Mail and Evidence

Use two sources to investigate an early U.S. decision.

5.P.4.2 "Engage in authentic research to acquire, refine, and share knowledge through written presentations and products. Formulate a viable research question related to expanding knowledge of social studies concepts..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the first mention of each source, underline the exact words quoted from the Constitution, and number one finding from each source 1 and 2. These marks will help you keep track of where the evidence comes from.

How Did News Travel?

1. In 1792, a family in an American town might wait for a letter or a newspaper to arrive by mail. Maya wonders, "How did the early United States help letters and news travel?" To investigate, she uses two sources instead of guessing. One is the U.S. Constitution, which lists powers of Congress. The other is a history published by the United States Postal Service. Each source can answer a different part of her question.

2. Her first source, the Constitution, gives Congress the power "To establish Post Offices and post Roads;" The words inside quotation marks come from the document, not from Maya. This line shows that the national government could set up places for mail and routes for carrying it. It does not tell her how many letters people sent. Maya notes that limit so she will not claim the source proves more than it does.

3. Her second source, the United States Postal Service history, describes a 1792 law that set low postage rates for newspapers. Maya puts this idea in her own words: Newspapers could be mailed at a low cost, which could help people share news. She does not copy the history's wording. Her sources describe different steps, one gave Congress a power, and the other describes a later law about the cost of sending news.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write a research question about early U.S. mail that both sources could help answer.

2. Copy the exact words Maya quotes from the Constitution, including the final punctuation mark. Name the source.

3. State the postal history's finding about newspaper postage in your own words. Name the source.

4. Maya wants to write, “The Constitution proves that most families got a newspaper every day.” Why would she need another source to support that claim?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a research question that focuses on how government decisions could help newspapers reach readers in the early United States. Then write a three-sentence museum label that answers it using both sources, quotes the Constitution exactly, and credits each source.

ANSWER KEY

Mail and Evidence

GRADE 5 · 5.P.4.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the first mention of each source, underline the exact words quoted from the Constitution, and number one finding from each source 1 and 2. These marks will help you keep track of where the evidence comes from. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write a research question about early U.S. mail that both sources could help answer.	**How did the U.S. government help people send mail and newspapers in the early United States?**
2	Copy the exact words Maya quotes from the Constitution, including the final punctuation mark. Name the source.	**The U.S. Constitution: "To establish Post Offices and post Roads;"**
3	State the postal history's finding about newspaper postage in your own words. Name the source.	**The United States Postal Service history says a 1792 law made newspapers inexpensive to mail.**
4	Maya wants to write, "The Constitution proves that most families got a newspaper every day." Why would she need another source to support that claim?	**The Constitution gives Congress a power. It does not say how often families received newspapers or how many families received them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Question: How could early U.S. government decisions help newspapers reach readers? The U.S. Constitution lists a power of Congress: "To establish Post Offices and post Roads;" Congress could use that power to create places and routes for carrying mail. According to the United States Postal Service history, a 1792 law set low rates for mailing newspapers, which could help people share news.

Accept research questions that can be investigated using both named sources. For the museum label, check that the quotation matches the passage exactly, the postal history is paraphrased and credited, and the answer does not claim the sources prove how many people received newspapers.