

Ancient Egypt

Ancient Egypt started out as two kingdoms more than 5,000 years ago. The kingdoms were called Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt. The people who were farmers lived along the Nile River where there was good soil to grow food. Since most of Egypt is in the Sahara, the largest desert in the world, water is very important. When King Menes of Upper Egypt conquered Lower Egypt, the country was united under one government. Many different families ruled Egypt over the years. Each time the rule of Egypt passed from one person to another in the same family, it was called a dynasty. When a new family took over, there was a new dynasty. There were more than 30 dynasties in ancient Egypt. The ruler was often called a pharaoh.

There were many large cities, but many of the people lived in small towns outside the cities. The Egyptians divided their people into three main classes of citizens. The upper class was made of the royal family, people in government, the rich, doctors, and people who were important as priests or officers in the army. The middle class was made of merchants and people who worked in crafts and made products. The lower class was made of the people who did jobs like farming. If people were taken prisoner during war, they were often made slaves, which was another class of people. The people of ancient Egypt developed a form of writing called hieroglyphics, which is a kind of writing made of picture symbols. Another invention was papyrus, a kind of paper made from plants.

Trading was very important in ancient Egypt. Ships sailed all over the known world to trade for goods that were not available at home. The Egyptians also got many riches from trading, such as gold and gems.

One of the things ancient Egypt is best known for is their pyramids. Pyramids were built like tombs to bury upper class citizens like kings. Some of the pyramids are still standing today, about 4,500 years after they were built.



You and your family are sailing on the Nile in a canoe when you see something in the water you have never seen before. What is it, and what happens next?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Ancient China

A dynasty is a long period of time one family rules a country. Different dynasties have ruled in China over the last 4,000 years. Between about 1766 BC and 206 BC, the Shang dynasty, the Zhou dynasty, and the Qin dynasty ruled.

Silk was a very important resource during the Shang dynasty. Special plantations raised silkworms that spun beautiful cocoons out of silk thread. The thread was woven into material that was some of the most valuable in the world. People also created beautiful things out of bronze during the Shang dynasty, developed a way to write their language, and had war chariots drawn by horses, which was something not everyone had at that time.

As the Shang family's power started to weaken, the Zhou dynasty took over. The Zhou also made beautiful objects out of bronze, and they made weapons and farm tools out of iron. The oldest book of Chinese poetry ever found was written during the Zhou dynasty.

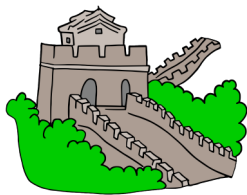
After the Zhou, many groups fought for control of China. The Qin finally won in 221 BC. They only ruled for about 15 years, but they did amazing things for the country. They brought China and all the warring groups together under one government. The Qin also brought many walls together that the Zhou had built, and these walls became the Great Wall of China. Some of the Great Wall is still standing today!

Emperor Shi Huangdi, the first person who ruled the Qin, has a very famous tomb. He ordered that thousands of statues of soldiers, horses, and other animals and objects be made out of baked clay and buried with him. These beautiful carvings were forgotten for over 2,000 years until they were discovered in the 1970s. There is always something new to be learned or discovered about ancient China.



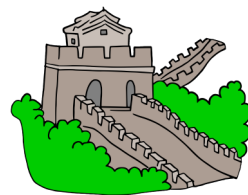
It is the night of the big performance. All you have to do is remember the part you have to play on the bells, but you haven't been feeling well. Your head feels fuzzy. It's time to play the opening notes. What happens next?

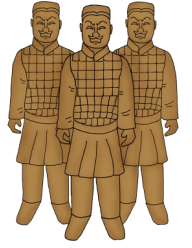
[illegible]



Writing Prompt #7

A group of men have just arrived in your village. They are here to build a wall, and they order all the men in the village to help, including your father. You know your father is not feeling well today, so you go with him to try to help. Describe your first day on the job.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

Ancient Greece

Ancient Greece started as a group of small farming towns. These farming towns were controlled by a larger city in the southern part of Greece. Some historians believe this is the time when the ancient Greeks won a war against Troy, using the surprise of the Trojan horse.

After the larger city that controlled much of the area fell from power, small places called city-states grew up. City-states were cities or towns with the farmland and villages that were close around them. The city-states sometimes fought each other for control of areas of land. One of the most famous city-states was Athens. The children in Athens went to school and learned things like music, reading, writing, and arithmetic. They also took part in sports. In Athens, people had a part in the rule of the city-state. This was called democracy, and it is a type of government that is very popular today. Athens also had a large navy that it used whenever there was a war.

Another important city-state was Sparta. In Sparta, the people were taught to live by fighting with other city-states. It was very important to the people of Sparta to build strength and learn to fight. The Spartans did not think reading and writing were as important as military training. Boys went to camps when they were seven years old to learn how to follow the rules and be strong, just as if they were soldiers. Girls were even allowed to exercise and take part in sports, which wasn't allowed in many parts of the ancient world.

Sports were very important to the ancient Greeks. The Olympic Games started there. Ancient Greece was also known for the study of medicine, mathematics, and many other things such as architecture, art, writing stories, and keeping a record of history.

Ancient Greece did not have a lot of good land and weather for growing food. Because of this, they did a lot of trading and started colonies in many areas so they could trade for some of the things they needed. The ancient Greeks spread their way of life over a large area of the world at that time, and their ideas spread to many other lands.



A stylized illustration of a wooden horse, resembling a Trojan horse, constructed from horizontal wooden planks. It is mounted on a simple wooden frame with two large, dark, circular wheels. The horse is facing right.

[illegible]



You are on a long walk when all of a sudden, your sandal strap breaks. You are far from home and have no way to get another one. How do you fix it?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

Ancient Rome

Ancient Rome was a city in Italy that started out very small more than 2,500 years ago with only some shepherds. It grew until it was a powerful empire that ruled many countries. The Roman Empire ruled most of the world that was known at that time. Roman soldiers were very good fighters and were feared by many people.

The Roman Empire made all the countries it conquered live under its laws and its government. Sometimes, Romans took some of the people back to Rome as slaves. The empire had different types of government during its long reign, but one type of ruler was the Caesar. The Caesar had control over everything and everyone.

There were many different languages spoken in the Ancient Roman Empire, but the language of the Romans was Latin. From that language, many of the languages of today grew, such as French, Spanish, and Italian.

The Romans were very skillful builders. They built roads to many parts of the known world. Some of those roads are still being used today. The Romans also built bridges and aqueducts. Aqueducts were large brick and stone waterways that carried water to the towns and cities that needed it. The Romans also made many beautiful works of art. You can still see some of them in museums in Rome today.

The Romans also enjoyed sports and games. Some of the games were very dangerous, like the chariot races. The rich also liked to relax and be spoiled. They had public gyms called baths where they could exercise and then get a massage and be waited on by slaves.

After more than one thousand years, the Roman Empire fell. It was too big, and even Rome couldn't control it all any more. It took so long to get messages from one end of the empire to soldiers and people in the other end of the empire, that Rome couldn't keep the empire working any more. It divided into many smaller countries with their own cultures and ways of government.

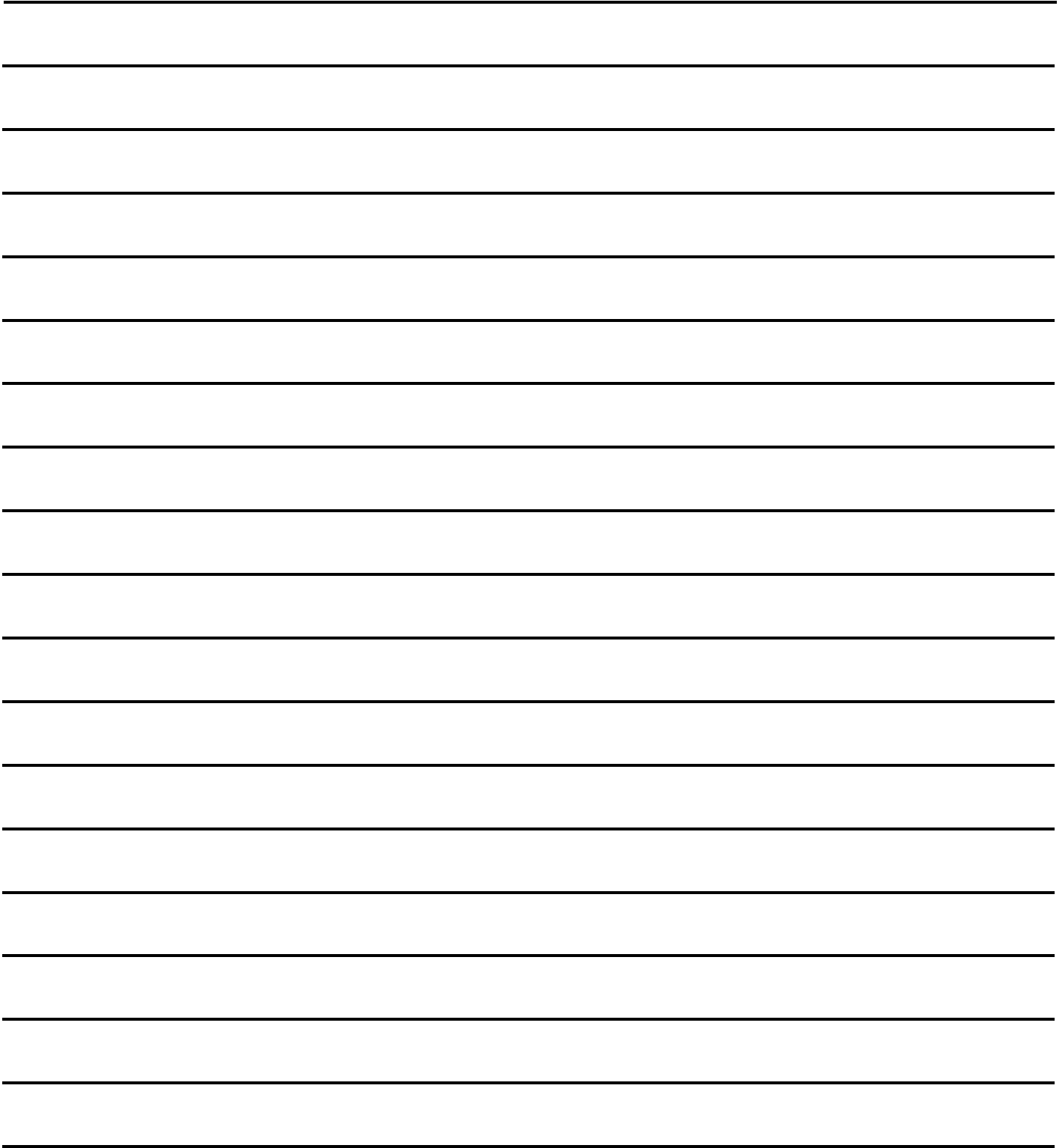


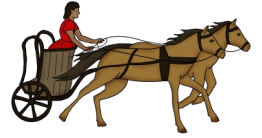
A colorful illustration of a Roman aqueduct. The structure is made of light brown stone and features two levels of arches. The top level has five large, empty arches, while the bottom level has three smaller arches through which blue water is flowing. The water is depicted with white foam and splashes. On either side of the water, there are green bushes and small trees. The entire scene is set against a plain white background.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



You are in charge of a ship in the Mediterranean Sea. Many of the slaves who row the ship are sick and cannot row very well, but you have to get to the harbor. What do you do?



[illegible]

Aboard the *Mayflower*

It was a very difficult trip for the Pilgrims to reach their new home. There were supposed to be two boats crossing the Atlantic Ocean together, but one of the ships could not make the trip because it began to leak. The ships returned to England, and the Pilgrims who decided to keep going crowded into one boat, the *Mayflower*. It took 66 days, more than two months, for the Pilgrims to cross the ocean. At first, it was just seasickness that was a problem. Then, the seas grew very rough and dangerous. There were times the sails could not be used because the wind was so strong. No one knew if they would survive to reach the New World.

There was not much room on the *Mayflower*. The Pilgrims had to take everything with them that they might need to start a new colony. They knew there wouldn't be stores or gardens or anyway to get food until they planted it and it had time to grow, so they had to take food. They also had to take seeds, dishes, tools, blankets, and anything else they might need.

The Pilgrims had planned to settle in the area around northern Virginia, but the seas were too rough, and they decided to try to find a place to settle farther north. They anchored in Provincetown Harbor and spent much time exploring and looking for the best place to settle.

Before the new colony could get started, the people had to agree to create a government that could make laws. If they didn't have laws, there couldn't be a new colony. Everyone would just be doing whatever they wanted to with no one in charge. The people signed the Mayflower Compact, their promise to form a government and follow its laws, just like they had to follow the laws back in England.

The Native Americans, especially the Wampanoags, were very helpful to the Pilgrims when they started their colony, which was called *Plimouth*. Today we spell the name of the colony *Plymouth*. Without the Wampanoags' help, the colonists might not have survived. They taught the colonists how to grow vegetables in the new land, how to hunt the animals, and how to gather shellfish that were safe to eat.

After the first year in their new home, the Pilgrims had a very good harvest and held a large celebration. They invited the Native Americans to join them, and we remember that feast as the first Thanksgiving.



Your little brother just kicked you again. There are around eighty people cramped into this one room beneath the main deck, so

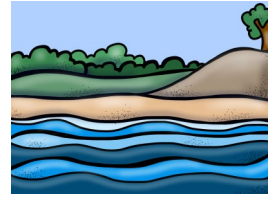
you have to sleep close together. How do you talk yourself into not being mad at him?

[illegible]



You can hardly believe it. People are fighting over who is going to be in charge in the New World. Can't everyone just be happy that you made it across the terrible ocean alive? You hear about a meeting and sneak closer to try to hear. What are the men talking about?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The American Revolution

In the early 1700s, America was not a free country. Great Britain was in control of the land, and the people who lived in America were called colonists. Great Britain had spent a great deal of money on the French and Indian War to stop France from taking control of land in the colonies that Britain said was hers. To help pay for that war, Britain decided to make the colonists pay extra money for things so Britain could use that tax money any way they wanted.

The taxes were very hard for the colonists to pay. Britain taxed many things people used every day. The colonists did not feel it was right to be taxed when they did not get to vote about the taxes. They wanted representation in Britain's government.

One of the taxes was on tea, and the colonists drank a lot of tea. There were laws about where the colonists could buy tea, and then, the tea they bought was taxed! The colonists wanted to do something to show Britain how they felt about these taxes. They tried talking to the government, but they wouldn't listen. One night, some of the people from Boston dressed up like Native Americans so no one would know who they were, and they dumped all the tea from ships in Boston Harbor into the water.

This made Britain very angry. They wanted to punish the colonists for ruining the tea, so they passed more new laws the colonists did not get to vote on. One law closed Boston Harbor and said it would only be opened when the colonists paid for the tea and were respectful of the British. Other laws made the governor of Massachusetts very powerful because he was part of the British army and would do the things the king wanted. There were many British troops in Boston and other areas.

The colonists tried to work out the problems, but Britain would not listen. When the British tried to find ammunition the colonists had been storing in case of a fight, Paul Revere and two other men rode to warn the people that the British were coming. Fighting started, and the colonists met to decide what to do. They finally signed a Declaration of Independence telling Britain they wanted to be a free country. When the Declaration of Independence was read to the people, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was rung.

Britain tried to stop the people from being free. The war was long, and many people died, but in the end, the colonists won, and a new nation was born.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



You are almost asleep in your bed at your home near Boston Harbor when you hear a commotion outside. You run to the window. What is happening? What do you do?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 18 horizontal lines.

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in Kentucky. He did not have a chance to go to school for long, but he loved to read books. As he grew up, he worked in a store and then went on to study law and become a lawyer. He moved to Springfield, Illinois, while he was practicing law. Later, he ran for Congress. He had a debate against Stephen A. Douglas, the man who was running against him. Lincoln felt slavery should be stopped, but Douglas felt the people should vote on whether or not there should be slavery. Even though Lincoln lost the election, he became very well known.

In 1860, Lincoln ran for president and won. He became the sixteenth President of the United States. Lincoln loved animals. He helped find homes for orphaned kittens, had a favorite dog and a favorite horse, and his sons even had pet goats and a pet turkey.

After he became president, many Southern states broke away from the United States and formed their own country. When that happened, the Civil War started. Lincoln said slaves in states that had broken away from the United States (also called the Union) were free. He gave a speech in Pennsylvania, at a place called Gettysburg, where a great battle had taken place. This famous speech is known as Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Lincoln ran for president again in 1864, and won.

The Union was winning the war. In 1865, General Lee, who led many of the troops from the Southern states that had left the Union, surrendered to General Grant. The surrender happened at the home of Wilmer McLean in a small town called Appomattox Court House in Virginia. The Civil War ended very soon after that. The soldiers who had been fighting against the Union were given passes called parole passes to help them get back home after the surrender. A few days after the surrender, Lincoln and his wife went to see a play. He was shot by an actor named John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln died the next day and was buried in Springfield, Illinois.



You can hear your parents talking late into the night about the presidential elections. What are they saying? What do you think it will be like to have a new president?



©Bonnie Rose Hudson WriteBonnieRose.com

[illegible]



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

World War II

World War II was a terrible war fought between 1939 and 1945. Almost every part of the world was involved. While the troops were away fighting, life was hard for the people back home, too. They missed their family members and worried about them being safe. They were also proud of them for being so brave and helping people who needed help. In some countries, it was so dangerous even at home that parents sent their children to other places to keep them safe until the war was over.

At that time, many women did not have jobs outside of all the work it took to take care of their homes and families, but with so many of the men away fighting the war, they had to help fill in. They took jobs like building the equipment needed for the war and for home.

The troops needed food to eat, and they needed food for the people they were helping. Because of this, there wasn't as much food to buy back home, so food and other items were rationed. That meant you were only allowed to buy a certain amount of some things such as sugar. You were given a card or a book that told the grocery store how much sugar you were able to buy. When you had bought all of the sugar you were allowed to have, you had to wait until you were given more cards or books that allowed you to buy more sugar. This was done to make sure everyone could buy some sugar but that the all the sugar wouldn't be bought by just a few people. The same thing was done with many other items.

Because food was harder to get, many people planted gardens. During World War II, these were called "victory gardens." Growing their own food helped people have what they needed to keep their families healthy.

People also helped at hospitals where the wounded troops were sent to recover. Famous people would sometimes visit the hospitals to try to cheer up the troops. Other people would do all they could to help the troops as they recovered.

Another thing people did at home was buy bonds or stamps. This was like saving money. Later, the bonds or stamps could be cashed in to get the money with interest, but until they were cashed, the government could use the money to fight the war.

The war finally ended, and the troops came home, but it took a long time. Many people died in the war, and many who came home were hurt. Everyone back home was happy to be together again, but many things had changed, and life would never be exactly the same again.



Your mom is a nurse at a local military hospital. Some famous actors and actresses are coming to visit the injured troops. You want to go to help cheer them up, too. What do you do?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



A cartoon-style illustration of a soldier in a trench. The soldier is wearing a green helmet, a green jacket with a high collar, and green trousers. He is holding a brown rifle with both hands. He is wearing brown boots. The background is a simple grey trench.

©Bonnie Rose Hudson WriteBonnieRose.com

