

Writing Activities

The Writing Activities section reinforces the Goals for Instruction by providing opportunities for the student to apply spelling skills through meaningful writing experiences. The writing activities present a range of interesting topics that include personal experiences, marine-related topics, and vocations. The student will use a variety of writing forms including narrative paragraphs, persuasive essays, graphic organizers, informative paragraphs, and illustrated writing projects.

Many of the writing experiences lend themselves to producing a computer-generated item. Encourage the use of varied font styles as well as graphics and photos.

The twenty-five writing activities are designed to be used at the teacher's discretion. Individual activities do not necessarily reference specific spelling lists or skills.

Journal Entries and Personal Narratives

Do Right

Sometimes we are given tasks or responsibilities we think are too difficult, take too much time, or are not enjoyable. Read Colossians 3:23–24. Meditate on what the verses say the Christian's attitude toward work should be. Write a paragraph about some of the tasks in which you are tempted to have an unbiblical attitude. Write about ways you will serve Christ heartily as you meet your responsibilities.

Globetrotting

You have the opportunity to travel around the world with three other people. Who will you choose to take with you and why? What countries or cities will you visit? What will you do? Write at least one paragraph telling about your adventures.

An Invention

Light bulbs, airplanes, cars, and cell phones are all important inventions that make life easier for people. What do you think is the best invention of all time? Write a brief description of that invention and tell why you think it is the greatest. Include what you would suggest to improve it. You may also include a picture or drawing of the invention.

Kindness

February 17 is “Random Act of Kindness Day.” List ten acts of kindness that you can perform during the next week. Complete as many of these as you can throughout the week. At the end of the week, write a paragraph describing these acts and other acts of kindness you did that were not planned. Also write about the effect showing kindness had on others and on you.

A New Discovery

While you were diving in the ocean, you discovered an unusual sea creature. Write a description of your discovery using colorful words that tell where you found it, its source of food, its appearance, and its behavior. Create a name for your new discovery and illustrate it.

Underwater Habitat

Would you like to live underwater? Design and draw a picture of your ideal sea dwelling. Label the parts of your habitat with a brief explanation of how each feature will help you survive under the ocean.

Persuasive Writing

A Second Language

Our world today is becoming more and more multicultural. It is not unusual to go to the local department store or fast food chain and hear a variety of languages being spoken. Do you think students should be required to learn a second language? Prepare a planning chart. State your opinion. Give at least two reasons for your opinion on the issue. Support each reason with two or more facts or examples. Use your planning chart to draft a short persuasive essay.

Family Water Fun

Plan a family day of water fun. Develop a planning chart that tells what activities will take place, who will attend, and where it will take place. State the purpose for the day. Provide at least two reasons why this is a good activity for your family, with supporting facts and examples for each reason. Use the information from the planning chart to write a persuasive essay that tells what you think your family should do.

Research

Compare and Contrast

Work with a partner to compare and contrast two things that are related in some way, yet are different. One example would be a squid and an octopus. You may choose to include such details as appearance, mode of travel, feeding habits, and defenses. You and your partner will each research one item and make a list of its characteristics. Then work together to complete a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences.

Suggested topics:

Porpoise/dolphin

Hurricane/tornado

Alligator/crocodile

Exploring a Coral Reef

You have the opportunity to explore a coral reef. What equipment will you need? What safety precautions will you need to take? What animal or plant life can you expect to see?

John Newton

The hymn-writer John Newton became a sailor at the age of eleven. God used many people and events to bring him to Christ. Newton later wrote the famous hymn “Amazing Grace.” Research John Newton’s life. Make a timeline with dates indicating the main events in his life. Include the date he wrote “Amazing Grace.”

Marine Creatures

Research a sea creature. Record information you find that answers the following questions: What characteristics did God give this animal? What size is it? In which areas does it live? How does God provide food and protection for this animal? Does it migrate? What unusual abilities does this animal have? Write a report about your findings. You may include an illustration or photo.

Suggested topics:

Bottlenose dolphin

Giant squid

Starfish (sea star)

Green sea turtle

Sea otter

Japanese spider crab

Sea anemone

Jellyfish

Hawaiian monk seal

Seahorse

Pastor Harper Aboard the Titanic

Pastor John Harper was a passenger on the *Titanic*. Research Pastor Harper's life, including his character qualities. Write a paragraph about how he became a pastor and about how he spent his last hours on the *Titanic*. What choices did Pastor Harper make once he knew the *Titanic* was sinking? Comment about how his strength of character influenced his final choices in life.

Salt

Work with a partner to compare and contrast sea salt and table salt. You and your partner will each research one type of salt and make a list of its characteristics. Include the sources, uses, and benefits of each. Then work together to complete a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences.

Vocations

Research the vocation of your choice. Write a description that includes the following information: What education or training would you need? What kind of skills would you use? What tasks would you be expected to do? How could this vocation be used to honor God and serve others?

Suggested topics:

Aquanaut

Archaeologist

Journalist

Astronaut

Dentist

Oceanographer

Evangelist

Illustrator

Paramedic

Physical or occupational therapist

Marine animal trainer

Story Starters

A Fishing Surprise

It was a perfect day to go fishing at Crystal Lake. Dad and I baited our hooks and cast our lines into the water. Immediately I felt a very strong tug on my line. Something unseen was pulling my fishing line under the water faster than I could reel it in. I could hardly hang on to my fishing pole, so I . . .

The Disappearing Seashell

Anna's sand pail was almost full of seashells when she spotted a particular shell she wanted to add to her collection. As she bent down to pick it up, the shell suddenly disappeared into the sand. She decided to . . .

Writing Projects

Aquarium Field Trip

Plan a field trip to an aquarium. Research a particular aquarium. Include all the information someone would need to know about the event, such as dates and times open, cost, distance from home, dining options, suggested length of visit, and special events to see. Create a brochure or flyer that features the information. Include illustrations or photos.

Create a Word

Create a new word using two or more Latin and/or Greek word parts (i.e., aquagraph, diasphere). Write a dictionary entry for your word. Include syllable division, pronunciation respelling, part of speech, word form, definition, sample sentence, and word origin. Make an illustration for your word.

Moral of the Story

Choose a well-known moral such as “Look before you leap.” Develop your own story and character(s). Include the setting, character’s description, rising action, climax (when the character learns the lesson), and resolution (including the moral). Give your story to your partner to edit. Prepare a final draft to display or read to the class.

Suggested morals:

Beauty is only skin deep.

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

A stitch in time saves nine.

The early bird catches the worm.

No act of kindness is ever wasted.

You are known by the company you keep.

National Months

The United States has set aside certain months to bring specific topics to the attention of the public. Below are two examples of national “months” that could be used for writing activities.

May is National Bike Month. Make a brochure that emphasizes bike safety. Illustrate the brochure. Include a statement about why you think it is important to bring the subject of bikes to the attention of the public each year.

February is American Heart Month. Research facts about the human heart. You may also use a concordance to locate verses that refer to the spiritual heart. Write a short summary of your findings and include why it is important to keep both “hearts” healthy.

Each topic could be developed with the following questions in mind:

Why is it important to bring this topic to the attention of the public?

What activity or event could be planned to raise public awareness?

Are there Scripture references or principles that apply?

Could your poster or flyer be enhanced with graphics?

Suggested topics:

February	Dental Health Month
March	National Nutrition Month
April	National Poetry Month
May	National Bike Month
June	National Safety Month
July	Parks and Recreation Month
August	National Eye Exam Month
September	National Guide Dog Month
October	National Book Month
December	National Hand Washing Awareness Month

National Police Week

In the United States, people recognize the work of faithful police officers the week of May 15. Think about the kind of work police officers do. Find the name of an officer in your city and write a letter to thank him or her for the work he or she does.

Personification

Personification is a literary device in which human characteristics are given to animals, objects, or ideas. For instance, the sentence “It was a very cold day” could be changed to “Winter wrapped her icy arms around us.” In this example, winter, a nonliving thing, is being given the action of wrapping, a human trait. Write a paragraph about an object or idea (season, sport, shoe, food, etc.), giving it human qualities.

Snack Time

A food company wants to create a new snack for kids. It must be healthy and tasty. Plan a new snack and write a detailed description of it. List the ingredients with amounts. Include your description in a written speech to convince the food company to make your new product.

Your Senses

Good writing includes many details that appeal to the five senses. Describe your favorite room, shop, or outdoor scene. What can you hear, see, smell, touch, or taste? Use as many sensory details as possible.