

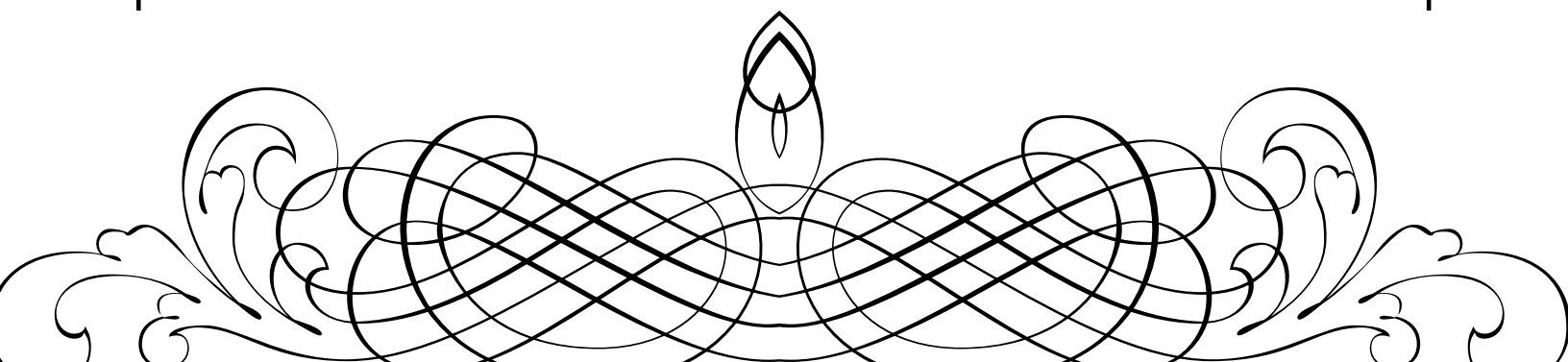


Mendocino County Museum

Penmanship Activity Guide

Name _____

Grade _____



Penmanship

Good handwriting was very important in the past because people didn't have computers or smartphones to send messages. Neat and easy handwriting helped people get jobs and stay in touch with friends and family that were far away.

Below you can see the steps for a penmanship lesson from the late 1800's.

<p>of Z at base, 1 space.</p>	<p>unites in a sharp angle with extended 6th Prin.</p>
<p>CLASS DRILL.</p> <p>PREPARATION.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Take Position.2. Monitors arrange Books and Pens for distribution.3. Pass Books.4. Pass Pens.	<p>COMMENCEMENT.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Take Writing Position.2. Adjust Books.3. Adjust Arms.4. Find Copy with Right Hand.5. Open Books.6. Place Right Hands on Inkstand Covers.
<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Open Inkstands.8. Take Pens.9. Dip Pens in Ink.10. Write. (Count 1, 2, &c.) <p>CLOSING.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wipe Pens.2. Lay down Pens.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Place Right Hands on Inkstand Covers.4. Close Inkstands.5. Close Books.6. Take Position.7. Monitors collect Books and Pens in reverse order of distribution.

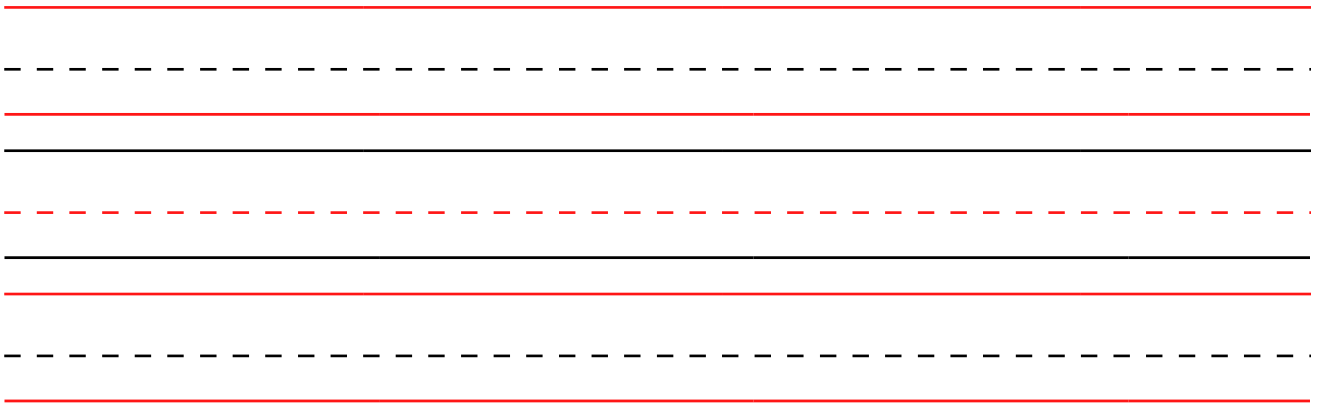
Class Drill from *Payson, Dutton, and Scribner's Penmanship, 1876.*

Students in the past may have used chalk, pencil, or a pen and ink to practice their handwriting. You can use a regular pen or pencil to practice the old fashioned handwriting exercises in this book.

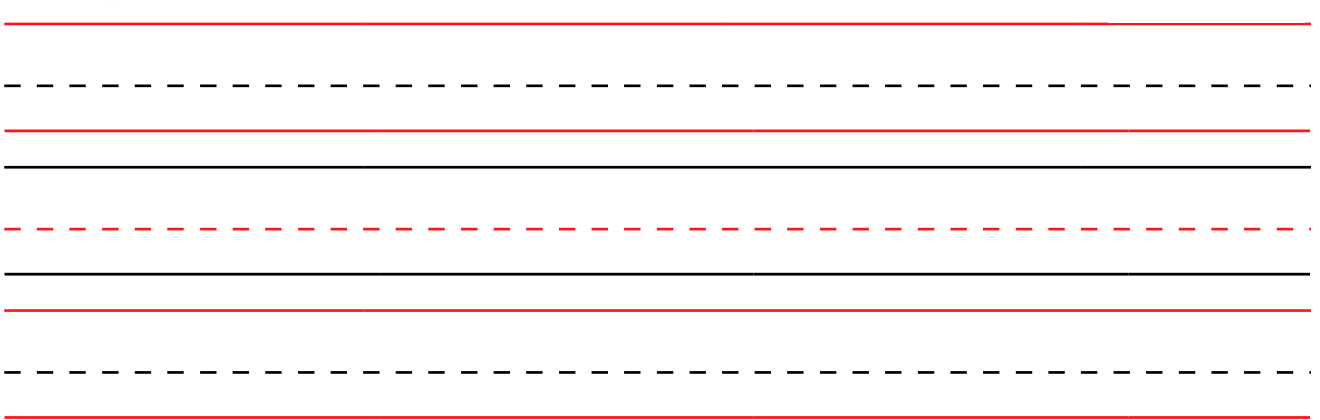
Movement Exercise

Before practicing letters students would often do movement exercises to learn basic shapes used in letters such as lines, ovals, and waves. The drills also aided in learning the correct way to move the writing implement across the paper.

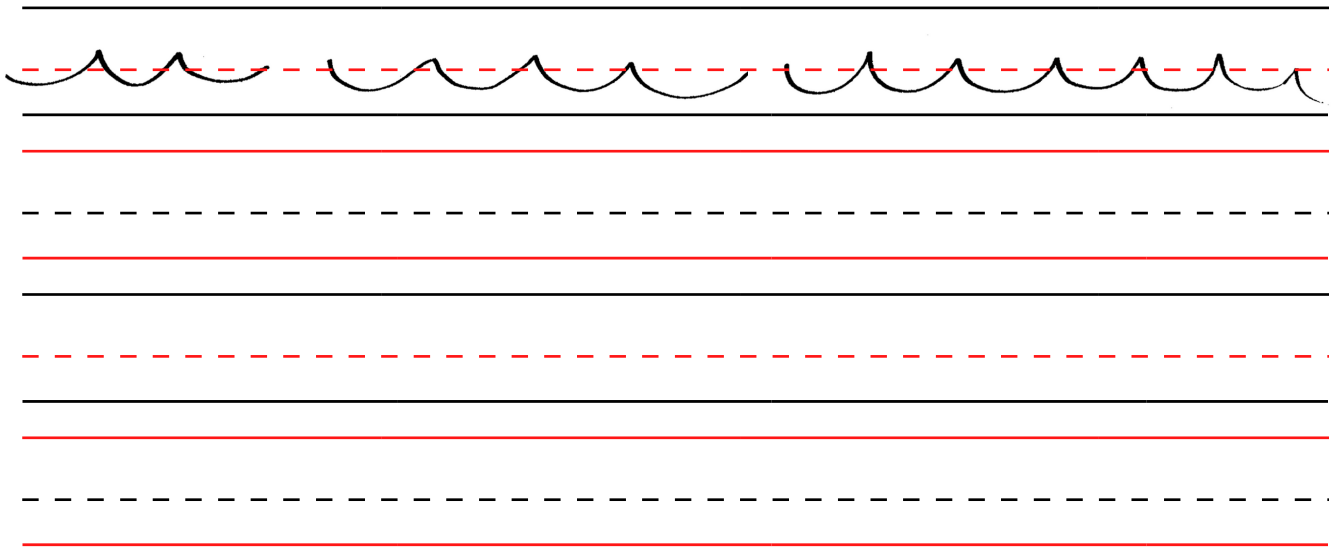
Drill One: Lines



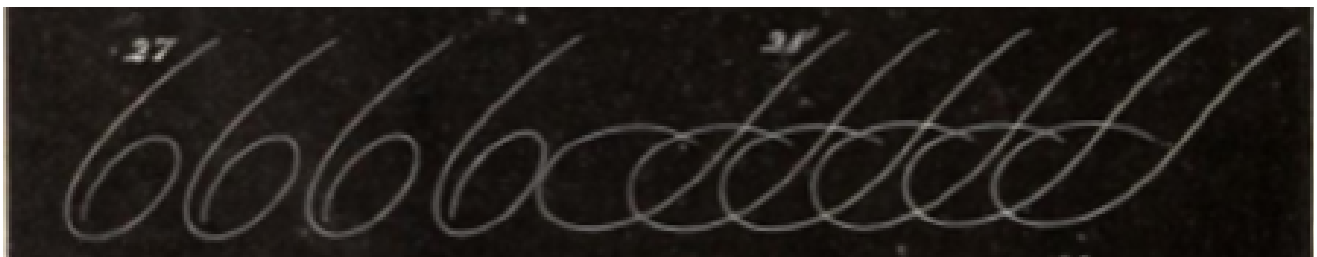
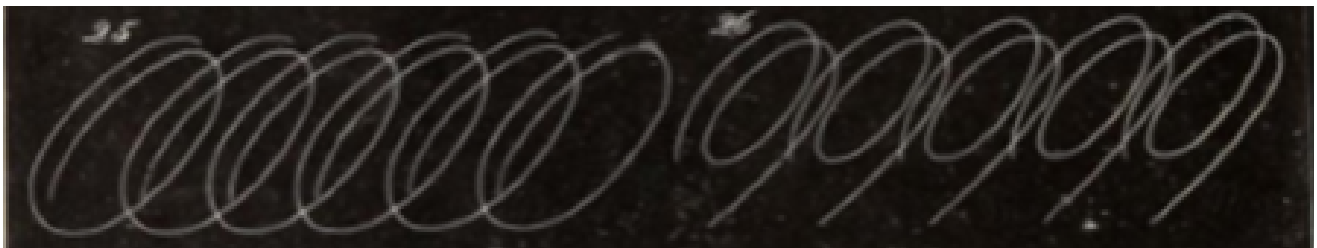
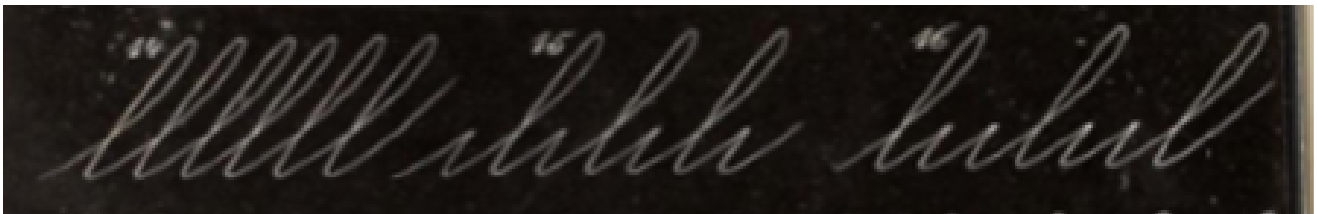
Drill Two: Circles



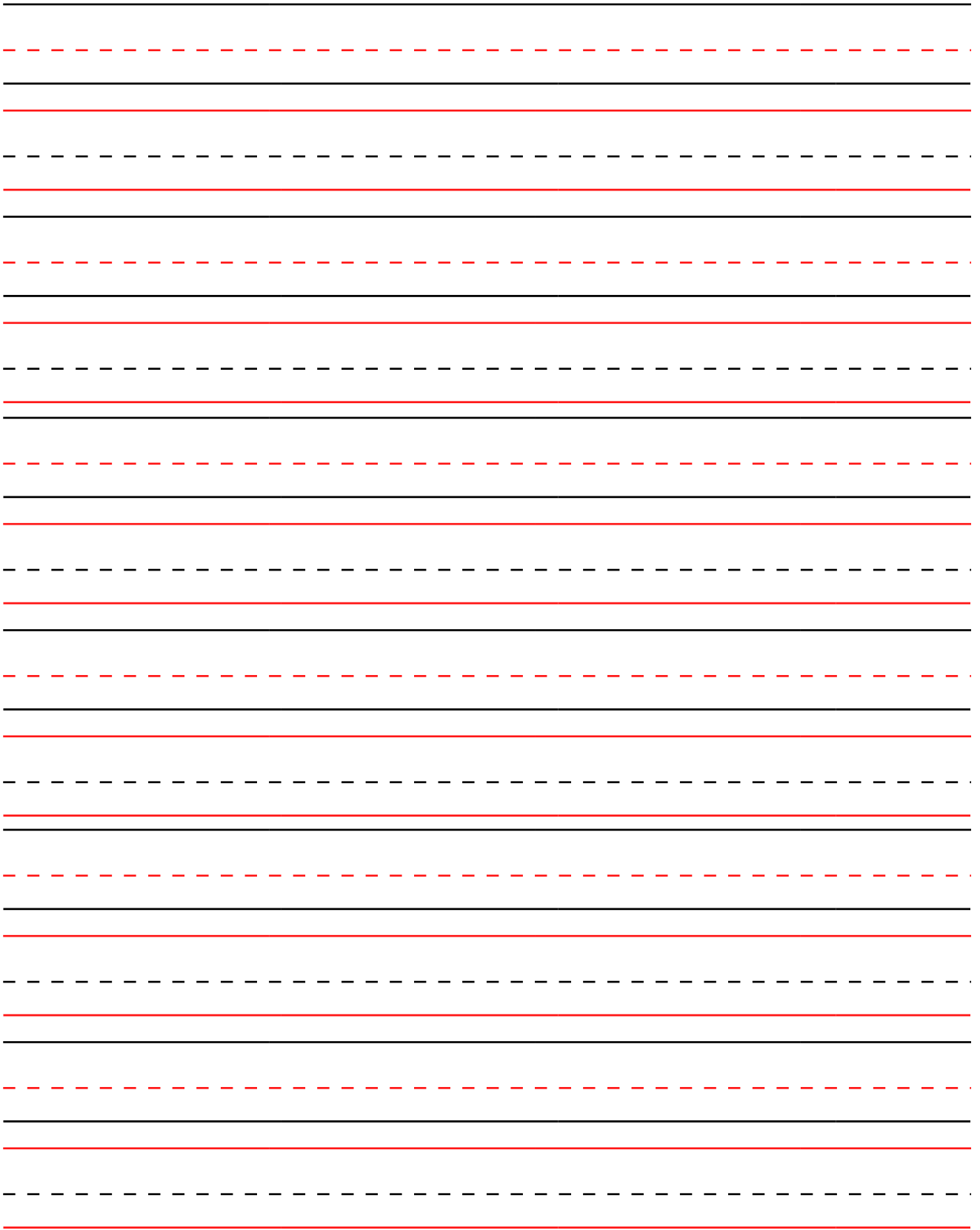
Drill Three: Waves



Here are some more examples of movement drills you can try.

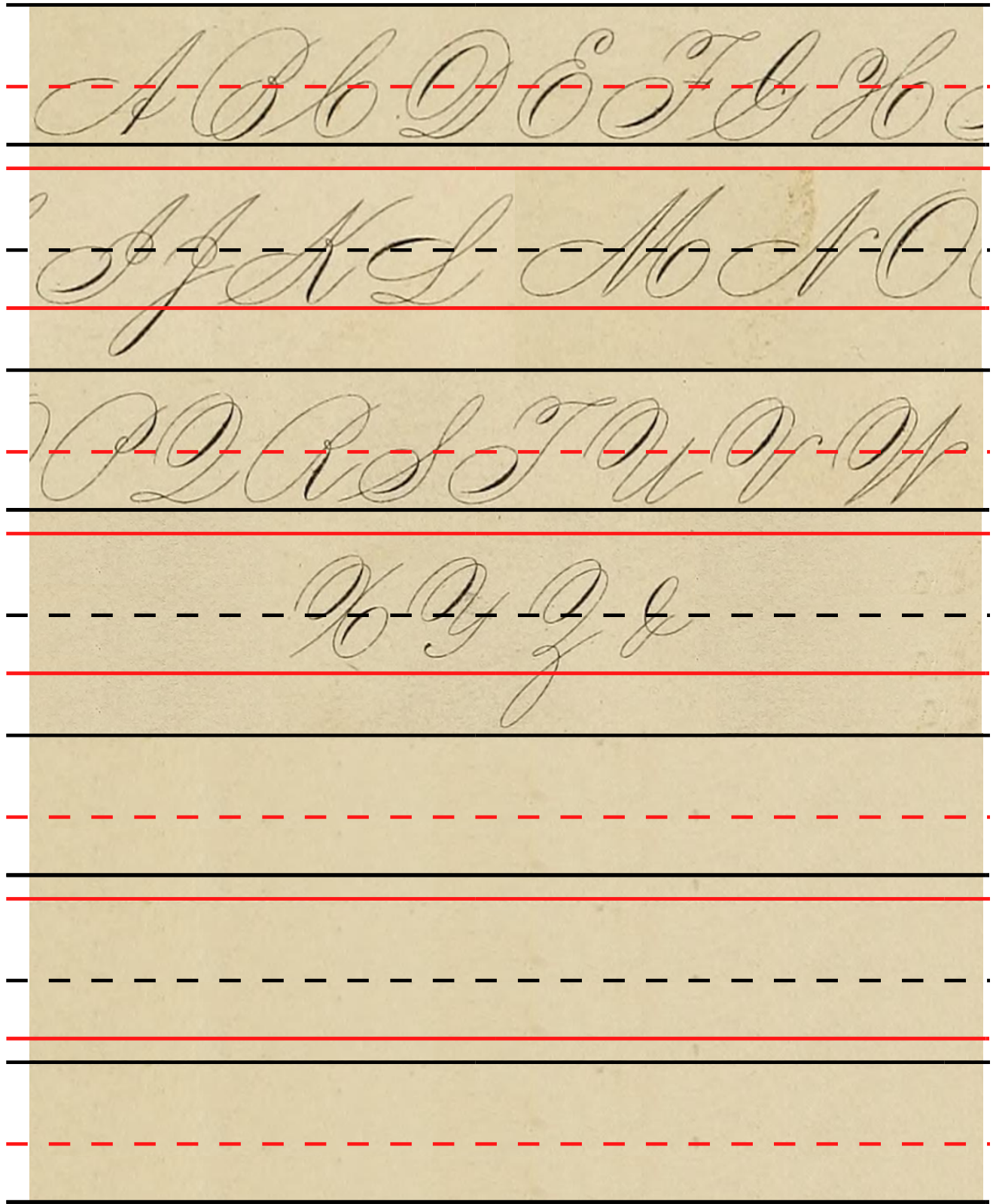


Spencerian key to practical penmanship. Prepared for the "Spencerian authors"
by H.C. Spencer, 1875



Letter Practice

Now that you have practiced some some movement drills try and trace the alphabet.
When your done try writing your initials without tracing.



Letters above from Spencerian key to practical penmanship. Prepared for the "Spencerian authors"

by H.C. Spencer, 1875

Try It!

Now that you've tried letters you are ready try writing words. The writing below was done by a real student in their practice book.

Kindness comes from the heart.

Kindness comes from the heart.

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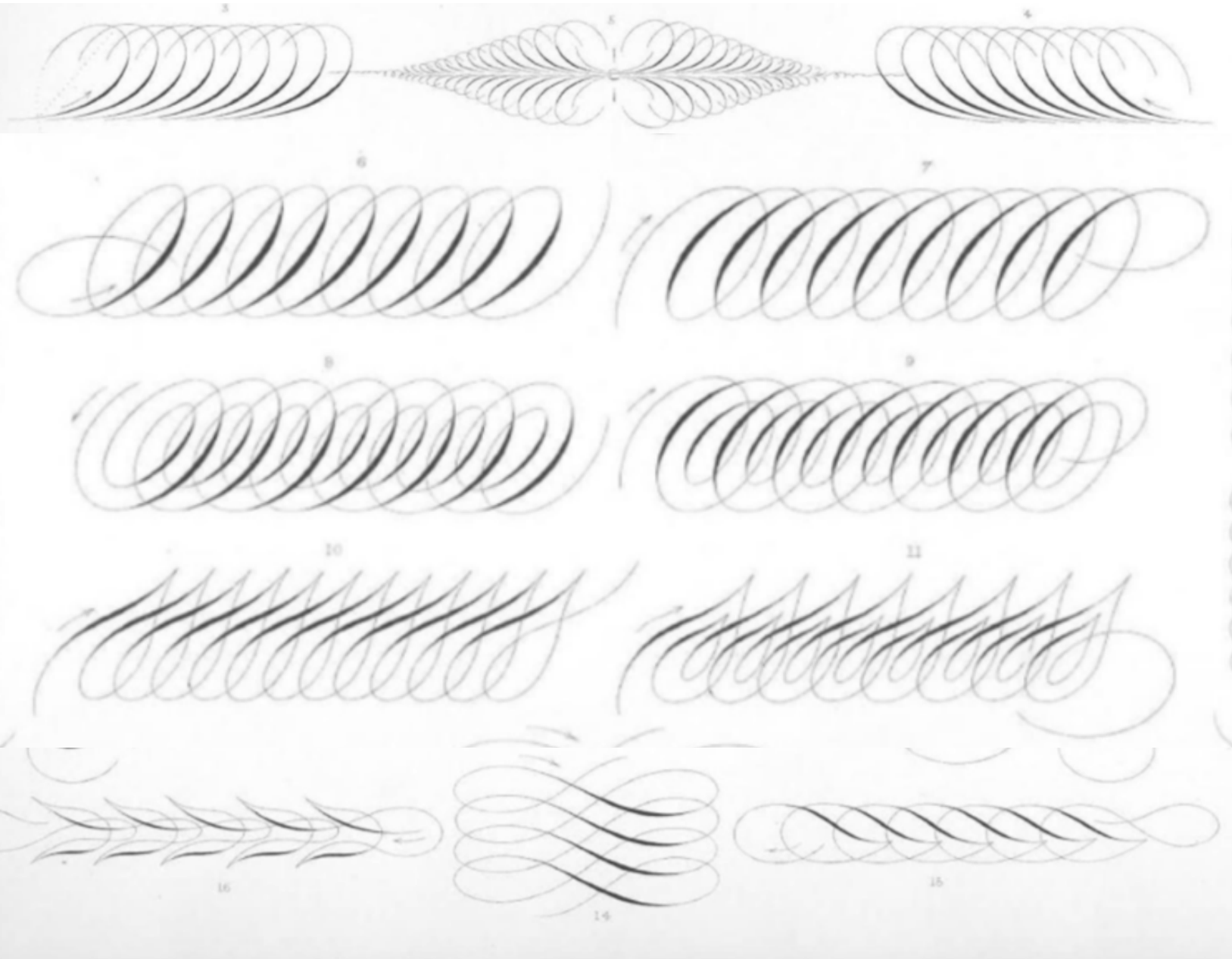
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Make it Yours!

After mastering letters and writing words students would learn how to make their writing unique by adding flourishes and other artistic elements. Below are some examples that you can try adding to your own writing.



Flourishes above from New Spencerian Compendium, Spencerian Authors, 1879