

Social Studies Minilessons: Basic Conventions

Origins of Punctuation

RESEARCH the origins of different punctuation marks.

CHOOSE one mark and **WRITE** an informational essay about what you learned. (See *Inquire* page 337–340.)

Word Wonders

RESEARCH a famous quote from American history.

STUDY the words used in the quote.

WRITE an essay about how the speaker's word choice added to the power of the message. (See *Inquire* page 338.)

Old Versus New

RESEARCH the conventions of Old English.

COMPARE Old English with modern English.

CREATE a Venn diagram to show the similarities and differences between the two. (See *Inquire* page 23.)

English Minilessons: Basic Conventions

Eye for Punctuation

FIND an interesting paragraph in a short story or novel.

READ the paragraph carefully, noticing how the punctuation helps you understand the meaning of the passage.

DECIDE if the writer follows the rules of basic punctuation. (See *Inquire* pages 184–185.)

WRITE a paragraph about what you learned.

EDIT your writing so that it follows the basic conventions.

A Little About Me

STUDY the rules of capitalization. (See *Inquire* page 186.)

LIST your favorite book, movie, and song, along with the full names.

CREATE a poster that displays these titles and names, using correct capitalization.

Word Verse

STUDY a poem that you have recently read in class.

LIST any unfamiliar words.

USE a dictionary to define the words.

WRITE a paragraph about the poem and how you feel about it.

EDIT your writing so that it follows the basic conventions.