

Horizons

Penmanship

Cursive



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Lesson 30: Penmanship Performance


Teaching Tips:

Side One:

1. Make sure that the students have in front of them an accurate cursive copy of the quotation.
2. Time the students to see how long it takes them to write the quotation. This is not a race but is a way to measure improvement through the school year. Give a “GO” signal so everyone starts at the same time. Have them record the time that they finish their quotation. Count the words in the quote and divide by the elapsed time to find the number of words written per minute.
2. Have the students copy the quotation in their best handwriting onto the penmanship performance page.
3. Insert the penmanship performance pages into their binder.
4. Assign a letter grade or percentage score to this page by using the Keys to Penmanship Success for your evaluation.

Side Two: (Optional)

1. This side is provided to expand the students’ exposure to the inaugural speeches of the presidents and to use their best penmanship in writing unpracticed documents.
2. Make sure that the students have in front of them a cursive copy of the quotation.
3. Have the students copy the quotation in their best handwriting.
4. Obtain a copy of the entire speech for additional discussion.





LESSON 30

Name: _____

Thanksgiving Proclamation—George Washington—Part 2


Using the copy your teacher gives you, write the document in your best cursive handwriting.






and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me” to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

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LESSON 30

Using the copy your teacher gives you, write the document in your best cursive handwriting.



Andrew Jackson
Second Inaugural Address
Monday, March 4, 1833

The time at which I stand before you is full of interest. The eyes of all nations are fixed on our Republic. The event of the existing crisis will be decisive in the opinion of mankind of the practicability of our federal system of government. Great is the stake placed in our hands; great is the responsibility which must rest upon the people of the United States. Let us realize the importance of the attitude in which we stand before the world. Let us exercise forbearance and firmness. Let us extricate our country from the dangers which surround it and learn wisdom from the lessons they inculcate.

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Week 7: Lessons 31–35

Thanksgiving Proclamation, Part 3

President George Washington

October 3, 1789

Quotation:

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—


Materials needed for the week:

- Copy of quotation enlarged and displayed in the room
- Individual student copies of the quotation in cursive from the back of this Teacher Guide
- Individual student copies of the optional inaugural address in cursive from the back of this Teacher Guide
- Dictionary
- Binder or folder in which to keep the penmanship performance pages
- On the World Wide Web search for “George Washington papers.” The University of Virginia, the Library of Congress, the Yale Law School, and other locations maintain collections of the papers.
- Obtain a copy of the book, *Rules of Civility & Decent Behaviour In Company and Conversation*, by George Washington. These rules are also available in text form on the Internet. George Washington copied the 110 rules as part of his penmanship practice when he was a teenager.
- On the World Wide Web search for “inaugural addresses of the presidents” to obtain full text copies of the inaugural addresses.
- Additional practice pages as needed
- Just for fun: Research the study of graphology. Review historical aspects of writing from the founding fathers like Thomas Jefferson or John Hancock. Collect and compare autographs of parents, teachers, friends or personalities.

Lesson 31: Skill Builder, Quotation, & Cursive Practice

Teaching Tips:

1. Review the basic cursive stroke of a downcurve. A downcurve is a curve left and down stroke.
2. Review lower case cursive letters q and o and numbers 6 and 0 which have initial downcurve strokes.
 - q—Downcurve, undercurve; Slant, loop forward; Undercurve.
 - o—Downcurve, undercurve; Checkstroke.
 - 6—Downcurve, loop.
 - 0—Downcurve, undercurve.
3. As a class activity, do some air writing of the letters q and o, and the numbers 6 and 0. Also do some of the joinings presented in the lesson.
4. Observe students as they practice the joinings in the Skill Builder activity. Pay special attention to the checkstroke joinings from the letter o.
5. Filling a page with improperly formed letters is a waste of time. Don't let them practice errors.
6. Provide a copy of the quotation for each student and post the quotation in a place where the students can see it.
7. Introduce the quotation for the week which is another section of George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation. Have the students read the quotation. Review other Thanksgiving historical information you deem appropriate. Explain any difficult words or phrases such as, "rendering, beneficent." Note the differences in language and capitalization (People, States, Author). Note that periods are not used in this quotation.



LESSON 31

Name: _____

Review downcurve letters. ← Skill Builder

q q q q o o o o 6 6 6 6 10 10 10 10

Review joinings.

qu ot to ov ol lo ow wo of

yo op po oo co od do oy go

Trace and write the words on the lines or use them in a sentence. ← Practice

therefore assign

devoted service

glorious being

beneficent author

unity

Use a red pencil to lightly draw a forward slash between your words. ↻

Is the spacing between your words a uniform slash?

Are you beginning the downcurve letters *a, d,* and *g* from a similar starting pointing?

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8. Trace and write the words in cursive on the line where the word is given.
9. Write the word additional times or use the words in a sentence on the line following the words.
10. Answer the self-evaluation question in a complete sentence. Demonstrate on the board how to mark the the spacing between words with a short backslash.

Lesson 118: Skill Builder & Manuscript Practice


Teaching Tips:

1. Review the no-lift letter family: a, b, d, e, g, h, m, n, p, q, r, u, v, w, z. All of these letters require either either a retrace or a stop and direction change in their formation. All of the words used for practice have only no lift letters in them. Refer to the letter formation guide to see the letter strokes.
2. Discuss the strokes for p, r, and m.

p—Short down below the bottom, retrace to 10:00, curve right and close the top.

r—Short down to baseline, retrace to 10:00, curve right for an umbrella.

m—Short down to baseline, retrace to 10:00, curve right to 2:00, down to baseline, retrace to 10:00, curve right to 2:00, down to baseline.
3. Careful observation of the students' writing will be essential to verify that they are forming these letters without lifts.
4. Have the students carefully write in manuscript each cursive sentence of the historical document on the lines provided.
5. Encourage them to use the no-lift technique for the letters that are in the no-lift family.
6. Offer praise and suggestions as you observe their work.
7. Check for letters or words that will require additional practice.
8. Check the spacing of words and sentences. The space between sentences should be the same as the size of a capital letter M.
9. Pay special attention to letter heights.
10. Answer the self-evaluation question in a complete sentence.
11. Insert this page into the manuscript section of the binder.
12. Assign a letter grade or percentage score to this page by using the Keys to Penmanship Success for your evaluation.

**LESSON 118**

Name: _____

Manuscript Skill Builder

Practice no-lift letters with retrace.

a b d e g h m n p q r u v w z

map mare maze mean men mud mug mum

mat may nap new pan parade pear prepare

Use the blank lines to practice writing the sentences in manuscript. Manuscript Practice

And if a beachhead of cooperation may push back the jungle of suspicion, let both sides join in creating a new endeavor, not a new balance of power, but a new

world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved.

All this will not be finished in the first one hundred days. Nor will it be finished in the first one thousand days, nor in the life of this administration,

nor even perhaps in our lifetime on this planet. But let us begin.

Are there any manuscript letters that you tend to write with cursive strokes?

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Week 14: Lessons 66–70
Inaugural Address, Part 3
President John F. Kennedy
January 20, 1961

Quotation:

Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans—born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage—and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world.