

Name _____ Date _____

Main Ideas and Details

**Vaqueros: America's
First Cowboys**
Comprehension:
Main Ideas and Details

Read the selection below.

The Pony Express

Although the Pony Express ran for only eighteen months, it became a lasting symbol of the Old West.

The Problem

The Pony Express has come to symbolize the can-do attitude of American citizens. The west opened up in the 1840s. Settlers began to arrive in wagon trains on the Oregon Trail. People were on the move, but news was not moving quickly enough to meet demand. There had to be a way for information to cross the Rocky Mountains.

The Solution

On April 3, 1860, the first team of Pony Express riders set out on horseback

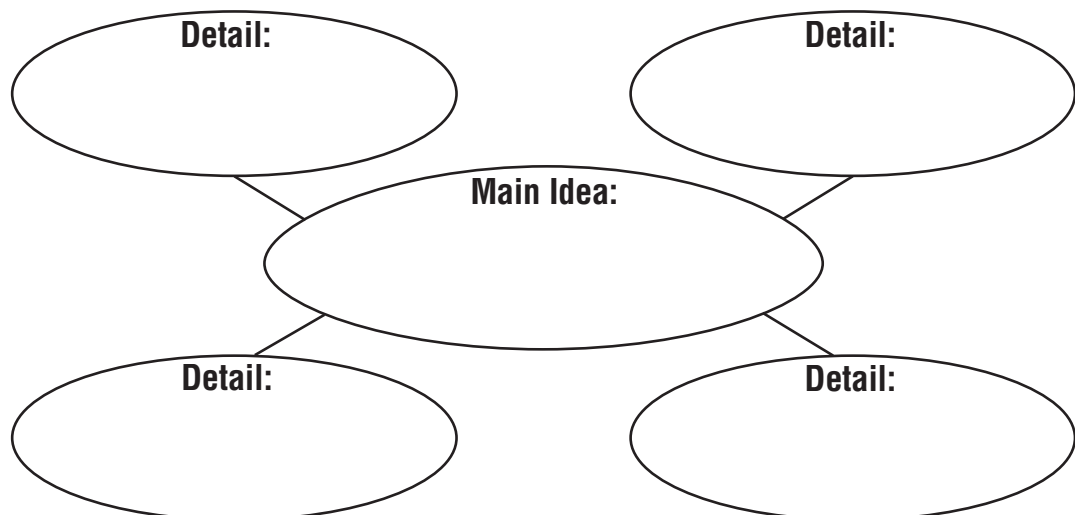
from Pikes Peak Station in St. Joseph, Missouri. This first ride west took just under 10 days. Soon, there would be over 100 stations along the challenging route west, which crossed prairies, mountains, and deserts.

The Decline

The Pony Express became a reliable and efficient way to send mail west. However, the riders could not keep up with advances in technology. A growing cross-country telegraph network meant that news could travel thousands of miles in an instant. Soon after this network was completed in October 1861, the Pony Express made its final deliveries.

Complete the Web to identify the main idea and supporting details of this selection.

Write the main idea in the center and the supporting details around it.



Name _____ Date _____

Main Ideas and Details

**Vaqueros: America's
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Comprehension:
Main Ideas and Details

Read the passage below.

Levi Strauss

In 1849, California was the place to be if you wanted to strike it rich. Thousands of people went west to seek their fortunes during the Gold Rush. However, many of those who became wealthy didn't spend one day panning for gold. Levi Strauss was one of them.

Getting Established

Levi Strauss was born in Germany in 1829. He moved to New York in 1845 and joined his brothers' dry goods business. News of the Gold Rush lured Levi west. He got to San Francisco in 1853. He opened up his own business, importing clothing, fabric, and other goods. As the population grew, merchants needed items for their stores. Levi became a busy supplier to customers all over the West.

A Riveting Idea

In 1873, Levi received a letter from

Jacob Davis, a tailor in Reno, Nevada. Davis made work clothes for a steady stream of gold miners. Davis described how he reinforced the clothes using rivets.

Partnership

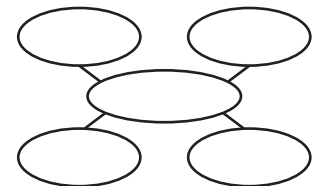
Rivets were a clever solution to a big problem. Mining was tough on clothing. The combination of using rugged material like denim and placing rivets at stress points prevented tearing.

Davis couldn't afford to patent his design so he partnered with Levi Strauss, who took out a patent in both their names. Davis soon moved to San Francisco to oversee the factory. Levi's blue jeans were an instant hit with miners.

Levi's Legacy

Today, the company that Levi started is a worldwide success.

Use a Web like the one shown here to write the main idea and supporting details of this passage. Use your Web to summarize the passage.



Name _____ Date _____

Word Families

**Vaqueros: America's
First Cowboys**
Vocabulary Strategies:
Word Families

Each sentence includes a word in italics from the box. Using that word as a base, fill in the blank with a related word that is in the same family.

acquaint	establish	mission	erupt
respect	depend	sign	create

1. He wanted to *acquaint* Mr. Brown with his _____
Mr. Red.
2. The trip to Alaska was the *mission* of the _____.
3. There was no *sign* that the crossing guard saw the
_____ change.
4. To *depend* on friends for a favor, they must be _____.
5. If you want to be treated with *respect*, you must also treat others in a
_____ way.
6. The chef worked hard to *establish* her dining _____.
7. Because I think it's fun to *create* made-up worlds,
_____ writing is my favorite topic.
8. When the scientist heard the volcano was going to *erupt*, she used
binoculars to get a better view of the _____.

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Unstressed Syllables

Vaqueros: America's First Cowboys
Spelling: Unstressed Syllables

Basic Write the Basic Word that best completes each analogy.

1. *Person* is to *house* as *soldier* is to _____.
2. *Uninformed* is to *ignorance* as *knowledgeable* is to _____.
3. *Dryer* is to *laundry room* as *stove* is to _____.
4. *Robber* is to *house* as _____ is to *boat*.
5. *Two* is to *pair* as *twelve* is to _____.
6. *Soothe* is to *calm* as *scare* is to _____.
7. *Orange* is to *carrot* as *green* is to _____.
8. *Some* is to *partial* as *all* is to _____.
9. *Out* is to *in* as *exit* is to _____.
10. *Allow* is to *permit* as *prevent* is to _____.

Challenge 11–14. Suppose there is only one newspaper in your city. Write a paragraph for your school bulletin persuading people that a second newspaper would be a good idea. Use four Challenge Words. Write on a separate sheet of paper.

Spelling Words

1. entry
2. limit
3. talent
4. disturb
5. entire
6. wisdom
7. dozen
8. impress
9. respond
10. fortress
11. neglect
12. patrol
13. kitchen
14. forbid
15. pirate
16. spinach
17. adopt
18. frighten
19. surround
20. challenge

Challenge

adapt
refuge
distribute
industry
somber

Name _____ Date _____

Spelling Word Sort

Vaqueros: America's First Cowboys
Spelling: Unstressed Syllables

Write each Basic Word beside the correct heading.

<p>Unstressed syllables with VCCV spelling pattern</p>	<p>Basic Words:</p> <p>Challenge Words:</p> <p>Possible Selection Words:</p>
<p>Unstressed syllables with VCCCV spelling pattern</p>	<p>Basic Words:</p> <p>Challenge Words:</p> <p>Possible Selection Words:</p>
<p>Unstressed syllables with VCV spelling pattern</p>	<p>Basic Words:</p> <p>Challenge Words:</p> <p>Possible Selection Words:</p>

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Challenge Add the Challenge Words to your Word Sort.

Challenge Look through *Vaqueros: America's First Cowboys*. Find words that have unstressed syllables. Add them to your Word Sort.

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Proofreading for Spelling

Vaqueros: America's First Cowboys

Spelling: Unstressed Syllables

Find the misspelled words and circle them. Write them correctly on the lines below.

Cowboys in the Wild West welcomed the opportunity to patrol a landscape that never failed to impress them. They would regularly respond to the challenge of shepherding entire herds of cattle through wild spaces that might frighten lesser men. They would not let the difficult terrain disturb them or limit their efforts. They learned to adopt a can-do attitude and surround themselves with reliable partners. They had the wisdom to recognize the talent a young cowboy might bring to the group. They could spot signs of neglect that told them an animal was in trouble. They knew at least a dozen ways to help the animal. Being a cowboy was a difficult job, but for those special men who were up to it, there was much satisfaction.

Spelling Words

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Challenge

- adapt
refuge
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- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 14. _____ |

Name _____ Date _____

Transitional Words

**Vaqueros: America's
First Cowboys**

Grammar: Transitions

Transitional words connect sentences and paragraphs. They help readers follow the author's ideas and show how the ideas are related. Some transitional words are *also, but, still, however, therefore, so, and since*.

I read the first chapter. However, I haven't finished the book.

Thinking Question

Which word helps link one idea in the sentence with another?

1–4. Underline the transitional words in the sentences below.

1. Teresa is learning how to lasso. Because she has been practicing, she can already do several tricks.
2. Let's learn how to saddle a horse. Also, let's review how to take care of a saddle.
3. There are very few landmarks on the range. Therefore, it is important to have a good sense of direction.
4. The passenger pigeon is now extinct. Once, the sky was full of these birds.

5–8. Circle the correct transitional word to connect the sentences.

5. Travel was slow in the past. (But, Also) now, we can fly to other countries in just a few hours.
6. A ranch is an interesting place. (Since, However), few people visit ranches.
7. I'm glad we're going home. (However, Also), I'm going to miss summer camp.
8. Jordan saw a play last week. (Since, However) he liked it so much, he read three more plays.

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Time-Order Transitional Words

**Vaqueros: America's
First Cowboys**
Grammar: Transitions

Transitional words connect the ideas in sentences and paragraphs. Some transitional words tell you the order of events. These include *first, second, next, now, then, earlier, later, soon, and before*. Transitional words such as *therefore, finally, at last, to sum up, and in the end* are used to show conclusions.

First, we applied a base coat. Then we painted the bedroom light blue.

Thinking Question

*Which word or words
tell about time or order?*

1–4. Underline the transitional word or words in each sentence.

1. First, cattle grazed out on the open range. Now they graze in fenced pastures.
2. On long cattle drives, vaqueros cooked their food over campfires. Therefore, they ate simple meals.
3. In the beginning, I couldn't throw a lasso very far. Later, my distance and aim improved.
4. I didn't want to see that movie. In the end, I decided to go and really enjoyed it.

5–8. Write a transitional word or phrase to connect the sentences.

5. We now have electric lights. _____, people used gas lights.
6. First, the class saw the buffalo exhibit at the museum.
_____, they visited the planetarium.
7. That is my argument for creating a community garden.
_____, let me say that this garden will benefit us all.
8. "We saw a hawk," Yasmin said excitedly. "_____, we saw a raccoon!"

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Transitional Phrases

**Vaqueros: America's
First Cowboys**
Grammar: Transitions

Transitional phrases connect sentences and paragraphs. They help you follow the flow of an author's ideas. Some common transitional phrases are:

- as a result
- on the other hand
- for example
- in the first place
- in contrast
- in addition

She likes horses. On the other hand, she has never ridden one.

Thinking Question

What transition is made of more than one word?

1–3. Underline each transitional phrase below.

1. Rita planted two saplings five years ago. As a result, she now has two lovely young trees in her garden.
2. Your computer is connected to a printer. In addition, there is a modem to connect you to the Internet.
3. Some dogs are working dogs. For example, sheep dogs really do herd sheep.

4–6. Write a transitional phrase on the line to connect the sentences.

4. The cowboys in movies are often outlaws. _____, cowboys in real life worked hard at their jobs.
5. The adventurers searched the cave for the treasure. _____, they saw a glint of gold in the distance.
6. You can try and imagine what it's like to ride a wild horse. _____, you can imagine yourself on a bucking bronco.

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Prepositions

**Vaqueros: America's
First Cowboys**

Grammar: Spiral Review

Prepositions are words that relate a noun or pronoun, called the **object of the preposition**, to the other words in a sentence. Most prepositions tell where things are in time and space.

The book was below the table.

Sydney showed up after my performance.

Activity Underline all the prepositions in each sentence.

1. Luke rode his bike over several hills with his friend Simon.
2. The weather is beautiful in Dallas at this time of year.
3. You either left your notebook on the table or beneath your bed.
4. Mark fell asleep during the boring speech.
5. She giggled as she looked at the clown's funny hat.
6. The children cleaned the whole house before noon.
7. Luis left the house without his book bag.
8. The spider sat patiently upon its web.

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Ideas

Vaqueros: America's First Cowboys
Grammar: Connect to Writing

You can use transitional words and phrases to compare and contrast, show cause and effect, put events in time order, and to draw conclusions. Transitions show the connection between ideas.

Sentences without Transition	Sentences with Transition
My mother thinks the horse stables are too far from our home. We take riding lessons only once every two weeks.	My mother thinks the horse stables are too far from our home. As a result , we take riding lessons only once every two weeks.

Activity Read the task in the parentheses. Write transitional words or phrases for each task to complete each sentence.

- (cause and effect) Germaine started studying Spanish four years ago. _____, she can now speak the language well.
- (conclusions) The two horses look alike. _____, you might conclude that they are related, but they are not.
- (compare and contrast) Carolyn likes country and western music. Ricky, _____, likes hip hop.
- (put in time order) First, you cook the apples. Next, put them in the pie crust and let them cool. _____, you eat the pie!
- (compare and contrast) The toy was broken when I found it. _____, we were able to repair it easily.
- (cause and effect) There was very little rain this year. _____, some crops failed.

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Focus Trait: Organization

Using Supporting Details

Vaqueros: America's First Cowboys

Writing: Write to Inform

Effective writers use specific details to support their statements.

Transitional words also help to organize your ideas.

Without Details or Transitions	With Details and Transitions
<p>Frank was studying the Aztec people. He read about their culture. They lived in Mexico. They were conquered by Cortez.</p>	<p>Because the subject interested him, Frank began studying the Aztec people of Mexico. First, he read about their architecture and astronomy. Then he researched their conquest by Cortez of Spain in the sixteenth century.</p>

A. Answer the following questions based on the passages above.

1. What supporting details does Passage 2 use that Passage 1 does not?

2. What transitional words does Passage 2 use? _____

B. Rewrite the following sentences to add details and transitions.

Pair/Share Work with a partner to brainstorm details.

3. Andrea had played the trumpet for four years. She didn't like it. Olivia had played the tuba for two years. She loved it.

4. The weather has been strange. It has been cold. The crops are not damaged.
