

Old Bonita Store - Answer Key

Factual Questions:

1. The original Bonita Store was established in 1891.
2. Mrs. Ilda L. Walters became the first postmaster of the Bonita Post Office.

Inferential Questions:

3. The Bonita Store likely became a meeting place in the valley because:
 - It was a central location for purchasing various goods
 - It served multiple functions (store, train stop, post office)
 - It provided essential services that drew people regularly
 - In a rural area, it may have been one of few public spaces
4. The addition of the post office likely affected the store's importance by:
 - Increasing foot traffic as people came to send and receive mail
 - Making it a communication hub for the community
 - Elevating its status as an official government location
 - Potentially extending its operating hours to accommodate postal services

Critical Thinking Questions:

5. The Bonita Store's role in the community changed over time:
 - Started as a simple trading post selling various goods (1891)
 - Became a train stop for the "Otay Limited," expanding its role in transportation
 - Added postal services, becoming the first Bonita Post Office (1898)
 - Relocated and rebuilt after the 1916 flood, showing resilience
 - Changed ownership several times, potentially bringing new services or focus
 - Eventually converted to a residence, adapting to changing community needs

6. Comparison with modern convenience stores: Similarities:

- Provides everyday essentials
- Serves as a quick stop for various needs
- May offer fuel (gasoline mentioned in historical store)

Differences:

- Historical store had broader range of goods (clothing, feed, hardware)
- Modern stores typically don't serve as post offices or train stops
- Historical store likely had stronger community role as a meeting place
- Modern stores often have longer operating hours and faster transactions
- Product range in modern stores includes more prepared foods and technology items

Creative Questions (Answers may vary)

7. Diary entry: "June 15, 1900 - Visited the Bonita Store today. What a bustling place! Picked up some new Levi's and boots for work, along with feed for the horses. Mrs. Walters was busy sorting mail at the post office corner. Chatted with neighbors about the incoming train while waiting. This store truly has everything we need!"
8. Historical marker design: Title: "The Old Bonita Store: Heart of the Valley" Key information:
- Established 1891 by E.P. Walters
 - Served as store, post office (est. 1898), and train stop
 - Survived 1916 flood and relocated
 - Operated until 1920s, later became residence Engagement: Include a QR code linking to an audio tour of the store's history, and a small display case with replicas of items sold in the original store.
9. Short story from store's Grand Opening: "Wow! I can't believe it! The Bonita Store is opening TODAY! I'm so excited I can hardly sleep! I jump out of bed and put on my favorite sparkly shirt. When I get to the store, there are HUGE balloons everywhere! The store looks amazing - like a big, shiny present! I rush inside and gasp. It's BEAUTIFUL! There are so many colorful clothes and toys. I want to touch everything!"