Name:

Sending Messages

People have always found ways to send messages to each

other. Over time, how we do it has changed. Long ago, beating on

a drum was one way to send a message. It could be heard a few

miles away. Smoke was also used to send messages. A blanket

was put over a fire and when it was taken away, a puff of smoke

would rise into the air. Each pattern meant something different.

Over time, people began to write messages. This was the

first mail. At first, mail was carried by runners. Sometimes a

group of people would each run the mail before giving it to someone

else to keep it going. Later, horses were used to carry mail.

This was called the Pony Express. Then trains transported mail.

Now, trucks and planes are used the most. But, we also can send

text messages and e-mails now. This lets us send a message to

someone immediately. Sending mail is not used as often.

1. What is the main topic of the first paragraph?

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2. What was the author’s purpose for writing this text?

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3. Why do people send less mail now?

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4. Why are planes used instead of trains to transport mail now?

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