NATIONAL HANDWRITING DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/01/national_handwriting_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.
National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its aim is to highlight the importance of the skill of handwriting. It is an important day in today’s world where people use a computer keyboard more than a pen or pencil. Some people are worried that in the future, handwriting might become a lost art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They chose January 23rd because this is the birthday of John Hancock, who was the first person to sign the American Declaration of Independence – one of the most important documents in America’s history. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is a chance for all of us to re-explore the purity and power of handwriting."

Handwriting is like an art. We can use it to express ourselves and be creative. It is almost like a craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students ‘penmanship’, rather than simply ‘writing’. A higher art form is calligraphy. People can study how to write a single letter of the alphabet for many years. Everyone’s handwriting is unique. We only need to see the front of a letter to recognize the handwriting of someone we know. Some handwriting can be almost impossible to read. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions that look like gobbledygook or ancient hieroglyphics. Experts can even analyze our handwriting and explain what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting say about you?
PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

1. highlight the importance of the              a. lost art
2. in today’s world where people use a        b. America’s history
3. handwriting might become a                 c. skill of handwriting
4. the first person                           d. of handwriting
5. one of the most important documents in     e. computer keyboard
6. re-explore the purity and power            f. to sign

Paragraph 2

1. We can use it to express                   a. their students ‘penmanship’
2. Traditional teachers like to teach        b. unique
3. A higher art form is                      c. impossible to read
4. Everyone’s handwriting is                 d. ourselves
5. Some handwriting can be almost            e. hieroglyphics
6. look like gobbledygook or ancient         f. calligraphy
LISTENING GAP FILL

National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its _____________ the importance of the skill of handwriting. It is an important day ______________ people use a computer keyboard more than a pen or pencil. Some people are worried ______________, handwriting might become a lost art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They chose January 23rd ______________ the birthday of John Hancock, who was the ______________ sign the American Declaration of Independence – one of the most important documents in America’s history. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is a chance for all of us to re-explore the ______________ handwriting."

Handwriting is like an art. We can ______________ ourselves and be creative. It is almost like a craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students ‘penmanship’, ______________ ‘writing’. A higher art form is calligraphy. People can study how to write a single letter of the alphabet for many years. Everyone’s ______________. We only need to see the ______________ to recognize the handwriting of someone we know. Some handwriting can be almost impossible to read. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions ______________ gobbledygook or ancient hieroglyphics. Experts can even analyze our handwriting and explain what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting ______________?
WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its ________ is to highlight the importance of the ________ of handwriting. It is an important day in today’s ________ where people use a computer keyboard more than a pen or pencil. Some people are worried that in the future, handwriting might become a ________ art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They ________ January 23rd because this is the birthday of John Hancock, who was the first person to ________ the American Declaration of Independence – one of the most important documents in America’s ________. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is a chance for all of us to re-explore the purity and ________ of handwriting."

Handwriting is like an _________. We can use it to express ourselves and be creative. It is ________ like a craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students ‘penmanship’, rather than ________ ‘writing’. A higher art form is calligraphy. People can study how to write a single ________ of the alphabet for many years. Everyone’s handwriting is unique. We only need to see the front of a letter to ________ the handwriting of someone we know. Some handwriting can be almost impossible to ________. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions that look like gobbledygook or ________ hieroglyphics. Experts can even analyze our handwriting and ________ what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting say about you?
National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its aims / aim is to highlight the importance of the skill / skilled of handwriting. It is an important day in today’s world where people used / use a computer keyboard more of / than a pen or pencil. Some people are worried that in the future, handwriting might become a found / lost art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They chose / chosen January 23rd because this is the birthday of John Hancock, who was the first person to sign the American Declaration of Independence – one / once of the most important documents in America’s history. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is a chance for all of us to re-explore the purity and power / powerful of handwriting."

Handwriting is like an art. We can use it to express / expression ourselves and be creative. It is almost like a crafty / craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students ‘penmanship’, rather than simply ‘writing’. A higher art form / forms is calligraphy. People can study how to write a sign / single letter of the alphabet for many years. Everyone’s handwriting is uniquely / unique. We only need to see the front of a letter to recognize the handwriting of someone we know. Some handwriting can be almost impossibly / impossible to read. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions that look like gobbledygook or ancient hieroglyphics. Experts can even analysis / analyze our handwriting and explain what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting say / said about you?
MULTIPLE CHOICE

National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its (1) ____ is to highlight the importance of the skill of handwriting. It is an important day in today’s world where people use a computer keyboard more than a pen or pencil. Some people are (2) ____ that in the future, handwriting might become a (3) ____ art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They (4) ____ January 23rd because this is the birthday of John Hancock, who was the first person to sign the American Declaration of Independence – one of the most important documents (5) ____ America’s history. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is a chance for all of us to re-explore the (6) ____ and power of handwriting."

Handwriting is like an (7) ____. We can use it to express ourselves and be creative. It is almost like a craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students 'penmanship', (8) ____ than simply 'writing'. A higher art form is calligraphy. People can study how to write a (9) ____ letter of the alphabet for many years. Everyone’s handwriting is unique. We only need to see the front of a letter to recognize the handwriting of someone we know. Some handwriting can be (10) ____ impossible to read. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions that look like gobbledygook or (11) ____ hieroglyphics. Experts can even analyze our handwriting and explain what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting (12) ____ about you?

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

1. (a) aim (b) aiming (c) aimed (d) aims
2. (a) feared (b) concern (c) worried (d) anxiety
3. (a) losing (b) loser (c) lose (d) lost
4. (a) select (b) chose (c) opted (d) made
5. (a) on (b) in (c) to (d) at
6. (a) peril (b) puerile (c) pure (d) purity
7. (a) artsy (b) arty (c) art (d) artisan
8. (a) rather (b) instead (c) prefer (d) option
9. (a) singular (b) simple (c) sample (d) single
10. (a) around (b) about (c) almost (d) abound
11. (a) olden (b) history (c) ancient (d) high
12. (a) speak (b) say (c) voice (d) talk
SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. the *lsikl* of handwriting

2. a pen or *lpecin*

3. handwriting *igthm* become a lost art

4. They *ohcse* January

5. important documents in America’s *rhotsyi*

6. *eoprw* of handwriting

Paragraph 2

7. use it to *sxrespe* ourselves

8. It is almost like a *ftrac*

9. how to write a *geilns* letter

10. Everyone’s handwriting is *euqniu*

11. *zrgencioe* the handwriting

12. gobbledygook or *atnncei* hieroglyphics
pen or pencil. Some people are worried that in the future, handwriting might become a lost form is calligraphy. People can study how to write a single letter of the alphabet for many years. Everyone’s Handwriting is like an art. We can use it to express ourselves and be creative. It is almost like a of handwriting. It is an important day in today’s world where people use a computer keyboard more than a know. Some handwriting can be almost impossible to read. Doctors are famous for writing prescriptions that look what kind of personality we have. What does your handwriting say about you? craft. Traditional teachers like to teach their students ‘penmanship’, rather than simply ‘writing’. A higher art a chance for all of us to re-explore the purity and power of handwriting." art. The Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA) started National Handwriting Day in 1977. They chose like gobbledygook or ancient hieroglyphics. Experts can even analyze our handwriting and explain handwriting is unique. We only need to see the front of a letter to recognize the handwriting of someone we of Independence – one of the most important documents in America’s history. WIMA says: "National Handwriting Day is National Handwriting Day is on January 23rd. Its aim is to highlight the importance of the skill January 23rd because this is the birthday of John Hancock, who was the first person to sign the American Declaration
SCRAMBLED SENTENCES
With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. skill the of importance the highlight handwriting of

2. computer pen keyboard people more use than a a

3. handwriting art lost a become might

4. most documents America’s the important in history

5. and power re-explore of the handwriting purity

6. to ourselves can it express We use

7. to like teachers ‘penmanship’ students their teach

8. write the a alphabet single how letter to of

9. almost to handwriting be impossible read can

10. handwriting your does What you about say
DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____________________________________________________________________

2. _____________________________________________________________________

3. _____________________________________________________________________

4. _____________________________________________________________________

5. _____________________________________________________________________

6. _____________________________________________________________________

STUDENT B’s QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____________________________________________________________________

2. _____________________________________________________________________

3. _____________________________________________________________________

4. _____________________________________________________________________

5. _____________________________________________________________________

6. _____________________________________________________________________
THE NATIONAL HANDWRITING DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about National Handwriting Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STUDENT 1</th>
<th>STUDENT 2</th>
<th>STUDENT 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q.3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.4.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.5.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.
WRITING

Write about National Handwriting Day for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other’s work.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
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______________________________________________________________________________
HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google’s search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about National Handwriting Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about National Handwriting Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.
   Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about National Handwriting Day. Write about what will happen on this day around the world.
   Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.