Follow the Evidence

Quote and paraphrase facts from a history passage

5.P.4.2.B "Organize information from research, quoting accurately from the source and avoiding plagiarism."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about how Pony Express letters moved, and number them in the order you would use them in a research note. Circle the sentence that explains why the service ended.

The Pony Express Run

1. In 1860, the Pony Express began carrying letters between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. Riders followed a route of nearly 2,000 miles. At stations along the trail, they traded tired horses for fresh ones. One rider could then race to the next station with the mail. By using many riders and horses, the service could move a letter across the route in about ten days.

2. The riders did not travel alone across the whole route. Each carried a special leather cover called a mochila, which held mail and could be moved quickly to another horse. Dangerous weather, rough ground, and long distances made the trip hard. In October 1861, a telegraph line connected the eastern and western United States. The Pony Express ended soon after because electric messages could travel much faster than letters on horseback.

3. Speed came at a high price. At first, sending a half-ounce letter by Pony Express cost five dollars, a large sum at the time. The company also had to pay for horses, stations, and workers along the trail. The service lasted only about eighteen months, but it became a famous example of a relay system: a message moves forward as different people take turns carrying it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy the exact words that tell how long the route was. Put quotation marks around them and cite the paragraph number.

2. This quote has one wrong word: "Dangerous weather, smooth ground, and long distances made the trip hard." Rewrite it exactly as it appears in the passage, and cite the paragraph number.

3. Put the sentence about the first price of a half-ounce letter into your own words. Include the price and cite the paragraph number.

4. Make two research notes: quote a short phrase about what the company paid for, then paraphrase how long the service lasted. Cite the paragraph number for each note.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Explain how the Pony Express moved letters quickly and why the service ended. Write 3 or 4 sentences with one exact quote from paragraph 1 and a paraphrase of a different fact from paragraph 2. Cite the passage title and paragraph number for each.

ANSWER KEY

Follow the Evidence

GRADE 5 · 5.P.4.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about how Pony Express letters moved, and number them in the order you would use them in a research note. Circle the sentence that explains why the service ended. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy the exact words that tell how long the route was. Put quotation marks around them and cite the paragraph number.	**"nearly 2,000 miles" (paragraph 1).**
2	This quote has one wrong word: "Dangerous weather, smooth ground, and long distances made the trip hard." Rewrite it exactly as it appears in the passage, and cite the paragraph number.	**"Dangerous weather, rough ground, and long distances made the trip hard." (paragraph 2).**
3	Put the sentence about the first price of a half-ounce letter into your own words. Include the price and cite the paragraph number.	**When the service began, mailing a half-ounce letter cost five dollars, which was a lot of money then (paragraph 3).**
4	Make two research notes: quote a short phrase about what the company paid for, then paraphrase how long the service lasted. Cite the paragraph number for each note.	**Costs: "horses, stations, and workers" (paragraph 3). Length: The service ran for about a year and a half (paragraph 3).**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Changing horses helped Pony Express riders move letters quickly. The passage says they "traded tired horses for fresh ones" ("The Pony Express Run," paragraph 1). After a telegraph connected the eastern and western United States, people could send electric messages faster than riders could carry letters, so the service ended ("The Pony Express Run," paragraph 2).

Accept any exact, relevant quote with its correct paragraph citation. Paraphrases should keep the passage's meaning without copying its sentence structure.