

Dearest Friend

19th-Century Letter Writing

Grade Level

6-12 grade

Time Requirement

45-60 minutes

Introduction

For this activity, students will write a 19th-century-style letter while learning about the parts and etiquette of letter writing in the 1800s. For each letter part, they will roll dice and use the prompt or information that matches the number rolled. As students write the Letter Body and Postscript, they can research life in the 1800s to add authenticity to their letters.

Materials

- Letter Writing Template and Letter Writing Student Sheet

Objectives

Students will compose a 19th-century style letter by rolling dice to determine the Heading, Salutation, Purpose for Writing, Slang, Valediction, and Postscript.

Standards

English Language Arts and Reading

7.11(D), 8.11(D): compose correspondence that reflects an opinion, registers a complaint, or requests information in a business or friendly structure

E1.10(D), E2.10(D), E3.10(D), E4.10(D): compose correspondence in a professional or friendly structure

Social Studies

7.22(C), 8.30(C): create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information

6.21(D): create written and visual material such as journal entries, reports, graphic organizers, outlines, and bibliographies based on research

US.29(A): create written, oral, and visual presentations of social studies information using effective communication skills, including proper citations and avoiding plagiarism

Procedures

- Start by sharing information on letter writing and significant letters in history.
- Using the Letter Writing Template, students will roll dice to determine their letter's Heading, Salutation, Purpose for Writing, Slang, Valediction, and Postscript.
 - Optional: Students research life in the 1800s to add detail to their letters.
- After determining each component of their letter, students then compose their letters either on the Letter Writing Student Sheet or on their own paper.

Extension/Enrichment

- Students exchange and respond to each other's letters.
- Students choose or are assigned a historical figure and write a letter in their voice (first person), including some of the letter component options from the lesson.