

# Camp AH-HA: Tech Tuesday – Penmanship and letter writing

## Who:

You and your family

### What:

- Students didn't have computers or iPads or Chromebooks to write on in Pioneer Days. They didn't even have white boards or smart boards in their classrooms! Most One-Room schoolhouses had large chalkboards that the teacher wrote lessons on. Ask you parents or grandparents if they remember chalkboards. Did they have to write on them? Did they ever have to clean the erasers? Do they remember the squeaky sound the chalk sometimes made?
- Penmanship was an important subject one hundred and more years ago. Penmanship means learning to write so people can read it easily. The teacher would spend a whole lesson just teaching the pupils how to make their letters correctly. Learning to write clearly was a sign that you had done well in school.
- Until just recently, children learned cursive writing. Cursive writing was the type of penmanship that pioneer children learned. Maybe your parents or grandparents remember learning cursive writing!
- Classrooms would have posters on the wall showing the correct way to form letters.
- Students could earn awards for penmanship! Can you imagine doing that today?
- Since written communication was the way most people shared news it was important to be able to write clearly.
- Handwritten letters and handmade cards were the way families and friends kept in touch before we had email and texting and Facetime.
- Did you know that the first Post Office was created in 1775 and that Benjamin Franklin was the first Postmaster General?
- Today you are going to get a chance to practice your cursive writing and write a letter to a friend or loved one!

#### How:

### Practice Penmanship:

- Using the cursive writing sheet as a guide, practice writing Capital and Small letters of the alphabet.
- Once you have done the whole alphabet, try writing your name using Capital and small letters.
- Now that you have practiced your penmanship, why don't you put it to use and write a letter to a friend or family member that you haven't seen since we have had to stay at home. Maybe send a letter to your teacher to tell them you miss them!
- You can also make a pretty card or color a picture and send it to someone at a local nursing home. Even if you don't know anyone in a nursing home, they will share your picture with the people there who can't get other visitors.
- By sending a letter, you'll be practicing history that is hundreds of years old!

# ~ Cursive Alphabet Chart ~

Description: "Cursive Alphabets A-Z in Lowercase" | By Cursive Alphabet Chart. Com



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