

Name _____



THE GREAT TRAIN RIDE

It is 1876 and the train finally connects Los Angeles to the rest of the United States. You are so excited about the train that you have decided to take a trip to San Francisco. However, before you go you need to figure out how to use train schedule.

Use the table below to answer the following questions about traveling by train:

1. How many trains leave from Los Angeles to San Francisco everyday? _____

2. How many towns does the **Emigrant** train run through?

3. What time does the **Express** train leave Los Angeles?

4. What time does the **Emigrant** train leave Los Angeles?

5. If you take the **Emigrant** train from Los Angeles what time will you reach Modesto?

6. How long will it take the **Express** train to reach Niles from San Fernando?

7. How long will it take the **Express** train to reach San Francisco from Los Angeles?

8. How long will it take the **Emigrant** train to reach San Francisco from Los Angeles?

9. How much longer does it take the Emigrant train to reach San Francisco than the Express train?

Southern Pacific Railroad		
Between Los Angeles and San Francisco		
Commencing September 6, 1876		
Schedule Northward		
Daily Stops	Express Train	Emigrant Train
Colton	7:00 A. M.	—
Spadra	8:00 A. M.	—
Los Angeles	10:00 A. M.	8:30 P. M.
San Fernando	12:00 P. M.	10:45 P. M.
Mojave	3:00 P. M.	1:45 A. M.
Fresno	4:15 P. M.	5:30 A. M.
Modesto	6:30 P. M.	8:30 A. M.
Lathrop	7:00 P. M.	12:00 P. M.
Niles	7:15 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Oakland Wharf	9:00 P. M.	5:30 P. M.
San Francisco	9:30 P. M.	8:00 P. M.

SLEEPING COACHES	
Attached to Daily Express Trains between Lathrop and Los Angeles	
A. N. Towne, General Superintendent	T. H. Goodman, General Ticket Agent

THE GREAT TRAIN RIDE LESSON PLAN

Objectives:

1. To read a train timetable.
2. To solve math problems based on a train timetable.

Time: 40-45 minutes

Materials:

1. "The Great Train Ride" activity sheet
2. Pencils

Directions:

1. **Distribute** "The Great Train Ride" activity sheet.
2. **Review** the information regarding trains as well as the timetable on the activity sheet. **Ask students** when might people need to use a timetable today? (Sample answer: When they are taking a trip by bus, train, or airplane.)
3. Have students **locate the timetable** on their "The Great Train Ride" activity sheet. Explain to them that it shows the timetable people used to travel on the train in 1876 and similar to timetables today.
4. Have students **work** individually, in groups, or as a class on the math problems.
5. After students have finished **discuss the answers** to the problems (see Answer Key).

Additional activities:

1. **Plan a trip:** As a group, have students look at a Metrolink timetable, select a destination, and figure out which train they would take to and from Los Angeles Union Station. What time of day would they leave, what time would they arrive, and how much time each way it would take.
2. **Locate on the map:** As a group and using information from the internet, have students locate the cities and towns listed on the Southern Pacific Railroad schedule on a map of California. Map the route that the train would take to get to each city. Students will find that some of these towns do not exist anymore such as Spadra (now part of Pomona). Ask students if they can discover why towns may cease to exist. (Sample answers: Boom and bust towns; absorbed into the next town; changed name of town.)

Links to standards

Language Arts: RI.4.1, RI.4.7, SL.4.1a-d

Math: 4.OA.3, 4.NBT.4, 4.MD.1, MP1, MP2



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Use the table below to answer the following questions about traveling by train:

1. How many trains leave from Los Angeles to San Francisco everyday? 2

2. How many towns does the **Emigrant** train run through?

9

3. What time does the **Express** train leave Los Angeles?

10:00 a.m.

4. What time does the **Emigrant** train leave Los Angeles?

8:30 p.m.

5. If you take the **Emigrant** train from Los Angeles what time will you reach Modesto?

8:30 a.m.

6. How long will it take the **Express** train to reach Niles from San Fernando?

7 Hrs., 15 Min. (S.F. 12:00 p.m. N. 7:15 p.m.)

7. How long will it take the **Express** train to reach San Francisco from Los Angeles?

11 Hrs., 30 Min. (L.A. 10:00 a.m. S.F. 9:30 p.m.)

8. How long will it take the **Emigrant** train to reach San Francisco from Los Angeles?

23 Hrs., 30 Min. (L.A. 8:30 p.m. S.F. 8:00 p.m.)

9. How much longer does it take the Emigrant train to reach San Francisco than the Express train?

12 Hrs. (23.5 - 11.5 = 12.0)

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