

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS

Read the text and then answer the questions.

What did you get in the mail today? The United States Postal Service probably brought it to you. Every day, the post office sends millions of letters. It sends packages, too. You can send something just about anywhere you want. How did it all start? Long ago, there was no regular mail service. Instead, people trusted their friends. When those friends went places, they took letters with them. Some people sold goods. They sent those goods to other places. They sent people's letters along, too. Sometimes American Indians carried letters. At that time, America was a colony. It belonged to England. England set up a postal service for the colony. Benjamin Franklin was its first postmaster. He was in charge of the post office. He made many changes. Those changes made it much easier to send mail.

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total**1.** What is this text mostly about?

- (A) Benjamin Franklin
- (B) American Indians
- (C) England
- (D) the history of the post office

2. How did people send their letters long ago?

- (A) They trusted their friends.
- (B) They went to the post office.
- (C) They sent them with Benjamin Franklin.
- (D) They did not write letters.

3. Who is in charge of the post office?

- (A) the mail
- (B) the postmaster
- (C) a package
- (D) a colony

4. Which word is defined as *a country that belongs to another country*?

- (A) post office
- (B) postmaster
- (C) colony
- (D) package

5. What is the meaning of the phrase *at that time*?

- (A) no time
- (B) back then
- (C) yesterday
- (D) last week

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DIRECTIONS

Read the text and then answer the questions.

The United States Postal Service uses zip codes to make it easier to get mail where it needs to go. Here is how zip codes work: The postal service has divided the United States into many small areas. Each area has its own special zip code. A zip code is a five-digit number. Suppose you are mailing a present to your cousin. Your cousin lives in Eaton, Ohio. The zip code for Eaton, Ohio, is 45320. You write the address, including that zip code, on the package and take it to the post office. The zip code tells the post office that your package belongs with all of the mail that is going to Eaton. That way, your package goes right to Eaton, Ohio. Some cities, such as Eaton, have only one zip code. Some cities, such as Los Angeles, have many zip codes. That is because they are larger cities with more people.

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

1. What does a zip code tell the post office?

- (A) the area where mail needs to go
- (B) who is sending mail
- (C) how big a package is
- (D) what day it is

2. Which statement is **not** true about zip codes?

- (A) They are five-digit numbers.
- (B) Each small area of the United States has a zip code.
- (C) Small places have many zip codes.
- (D) Zip codes make it easier to get mail where it needs to go.

3. Which definition of *digit* is used in this text?

- (A) a finger
- (B) a numeral
- (C) a toe
- (D) an area

4. Which is a synonym for *divided*?

- (A) mailed
- (B) given
- (C) joined
- (D) separated

5. Which is a prepositional phrase?

- (A) *Here is how zip codes work.*
- (B) *suppose you are*
- (C) *on the package*
- (D) *you take the package*

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Letter carriers are responsible for delivering mail. That's a very important job. Think about how many important things come in the mail. Letters, packages, and bills are just a few of the things that letter carriers deliver. Each letter carrier has his or her own route. The people and businesses on that route depend on their letter carrier for their mail. Letter carriers start their day at the post office. They sort the mail for their routes. They bundle the mail and put it into their mail trucks. Then they deliver the mail on their routes. Letter carriers have to be in good shape because they walk a lot. They have to be able to lift heavy packages, too. Delivering the mail is not an easy job, but it is a very important one.

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

1. Which of these is **not** something letter carriers do?

- (A) sort mail
- (B) put stamps on mail
- (C) bundle mail
- (D) deliver mail

2. What do letter carriers do first when they start their days?

- (A) deliver the mail
- (B) put the mail into their trucks
- (C) sort the mail
- (D) bundle the mail

3. Which is a compound word?

- (A) outdoors
- (B) businesses
- (C) important
- (D) packages

4. Which is a synonym for *bundle*?

- (A) send
- (B) read
- (C) throw
- (D) pack

5. What does the phrase *in good shape* mean?

- (A) tall
- (B) good shoes
- (C) the shape of a letter
- (D) healthy

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

SPECIAL DELIVERY!

Today, a letter can go a long way in just a few days. For example, suppose you live in New York. You send a letter to your friend who lives in Los Angeles. That letter will get there in three or four days. How does mail get from your mailbox to your friend's mailbox? It starts when you put your letter into the mailbox. When your letter carrier brings your mail, he or she picks up your letter. Your letter carrier then takes your letter back to the post office. Then, your letter is bundled with other mail that is going to other zip codes.

Your letter then goes to a large central-processing *facility*, or building. All nearby post offices send their mail to that facility each day. There, the mail is sorted. Large sorting machines do a lot of the sorting work, but sometimes, people have to do some of the sorting. Some of the mail goes to other zip codes in New York. Some of it goes to zip codes in other states. When all of the mail has been sorted, the mail that is going to Los Angeles is put in one place. Then it is sent on a plane to Los Angeles.

When your letter gets to Los Angeles, it is sent to the main Los Angeles processing center. That processing center sorts through all of the mail that comes into it. Your letter is bundled in a group with all of the other mail going to the same zip code. All of that mail is then sent to the post office in that zip code. Each post office gets a delivery from the processing center every morning. Your friend's letter carrier goes to the post office in the morning. Next, the letter carrier picks up the mail for his or her route. Then, the letter carrier sorts, bundles, and loads the mail. Finally, your friend's letter carrier delivers your letter to your friend.



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Read "Special Delivery!" and then answer the questions.

1. What happens after a letter carrier takes your letter to the post office?

- (A) Your letter carrier picks up your letter.
- (B) You leave the letter in your mailbox.
- (C) You write your letter.
- (D) Your letter is sent to the central processing facility.

2. Which is the last step in sending a letter?

- (A) Your letter is bundled with other letters going to Los Angeles.
- (B) A letter carrier picks your letter up.
- (C) A letter carrier delivers your letter.
- (D) Your letter gets sent to a central processing facility.

3. What is the author's purpose?

- (A) to get you to become a letter carrier
- (B) to tell a personal story
- (C) to tell how mail gets delivered
- (D) to get you to call a friend

4. If you do not put a zip code on your letter, it will probably

- (A) get to your friend on the same day.
- (B) not matter.
- (C) take less time to get to your friend.
- (D) take longer to get to your friend.

5. What do you predict would happen if there were no sorting machines?

- (A) It would take less time to deliver mail.
- (B) It would take longer to deliver mail.
- (C) Mail could go to more places.
- (D) There would be no more mail.

6. What happens if you write a letter to a friend who lives in your zip code?

- (A) Your letter will not go to the central processing facility.
- (B) Your friend will not get your letter.
- (C) A letter carrier will take your letter to the central processing facility.
- (D) The letter carrier will not be able find your letter.

7. Why do some packages take longer to process than letters do?

- (A) They are too big for sorting machines.
- (B) They do not have addresses on them.
- (C) They can't be sent through the mail.
- (D) Letter carriers won't deliver packages.

8. Which is the best summary of the text?

- (A) It is about living in Los Angeles.
- (B) It is about how to become a letter carrier.
- (C) It is about how letters are sent through the mail.
- (D) It is about the cost of postage.

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

6. (Y) (N)

7. (Y) (N)

8. (Y) (N)

___ / 8

Total

