



Name _____

Date _____

GHOST TOWN

An old town hides in the mountains of Montana. The name of it is Garnet. Most people today simply call it a ghost town. Many buildings still stand, but the town is silent. The last person who lived in the town of Garnet was a storeowner who died in 1947.

Garnet was started by families who came looking for gold in 1898. Over 1,000 people made their homes in the town. The men and women built the town by hand. Men worked hard inside the mines. They used simple hand tools and steam engines. Sixty thousand ounces of gold were mined near Garnet. Fifty thousand ounces of silver were found. Sixty thousand ounces of copper were put into mining cars.

The town was not built to last very long. After five years, the gold was almost gone. The copper was gone. Only a little silver remained. One hundred fifty people lived in the town at that point.

World War I took the men away from the town. People packed their bags. They took their families and moved away. A fire ruined most of the buildings in Garnet in 1912.

Garnet became a ghost town overnight. Today, the town of Garnet is full of history. It is a quiet place to walk around and hear whispers about life in the past.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. A *mine* is a word for . . .
 - a. something that belongs to me.
 - b. ghost town.
 - c. an underground area that is created to get minerals.
 - d. silver and gold.
2. Garnet is now . . .

a. a river town.	c. a mining town.
b. a seaport town.	d. a ghost town.
3. Why did the city of Garnet die so suddenly?

a. The gold ran out.	c. The men went to fight in World War I.
b. The silver ran out.	d. All of the above
4. A ghost town is a place . . .
 - a. where there are ghost festivals each year.
 - b. where you go for Halloween.
 - c. that is haunted.
 - d. that has been deserted—the people have all moved away.



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	c. 155 pounds
b. more than 125 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



Name _____

Date _____

RAILROADS

Did you know that the idea for trains started in Germany? In 1550, some roads in Germany had wooden rails. They ran along the road. They were called "wagon ways." These roads were used for wagons pulled by horses. They were easier than traveling on dirt roads.

In 1776, metal rails were made. The rails were made of iron. They were called "tramways." They were very popular. They went all over Europe. A man named William Jesse had an idea. He made wheels with a groove, or cutout edge. These wheels helped the wagons move faster on the iron rails. The wagons were still pulled by horses.

The steam engine came next. A man named Richard Trevithick wanted to move people and things from place to place without using animals. He made the first steam engine. It could carry 10 tons of iron, 70 men, and five wagons for 9 miles in two hours.

A man named John Stevens put all of these ideas together. He is called the "father of the American railroad." He showed how steam trains would work. He got the first charter railroad.

Each new idea has made traveling easier and faster.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Who was called the "father of the American railroad"?
 - Richard Trevithick
 - William Jesse
 - Orlando Bloom
 - John Stevens
- Which words best describes the "wagon ways"?
 - wooden rails
 - iron rails
 - steam engines
 - fire wagons
- Which word is an **antonym** for the word *pulled*?

a. snatched	c. pushed
b. grabbed	d. yanked
- Which statement is **NOT** true about the history of the railroads?
 - The idea for trains began in Germany.
 - Today trains run very slowly and are pulled by horses.
 - "Tramways" had rails made of iron.
 - Today trains run much faster and easier than in the past.



Name _____ Date _____

TRADING POSTS ON THE OREGON TRAIL

Have you ever wondered how the pioneers lived without grocery stores? Trading posts helped families survive. Forts were built along the Oregon Trail. Each fort had a trading post. It was like a grocery store and department store put together.

The trading post was a place for the weary travelers to stop and rest. Trading posts stocked things the settlers needed. It was also a place to meet new people and hear any news.

The pioneers could buy rifles and bullets at the trading post. Food, such as dried meat, beans, eggs, and coffee could be bought at a trading post.

To travel safely, wagons were kept in good repair. Wagon parts, wood, hammers, saws, ropes, and chains were sold at the trading post.

Prices at the trading posts were high. Pioneers were willing to pay for things they needed. Without trading posts, many travelers would never have made it to the end of the trail.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. In the passage, *weary* means . . .
 - a. excited, joyful, and nervous.
 - b. happy, joyful, and angry.
 - c. worn out, fatigued, and tired.
 - d. mad, upset, and furious.
2. The main idea of the last paragraph is . . .
 - a. to show the importance of trading posts for survival on the Oregon Trail.
 - b. to show what food items a pioneer could purchase.
 - c. to discuss needed equipment for a wagon.
 - d. to give a list of things that people didn't want to buy at trading posts.
3. This passage was written to . . .
 - a. entertain the reader with events which occurred at a trading post.
 - b. inform the reader about the prices of items at the trading posts.
 - c. persuade the reader to buy from a trading post.
 - d. give the reader some information about trading posts.
4. According to this article, the travelers of the Oregon trail were called . . .
 - a. kings.
 - b. pioneers.
 - c. hunters.
 - d. outlaws.



Name _____

Date _____

COLONIAL TOOLS AND WEAPONS

Life in Colonial times could be very difficult. The right weapons or tools for a job made it a little easier.

A sickle is a tool with a sharp blade. It has a short, wooden handle. It was used to cut grass or grain. Sickles were very helpful when clearing tall grasses for a new home or garden.

An ax, or axe, is another useful tool. Colonial axes had long wooden handles. The top of each axe was made out of hard silver. It could be used for chopping wood. If you wanted to build a cabin, you needed an axe.

Pistols and rifles were just as important as the other tools. They were used to protect the families from wild animals and bandits. Rifles were also used for hunting. They had long, wooden barrels. They were very heavy.

Tools and weapons were important for getting food, staying safe, and making life easier. Life depended on good tools.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Which tool was used for cutting grasses and wheat?
 - rifle
 - axe
 - sickle
 - pistol
- If you wanted to hunt animals, you would use . . .
 - a rifle.
 - an axe.
 - a rope.
 - a sickle.
- The author's purpose for this passage is to . . .
 - entertain the reader with funny information about tools.
 - inform the reader about the job of the axe.
 - show the importance of tools and weapons to the Colonial families.
 - teach the reader how to use a sickle.
- Another name for an *ax* is . . .

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a wagon. an axe. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a sickle. a horse.
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Name _____

Date _____

COLONIAL ANIMALS

In Colonial times, people used animals for many things. Horses moved people from place to place. Plowing the fields was done by oxen because they were strong. Cows and goats gave milk for butter and cheese. Chickens provided eggs and meat. Bees made honey that Colonists used to sweeten food and drinks. They also made beeswax that could be used for candles.

Many Colonists built outside stalls to house their larger animals, such as horses and cows. Others built barns with pens inside them. Chickens were put inside coops made of wire and wood, with a door at one end. Pigsties were built for the pigs. These were wooden pens with large flat places for them to sleep or lie down.

Beehives were made out of wood or straw. These hives were put in gardens so that the bees could collect pollen from flowers and make honey.

Taking care of the animals was needed to take care of one's own family.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Colonists care for their livestock?
 - a. so the animals would enjoy summer vacation
 - b. so the animals would grow very large
 - c. so the animals would provide food and transportation for them
 - d. so the animals would have a nice place to live
2. A *coop* is a type of . . .
 - a. shelter for birds.
 - b. hole in the ground.
 - c. rock in a garden.
 - d. wagon on a farm.
3. If your family owned a horse in Colonial times, you would most likely use it for . . .
 - a. hanging your clothes on.
 - b. getting from one place to another.
 - c. making milk for butter and cheese.
 - d. racing.
4. Most enclosures for the animals were made of . . .

a. mud.	c. silver.
b. gold.	d. wood.



Name _____

Date _____

THE WILDERNESS

The Pilgrims came to the New World to find a new life. They did not know how hard it would be. They did not know they would live in such wilderness.

The land needed clearing. Rocks and tree stumps were pulled from the ground. Logs from the trees were used to make homes and furniture. Scraps became firewood. Crops had to be planted and barns had to be built.

The Pilgrims had to build the barns before they built their own homes. Otherwise the animals wouldn't survive the long winter. The first homes were little more than holes dug in the ground. The dirt was cold and damp, and the fires filled the homes with smoke.

Eventually, the Pilgrims made houses out of wood. They used axes to chop trees and strip bark off the logs. They cut notches in the wood to help lock the logs together. Each house was just one room in which the whole family cooked, ate, and slept. The homes all had a fireplace in the room that was used for heat and light. There was no electricity.

When the Pilgrims came to America, they faced challenges they had never imagined.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. *Wilderness* probably means . . .
 - a. a park with animals.
 - b. a place in a big city.
 - c. a zoo.
 - d. a place not yet touched by humans.
2. Which tool was most helpful when building cabins?
 - a. an axe
 - b. a rifle
 - c. a sickle
 - d. a petticoat
3. In the passage above, the fireplace was used for . . .

a. water and heat.	c. a place to cook and make candles.
b. heat and light.	d. cooking and cleaning.
4. The second paragraph is mainly about . . .
 - a. the importance of the fireplace.
 - b. what the Pilgrims had to do to create a place to live.
 - c. planting crops and baking bread.
 - d. a trip to Alaska.



Name _____

Date _____

COLONIAL GARDENS

Do you like to garden? It's fun to watch plants and flowers grow. Family gardens were once necessary. In the early Colonial days, every family grew their own food.

Wealthy families grew large gardens. They needed many workers. Some had fancy gardens with paths down the middle. Some formed shapes of squares, diamonds, and circles. These Colonists paid gardeners to cut the shrubs and bushes. In warm weather, they invited friends over to sit in their gardens. The gardens were beautiful and peaceful.

Most families tended their own gardens. The gardens were used to grow food to feed the family. Apple and peach trees were grown for fruit. Cabbage, turnips, carrots, pumpkins, and beans were vegetables they grew.

Herbs were grown in the gardens to be used for medicine. Herbs could also be added to food to give it a better flavor.

Extra fruits and vegetables were grown in the summer. The extras were then saved and dried. They were stored for the winter months when fruits and vegetables were scarce.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did Colonists feed their families fruits and vegetables?
 - a. They bought them at the market.
 - b. They ordered their groceries online.
 - c. They bought them from friends.
 - d. They raised all their own fruits and vegetables.
2. Why did the Colonists grow extra fruits and vegetables in the summer?
 - a. They had to save them for the winter months.
 - b. They had to save them for a big party at the end of the summer.
 - c. They liked to make pies with all the extra fruit.
 - d. None of the above.
3. The author's purpose for this passage is . . .
 - a. to provide information on Colonial gardens.
 - b. to persuade the reader to eat vegetables.
 - c. to entertain the reader with veggie jokes.
 - d. none of the above.
4. How were the gardens of the wealthy different from those who were not wealthy?
 - a. They weren't different. They were all the same.
 - b. They were bigger, and they had other people help with gardening.
 - c. Wealthy people's gardens were green. The other gardens were brown.
 - d. All of the above.



Name _____

Date _____

DIARIES

Did you know that diaries are historical documents? Diaries from the past tell stories of days gone by. The people who wrote them took the time to write things as they saw them. They give details about events and people they knew. Each writer comes alive in the words they wrote on the paper. Diaries help us to learn about how people lived and what was important to them.

Diaries of the pioneers on the Oregon Trail help us to understand the hard times those people faced. They tell how they came looking for land to build homes. Diaries tell stories about traveling in covered wagons. They describe how children walked alongside the wagons and often wore no shoes on the path. They tell of snakes and wild animals and crossing wild river waters. Diaries describe attacks, how many travelers got sick, and how it felt to reach their goals.

Many diaries of the Oregon Trail have been made into books. These diaries, or records, help us understand how people lived on the Oregon Trail. They help us understand what went right and what went wrong. These diaries help us learn from their mistakes. They show us how to enjoy the simple things in life.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the hardships listed above that pioneers had to face?
 - a. sickness, snow, and no electricity
 - b. ants, wasps, and other poisonous bugs
 - c. sickness, snakes, and attacks
 - d. no water
2. Which of the following diary entries was most likely written by a pioneer?
 - a. One of the wheels broke on the wagon today.
 - b. Lots of traffic on the freeway today.
 - c. Finished making our cement house today.
 - d. Bought the kids their first computer today.
3. In this passage, the author states that diaries from the past are helpful us because . . .
 - a. they are pretty to look at.
 - b. they tell us how the writer felt and what he or she saw and heard.
 - c. they show us handwriting from the past.
 - d. none of the above.
4. If there were no diaries of the past, we would . . .
 - a. have too much information.
 - b. not have any information about Mount Everest.
 - c. not know much of what happened in past time periods.
 - d. not understand how to play board games.



Name _____

Date _____

RACING TO THE GOLD

"There's gold in them thar hills!" James Marshall started a gold rush when he found the first piece of gold in California in 1849. People raced to northern California, hoping to make their fortune.

There were many ways to get to the gold sites. Miners traveled over land on foot or with a team of oxen. This trip could take as long as four months. The trail was long and dusty.

Travelers could sail on the ocean. It could take from four months to a year to arrive. Sailing cost a lot of money. Many sailing travelers never got to the mining sites at all.

Another way to travel was by air. A new machine that looked like a balloon flew miners to California. More than 200 people wanted to take a ride in the balloon. They paid money and signed up for the trip, but the balloons never got off the ground.

Wind wagons were another way some miners used to travel. A wind wagon looked like a wagon, but it had sails like a ship. It moved faster than a wagon by using the wind to move it along. However, they were dangerous and hard to drive. Many miners did not know how to steer it, so they often crashed.

Would-be miners made great efforts to cash in on the gold craze. Some were big winners. Others never found gold.

The San Francisco professional football team, the 49ers, is a tribute to the spirit of the brave people who took a chance.

STORY QUESTIONS

- When did the great gold rush of California begin?
 - 1776
 - 1849
 - 1944
 - None of the above.
- Another title for this passage could be . . .
 - "Miners of the Gold Rush."
 - "Mines of California."
 - "Getting to the Gold Rush."
 - "Leaving the Gold Rush."
- The balloons could never reach California because . . .
 - they couldn't get them to fly in the air.
 - they cost too much.
 - they were ugly.
 - All of the above.
- The San Francisco 49ers are a . . .
 - basketball team.
 - sewing group.
 - boy band.
 - football team.



Name _____

Date _____

GOLD COUNTRY '49

Most people who came to California in 1849 were looking for gold. Some men came to make money in other ways.

In 1853, a man made a pair of pants on an old sewing machine. The pants were made out of canvas. They were strong and long lasting. In just a few months, his pants became popular with miners. He could hardly sew pants fast enough to keep up with the number of people that wanted to buy them. He got rich overnight. What was his name? Levi Strauss. He made the first pair of Levi's jeans.

Phillip Armour lived in New York. He decided he would walk to California. He stopped in a town called Placerville, California. He opened a store and sold meat. Phillip made so much money that he moved his meat plant to Wisconsin. He became the largest meat maker in the world. He made Armour hot dogs and sausages.

Henry Wells and William Fargo moved to San Francisco. They had a stagecoach company and started a bank. Mail was moved from place to place on their stagecoaches. People put money in their bank. Henry and William kept it safe. They let others who needed money use it, if they paid it back. Wells Fargo was the name of their company. Today, it does not carry mail. It does not bring people on a stagecoach. It is a bank that is found in towns across the United States. The name is still Wells Fargo.

These men did not find gold in pans. They did not look for it in the streams. They got their money from their new ideas.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which man is responsible for Levi jeans?

a. Henry Wells	c. William Fargo
b. Levi Strauss	d. Phillip Armour

2. Which of the following statements is **FALSE**?
 - a. Levi Strauss helped create Wells Fargo bank.
 - b. Many people came to California for reasons other than gold.
 - c. Gold mining was not the only industry in California.
 - d. The men mentioned above did not pan for gold. They made their money creating other things.

3. The purpose of this passage is to . . .
 - a. entertain the reader with stories and diaries of miners.
 - b. inform the reader about the steps of panning for gold.
 - c. persuade the reader to learn more about California missions.
 - d. to inform the reader about other ways people made money in California.

4. Which of the following was **NOT** one of the ways of making money mentioned in the passage above?

a. making pants	c. baking bread
b. selling meat	d. bringing mail by stagecoach



Name _____

Date _____

CIVIL WAR WEAPONS

What weapons were used during the Civil War? The revolver was made especially for the war. This gun would shoot easily. It was strong and long lasting. The man who made the revolver sold 12,000 of these guns to the government for the soldiers. The soldiers in the North used these guns. These guns were so well built that some people smuggled them to the soldiers in the South.

Rifles were also very important in the war. They were made out of wood and metal. Most of them were very heavy. They had a wooden handle and long barrels. Most rifles used gunpowder.

There were at least 12 different types of rifles to buy. The most useful was the rifle that was copied from the British. It was called a musket. It could shoot up to 1,100 feet and hit most of the targets. It only weighed 9 pounds and 3 ounces. Most rifles were much heavier. They also came with a knife on the end of the gun called a bayonet. This was very helpful when the soldiers were fighting by hand.

The revolver and the rifle were the most useful weapons of the Civil War.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What does the passage mention about the rifle that was copied from the British?
 - It could shoot quite far, had a bayonet on it, and only weighed about 9 pounds.
 - It was very nice looking.
 - It was long, thin, and shot bullets.
 - It was made by Benjamin Franklin.
- Which sentence best describes a revolver in the passage?
 - It shoots 1,000 feet and weighs 20 pounds.
 - It fires a small bullet.
 - It is strong, long lasting, and shoots easily.
 - It was not useful in the Civil War.
- Which of the following is a **synonym** for *revolver*?
 - cannon
 - rifle
 - bomb
 - handgun
- Which statement is **TRUE** from the passage above?
 - Most weapons were not useful in the Civil War.
 - The rifle copied after the British rifle had a bayonet.
 - Revolvers were very heavy.
 - Revolvers were patterned after British guns.



Name _____

Date _____

MAP SKILLS

Have you ever used a map to find your way to a special place? Maps show directions, but maps have other jobs, too. If you want to learn about the world, study maps.

Regional maps show us where different groups of people can be found. They show us where different tribes lived in the United States. They show us information about the weather in areas. They can show us where to find different religions of the world.

Product maps show us the kinds of things that farmers grow. They show us the animals that the farmers raise. This kind of map shows us that farmers in Iowa grow corn and wheat. It shows us that the farmers in Texas raise cattle.

Density maps compare numbers of people living in one place to numbers of people living elsewhere.

Route maps show the path or movement of a group of people. We can use a route map to find out where Christopher Columbus sailed his ships. They can show us the way that supplies are moved across an area. They can show us where the pioneers went across the trails.

Each kind of map gives different information. Think about what you are looking for. What do you want to learn? Find the map that is best and dig in!

STORY QUESTIONS

- If you wanted to find out what states the Oregon Trail went through, you would probably use a . . .
 - product map.
 - regional map.
 - density map.
 - route map.
- What were some of the products listed that could be found on product maps?
 - cattle, corn, and wheat
 - corn, strawberries, and hay
 - cattle, sheep, and horses
 - corn, wheat, and lettuce
- What kind of map would tell you about rainfall in an area?
 - a regional map
 - a product map
 - a density map
 - a route map
- Which statement is **TRUE** from the passage above?
 - Regional maps compare movements of goods.
 - Density maps compare populations in different areas of the country or world.
 - Product maps show number of people in certain areas.
 - Route maps show what animals farmers raise and crops they grow.



Name _____

Date _____

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America was signed. Fifty-six men put their names on the document. This act showed that the Colonies would not follow the rules of the English any more. This act changed the course of history.

These men did not agree with the rules of England. The Declaration listed 18 ways that the British had done a bad job. These men wrote clearly that the English did not pay attention to the things they needed. The English did not care about their feelings. They did not care about their wishes.

As a result, they wrote this declaration to say that they were going to be free from England. They felt it was important to have full power to make contracts with whomever they wanted. They wanted power to trade with whomever they chose, whenever they wanted to trade.

Lastly, they wanted full power to decide their future. These men wanted to make the choices that were best for themselves and the people who lived in the Colonies.

On July 4, 1776, all 56 men signed the declaration. They promised to give their lives for each other. They promised to share what they had with each other. They promised to respect each other.

These men wanted to be free. Free to choose. Free to speak. Free to live in the way they thought was best.

STORY QUESTIONS

- What is another word for *rules* in this passage?
 - freedom
 - a piece of paper
 - laws
 - choices
- Which words best describe the Colonists?
 - had their minds made up to give their lives to make things better in the Colonies
 - happy with the way things were
 - sad because they did not have all the conveniences of the British
 - angry because they could not build cabins and cities fast enough
- What is one thing listed in the passage the Colonists wanted to change?
 - They wanted to choose with whom they would play.
 - They wanted to choose with whom they would trade.
 - They wanted to choose what language to speak.
 - They wanted to choose what food to eat.
- Which statement is **TRUE** from the passage above?
 - The Colonists agreed with British laws.
 - The Colonists wanted to move back to England.
 - The Colonists wanted to use laws from France.
 - The Colonists wanted to make their own laws.



Name _____

Date _____

JAMESTOWN

Three ships left England in December of 1606. There were more than one hundred passengers on the ships. Most were upper class Englishmen. There were no women at all.

They came to the coast of Virginia in April of 1607. They wanted to find a good place to anchor the ship. They looked for a place that would be safe for them to live.

On May 14, 1607, they landed on Jamestown Island. The water was deep so they could get close to shore. They were sure the ship would be safe in the trees.

There were problems in Jamestown from the start. One group of Native Americans attacked the settlers shortly after they landed. There was disease. There was not enough food. Many settlers starved to death. There were more Native American attacks.

John Rolfe finally brought a few years of peace to Jamestown. He came to grow tobacco. He married Pocahontas, the daughter of a Native American Chief. The peace with the Native Americans did not last forever, but it was a start.

STORY QUESTIONS

- According to the passage, what was the first problem the settlers faced in Jamestown?
 - bad weather
 - starvation
 - disease
 - Native American attacks
- About long did it take to get to Jamestown Island?

a. 5 months	c. 10 months
b. 11 months	d. 3 months
- A **synonym** for the word *disease* would be . . .

a. Christmas.	c. sickness.
b. birthday.	d. health.
- What did John Rolfe grow when he came to Jamestown?
 - corn
 - tobacco
 - cigarettes
 - wheat



Name _____

Date _____

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

The town of Jamestown collapsed. It was swampy. It had insects. The settlers were starving. Many Native American tribes had attacked.

Settlers wanted to move to a better place. They looked for higher ground. They wanted to be closer to the James and York Rivers. They like the idea of being safer from attacks.

Middle Plantation was the answer. By 1609, the settlers built a small town. It was safer and on higher ground. It was close to both rivers. Some of the settlers planned out the town using patterns of squares. As the town grew, people built stores and mills. There were churches and homes, and even taverns.

The people wanted to give the town a new name. They wanted it to be in honor of William II, the King of England. They named it Williamsburg.

By the time of the Revolutionary War, the city had 2,000 people. There were tailors, carpenters, and bakers. There were gunsmiths and store clerks. The small town had turned into a bustling city.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What was one of the reasons that settlers wanted to move away from Jamestown?
 - a. They wanted to be closer to England.
 - b. They wanted to be closer to New York.
 - c. They wanted to be closer to the York River.
 - d. They wanted to be closer to the Native Americans.
2. If you lived in Williamsburg, you might have a job as . . .

a. an airline pilot.	c. a TV repair person.
b. a tailor.	d. a taxi driver.
3. Which is **NOT** something you would find in Williamsburg?
 - a. a gunsmith
 - b. a bakery
 - c. a fast food restaurant
 - d. churches
4. Why did the settlers change the name from Middle Plantation to Williamsburg?
 - a. They liked how it sounded.
 - b. They named it after the king of England.
 - c. They were bored of the old name.
 - d. They did it to make people jealous.



Name _____

Date _____

COMMUNITIES LONG AGO

Long ago it was hard to get news from place to place. Traveling took a lot of time. Most people had to walk. Some rode horses or buggies; others traveled in boats. People called town criers walked through town yelling the news. Few towns had newspapers.

In 1807, Robert Fulton invented the steamboat. It was a boat that moved up and down the river using steam. It was the first boat to move without paddles.

In 1844, the telegraph machine was invented by Samuel Morse. This new tool brought people together. It could send messages over electric wires. The machine used a special code to send messages. Cities and towns far apart could share the news in minutes.

In 1860, the Pony Express took mail across the United States. Riders were paid to carry mail in leather bags. New riders took the bags every 80 to 100 miles. They got fresh horses every 10 to 15 miles so they could keep the horses from getting too tired.

In 1908, the first plane was invented. Wilber and Orville Wright flew the first plane.

STORY QUESTIONS

- Robert Fulton's new boat was powered by . . .
 - steam.
 - gasoline.
 - horses.
 - manpower.
- Which word or words best describe Samuel Morse, Orville and Wilber Wright, and Robert Fulton?
 - police officers
 - criminals
 - inventors
 - riders
- Which words in the passage mean the same as the word *exhausted*?
 - place to place
 - wait a long time
 - full of energy
 - too tired
- If you wanted to send a message in the year 1846, what was the fastest way to send it?
 - Pony Express
 - telegraph
 - US Postal Service
 - UPS



Name _____

Date _____

COMMUNITIES TODAY

Life in the present day has changed from years ago. Today everything is instant. Cars are fast. Food is fast. Technology is fast.

Traveling is also different today from years ago. Cars, buses, trucks, or vans move us quickly where we want to go. People travel by subways. Subways are trains that run mostly under the ground. Other people travel in planes. They can move us from one part of the world to another in only one day. Astronauts travel to the moon in space shuttles. Shuttles travel faster than planes or cars.

Communication has become very fast as well. People can use cell phones and computers to deliver messages instantly. Televisions and radios broadcast the news that is happening right now. We no longer have to wait months to receive information from other parts of the world.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What would be one word or group of words that describes communities today?
 - a. backwards, quick
 - b. old fashioned, slow
 - c. advanced, fast
 - d. out of date
2. Which would be a **synonym** for *instant*?
 - a. quick
 - b. slow
 - c. immediate
 - d. fast
3. Which sentence below makes the most sense?
 - a. Communication today is much slower than in years past.
 - b. Communication today is much faster than in years past.
 - c. Today's communities are no different from communities years ago.
 - d. Today's communities are very similar to communities years ago.
4. Which statement is **NOT** mentioned in the passage above?
 - a. Transportation can be in a car, van, plane, or train.
 - b. Space shuttles travel faster than cars or planes.
 - c. Wagons are the most common form of transportation in 2006.
 - d. Communication can take place on a computer or on a cell phone.