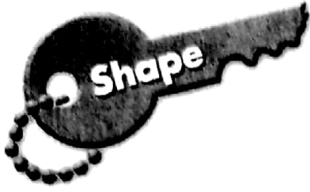




Keys to Legibility




There are four basic strokes in cursive writing.
Be sure to write each letter with good basic strokes.

Circle each letter that has an undercurve beginning .


w d c h u

Circle each letter that has a downcurve beginning .

a j p q s

Circle each letter that has an overcurve beginning .

b n r v z

Circle each letter that has a slant stroke .

c k l m o

Write the words. Circle three letters you wrote that have good shape.

put *bell*

sum *toss*

kite *file*

baby *leap*

Grade 4 Mini-Assessment – Basic Archaeology Pair

Today you will read two articles and watch a video about archaeology, which is the study of what people and places were like long ago. You will then answer several questions based on the texts. I will be happy to answer questions about the directions, but I will not help you with the answers to any questions. You will notice as you answer the questions that some of the questions have two parts. You should answer Part A of the question before you answer Part B.

Take as long as you need to read and answer the questions. If you do not finish when class ends, come see me to discuss the ways you may have additional time.

Now read the articles and answer the questions. I encourage you to write notes in the margin as you read.

Article 1: Basic Archaeology: What's a Dig?

- 1 One of the main things archaeologists do in their line of work is the dig. This is a project designed to find out more about a specific area and what it was like many, many years ago. Archaeologists might be looking for animal skeletons or plant remains. They might be looking for weather patterns or fire damage.
- 2 Whatever they're looking for, it usually involves digging. Why? Well, first of all, the wind is constantly blowing fresh dirt and trash all over the world. This airborne debris lands on the ground in tiny layers. After years of these tiny layers building up, what was once on the surface is buried underground. It's not that the ground has really sunk; it's more that more layers have been added on top.
- 3 So, archaeologists use their pickaxes and their drills and their brushes to find and piece together clues to what happened in an area's past. And the more they find, the more they understand.
- 4 For instance, by discovering seeds, archaeologists can also discover what kinds of crops the people who lived there grew or, if people didn't live there at all, what kind of wild plants or fruits or vegetables grew there.
- 5 Also, a dig might turn up fragments of clothing or shoes, giving archaeologists clues to what kind of clothing the people who lived there wore.
- 6 The basic idea behind the dig is to discover the past.

QUESTIONS

1. In paragraph 2 of Article 1, "What's a Dig?" which two words help the reader understand what the word "debris" means?

- A. wind
- B. dirt
- C. trash
- D. ground
- E. layers
- F. surface

2. What does the information in paragraph 3 in Article 1 help the reader understand about archaeologists?

- A. What types of tools they must use
- B. How long it takes to complete a dig
- C. How many clues are found at each dig
- D. What they learn about people from the past

3. In paragraph 6 of Article 1, the author states, "The basic idea behind the dig is to discover the past." Draw a ring around the two paragraphs in Article 1 that support the idea that digs can tell us specific information about people who lived in the past.

Keys to Legibility



Look at the size of each letter.

Tall letters touch the headline.

b d h

Short letters touch the midline.

a m q u

Some letters have descenders that go below the baseline and touch the next headline.

f g y

Write the words. Circle your three best tall letters. Underline your three best short letters.

seek toss away

new just bulb

limit yellow river

below furry puppy

Grade 4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS Sample

14. A student made a plan for a research report. Read the plan and the directions that follow.

Research Report Plan

Topic: early American schools

Audience: students in social studies class

Purpose: to inform

Research Question: What were children taught in early American schools?

The student found a source for the research report. Read the source.

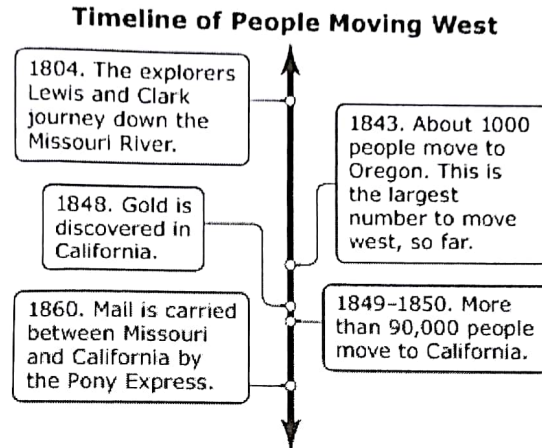
In the early days of America, children had many jobs. Boys were expected to help their fathers with the farm work. Likewise, girls were expected to help their mothers with the housework. There wasn't much time for school. Most children who had some time for learning went to a dame school. The name of the school came from the teachers who were called dames. These teachers showed children how to recognize the letters of the alphabet, how to spell, and how to do simple math. If a family could pay for it, some boys had additional schooling from a schoolmaster.

Choose **one** sentence that has information that answers the research question.

- A. In the early days of America, children had many jobs.
- B. Boys were expected to help their fathers with the farm work.
- C. Likewise, girls were expected to help their mothers with the housework.
- D. There wasn't much time for school.
- E. Most children who had some time for learning went to a dame school.
- F. The name of the school came from the teachers who were called dames.
- G. These teachers showed children how to recognize the letters of the alphabet, how to spell, and how to do simple math.
- H. If a family could pay for it, some boys had additional schooling from a schoolmaster.

Grade 4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS Sample

15. A student is writing a report about the California Gold Rush. She found a timeline. Read the timeline and the directions that follow.



The student found a second source. Read the second source below.

In 1803, the United States bought a large piece of land from France. This was called the Louisiana Purchase. This made the United States much larger by adding land west of the Mississippi River. Later, gold was found at Sutter's Mill in California. After that, more people began to journey west.

People came from all over the world to California. Most of these people wanted to find gold.

Choose **all** of the sentences below that support the information in the timeline.

- A. In 1803, the United States bought a large piece of land from France.
- B. This was called the Louisiana Purchase.
- C. This made the United States much larger by adding land west of the Mississippi River.
- D. Later, gold was found at Sutter's Mill in California.
- E. After that, more people began to journey west.
- F. People came from all over the world to California.
- G. Most of these people wanted to find gold.

Grade 4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS Sample

16. A student is writing a research report about hovercraft. She found a source. Read Source 1 and the directions that follow.

Source 1: Hovercraft by Jane Thomas

In 1955, a British man put some cans and tubes together and made the first tiny hovercraft. Hovercraft look like a ship and can float over water, land, or even swamps. They work really well in places where the land is rocky, swampy, or icy because they can float as little as six inches or as much as seven feet into the air. Hovercraft float because they have big fans that are on the bottom of the craft. The big fans lift them off the ground. This makes hovercraft very useful in places that do not have many roads. In fact, hovercraft are the best way to travel when there are no roads to follow. They are even used to save people when they need help, like during a flood.

The student took notes about hovercraft. Select **two** notes that support the author's opinion in **Source 1**.

- A. Hovercraft are used in many countries in the world.
- B. Hovercrafts are now being used to give tours in many cities.
- C. People who love hovercraft can join clubs and take part in races.
- D. Some hovercrafts are so small that only one person can ride in them.
- E. Hovercraft can help rescue teams get safely to areas where cars cannot travel.
- F. By floating above rocks and waves, hovercraft offer a smooth ride for passengers.