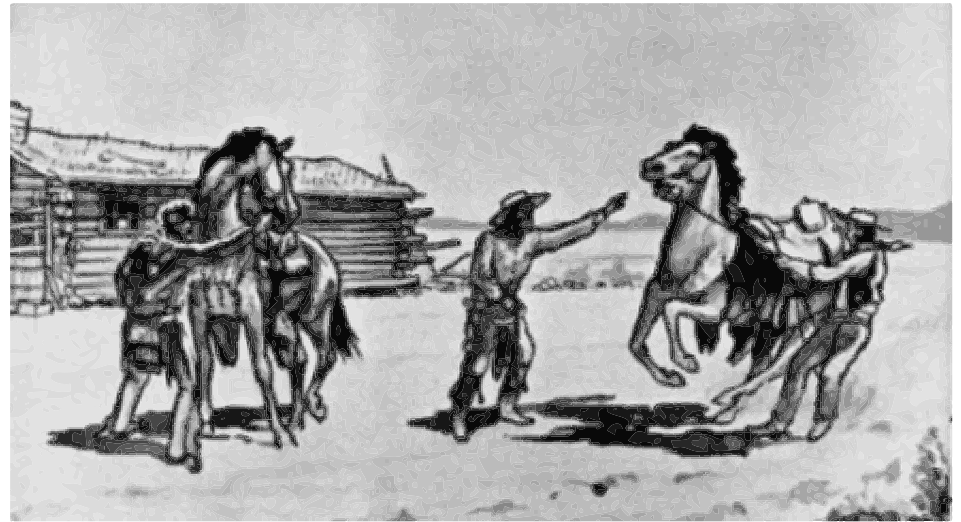
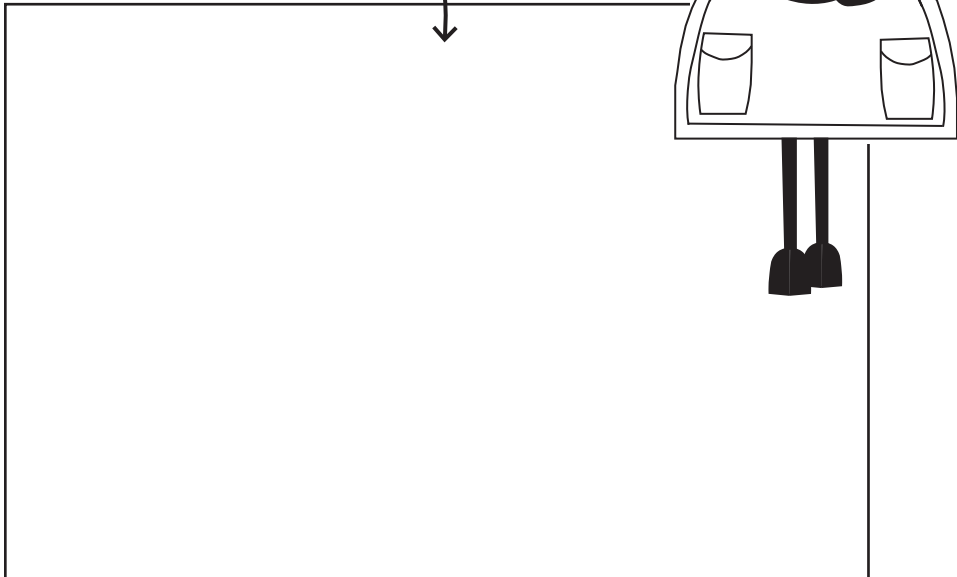
For hundreds of years, cultures around the world have solved the challenge of delivering mail long distances. Who talked about a horseback relay mail system in the 13th century?

How long did the Pony Express run? _____ months

Look Back in Time

Pony Express riders carried the mail in one of these:

Draw a picture of something you would use to deliver mail if you lived back then.



Pony Express riders faced harsh weather and a total of 1,946 miles to carry mail across the West. Every 75 miles a rider handed off the mail to the next horse and rider waiting at stations like this one.

Pony Mail Scramble

Some of the mail got mixed up! Can you find it?

J	R	N	J	L	F	T	C	D	E	L	M	Y	C
O	Y	G	W	R	H	W	Z	K	T	F	L	H	V
Q	V	R	Y	C	M	X	B	X	X	W	K	P	E
Y	U	S	K	N	P	K	M	Y	H	T	C	O	F
Q	O	M	P	J	W	U	A	Y	H	Y	T	N	B
C	C	W	O	E	G	L	P	A	D	J	J	Y	D
K	C	W	N	C	E	P	A	H	R	Z	P	E	A
I	A	Z	J	R	H	D	J	I	O	C	L	X	S
G	L	M	A	I	L	I	Y	P	C	R	H	P	E
J	I	L	F	R	O	H	L	J	M	F	S	R	O
O	F	K	N	I	K	T	L	A	Q	L	W	E	M
J	O	O	Y	D	A	E	D	B	O	V	A	S	S
H	R	L	I	E	X	G	M	O	Q	D	W	S	P
A	N	A	X	R	D	A	W	B	J	M	P	R	V
T	I	K	F	S	X	V	Q	G	Y	C	L	B	Q
X	A	G	Y	S	A	V	N	V	C	P	V	K	Z

- PONY EXPRESS
- MAIL
- CALIFORNIA
- MOCHILA
- HORSES
- RELAY
- RIDERS
- SPEEDY

