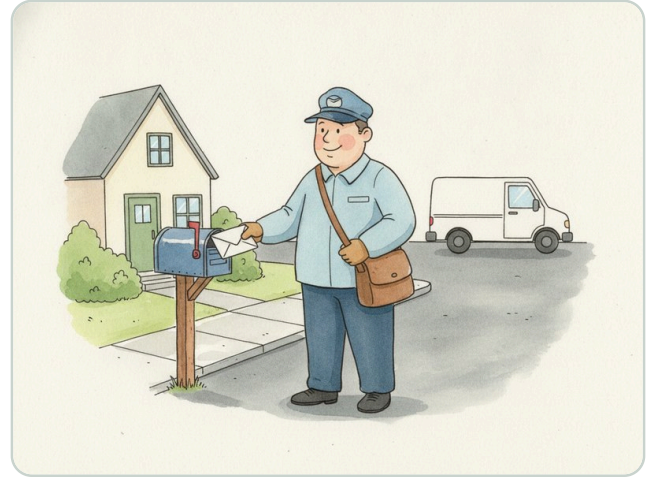


How a Letter Travels

Read the text. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- 1 When you mail a letter, it goes on a long trip. Many people and machines work together to get it to the right place.
- 2 First, a mail carrier picks up your letter from a mailbox. The carrier takes it to the post office in a truck. There, it is put with thousands of other letters.
- 3 Next, machines sort the mail. A machine reads the address on each letter. It sends the letter to the right group for its city. The machines can sort thousands of letters in an hour.
- 4 Last, the letter rides to its new city in a truck or a plane. A mail carrier there puts it in a bag and walks or drives to the right street. Then the carrier drops the letter in the mailbox at the right home. The trip is over!



How a Letter Travels: Questions

Go back to the text to find your proof. Underline it in the color shown.

1. Which sentence tells the main idea of the whole text?

red

- ☐ Mail carriers drive trucks.
- ☐ Every letter has an address.
- ☐ Many people and machines work together to get a letter to the right place.

2. What is paragraph 2 mostly about?

orange

- ☐ how a letter is picked up
- ☐ how to write a letter
- ☐ how a plane flies

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

yellow

- ☐ Cities are big.
- ☐ Machines sort the mail.
- ☐ An hour is a long time.

4. Write two details from paragraph 3 about the machines.

green

5. What is paragraph 4 mostly about?

blue

6. Which detail does NOT belong in this text?

- ☐ A stamp shows that you paid to mail the letter.
- ☐ Some people like to draw pictures of cats.
- ☐ Big planes carry mail across the country.

How a Letter Travels: Answer Key

Answers are in green. The proof is where to find each answer in the text.

1. Which sentence tells the main idea of the whole text?

red

- ☐ Mail carriers drive trucks.
- ☐ Every letter has an address.

☒ **Many people and machines work together to get a letter to the right place.**

Proof Paragraph 1: “Many people and machines work together to get it to the right place.”

2. What is paragraph 2 mostly about?

orange

- ☒ **how a letter is picked up**
- ☐ how to write a letter
- ☐ how a plane flies

Proof Paragraph 2: “First, a mail carrier picks up your letter from a mailbox.”

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 3?

yellow

- ☐ Cities are big.
- ☒ **Machines sort the mail.**
- ☐ An hour is a long time.

Proof Paragraph 3: “Next, machines sort the mail.”

4. Write two details from paragraph 3 about the machines.

green

A machine reads the address on each letter. The machines can sort thousands of letters in an hour.

5. What is paragraph 4 mostly about?

blue

How the letter gets to its new city and into the right mailbox.

6. Which detail does NOT belong in this text?

- ☐ A stamp shows that you paid to mail the letter.
- ☒ **Some people like to draw pictures of cats.**
- ☐ Big planes carry mail across the country.

Proof The text is about mail. Drawing cats is not about mail.