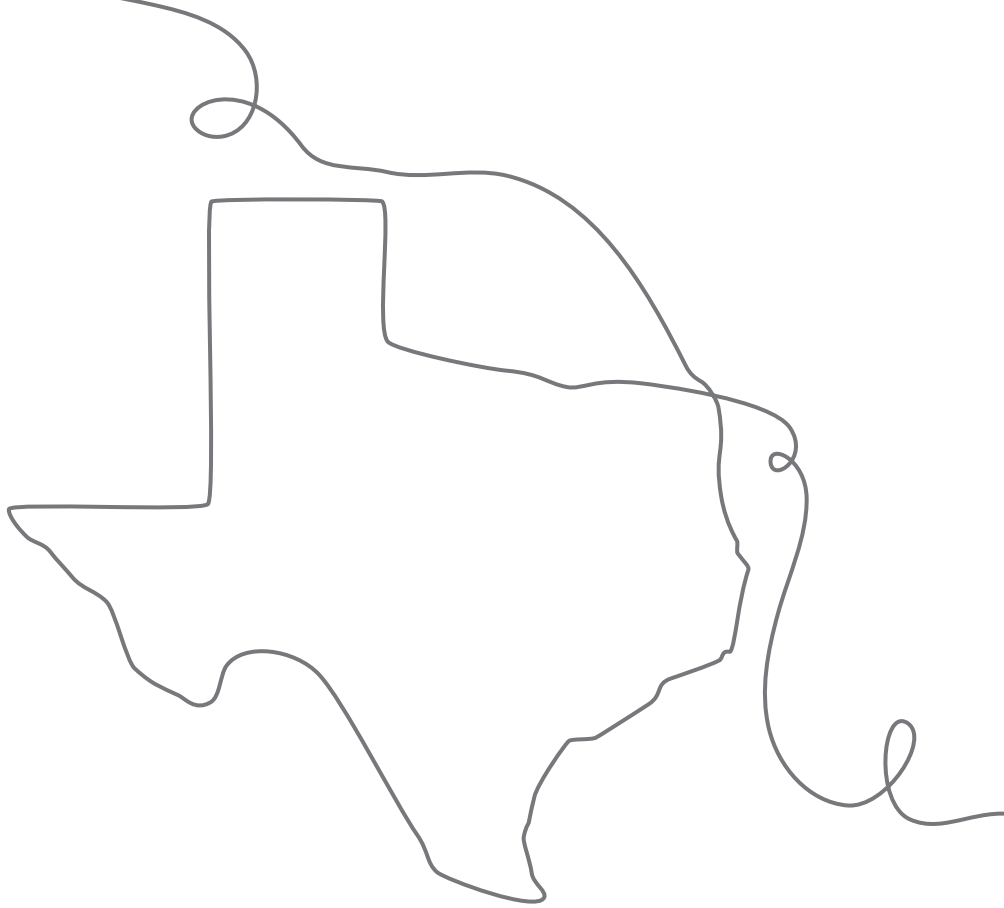




Grade 4

Cursive

Reading
Language Arts

TEACHER GUIDE

Grade 4

Cursive Program

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Cursive Program

**LESSON 1****TEKS 4.2.C****Introduction to Cursive**

- Display a poster or projection of an original hand-written copy of the Declaration of Independence, including the signatures of the founding fathers. Ask students to identify the document.
- Remind them that they learned about the Declaration of Independence in the Grade 1 unit *A New Nation: American Independence* and the Grade 2 unit *The War of 1812*. Ask students what they know about the Declaration of Independence.
 - » Answers will vary, but students may remember that it was written by Thomas Jefferson and that it declared that the thirteen American colonies were independent from Great Britain.
- Direct students to the signatures at the bottom of the Declaration. Tell them that many of the founding fathers who supported American independence from Great Britain signed their names to the Declaration of Independence.
- Have a student read John Hancock's signature. Then write *John Hancock* on the board. Ask students what the differences are between the of the printed *John Hancock* and Hancock's signature on the Declaration of Independence.
 - » Answers will vary, but students might observe that:
 - the signature is rounder.
 - most of the letters in the signature are attached to each other.
 - the signature is "prettier" than the name written in print.
- Tell students that you wrote Hancock's name on the board in print, and that Hancock's signature (and the other signatures) on the Declaration of Independence are written in a style called cursive. Tell them that cursive writing is sometimes called script.
- Explain to students that there is a long tradition of people, like John Hancock, signing their names to important documents in cursive, and that even though today many documents are created using computers and printers, people still often sign them in cursive. A cursive signature is considered official
- Ask students if they have seen cursive signatures and, if so, where.
 - » Answers will vary, but students may have seen cursive signatures on credit cards, letters home from a teacher or principal, a permission slip, a driver's license, a check, etc.

**TEKS 4.2.C** Write legibly in cursive to complete assignments.

- Tell students that you are going to write a word in both print and cursive and ask them to pay attention the motion of your hand while writing. On the board or using an overhead projector so that students can see the movement of your hand, write *Independence*.
- Ask students what they noticed about the movement of your hand in writing the print and cursive versions of the word.
 - » In printing, you lifted your hand from the writing surface after writing each letter. In writing cursive, your hand never left the writing surface.
- Demonstrate writing the two words again. Then ask students why connecting the letters and not lifting your hand while writing might be an advantage.
 - » Students may respond that writers can write more quickly or efficiently if they do not have to lift their hands from the paper.
- Tell students that a cursive writer does occasionally have to lift his or her hand. For example, in between words or to cross a t, the cursive writer lifts his or her hand. Overall, however, the cursive writer's hand leaves the writing surface much less often than the print writer's hand.
- Tell students that when they were starting to learn to read, and were slowly sounding out most words, they probably often concentrated more on the sounds of the words than on what the words meant. Once they learned the alphabet and how to read grade-level words and sentences, they were better able to concentrate on the *content* of what they were reading. Reading more quickly and efficiently, without spending too much effort focusing on sounding out words, allows readers to think more about what they are reading.
- **Think, Pair, Share:** Have students independently brainstorm other examples of skills that, once mastered, allow people to concentrate on other things. Then have students discuss their ideas with a partner or small group. Afterwards, allow several pairs to share their ideas with the class.
 - » Some possible answers:
 - Once a toddler learns to walk well, she can focus on observing, and interacting with, her surroundings rather than on taking the steps.
 - Writers who can write quickly and efficiently in cursive can spend more time focusing on the content of their writing. (If students do not come up with this answer independently, share it with class.)
- Tell students that John Hancock's signature of the Declaration of Independence was so large and clear, that "John Hancock" has become a slang word for a cursive signature. For example, someone asking you to sign the bottom of an official form might say, "Let me have your John Hancock right here." Tell students that they will soon all be able to sign their "John Hancocks."

- Present students with their cursive activity books and give them a few minutes to look through them. Tell them they will be learning the letters gradually, and not all at once. Then direct them to Activity Page C1.1 (the upper- and lowercase cursive alphabets). Invite any comments or questions about cursive or the activity book.

LESSON 2

The Counter-Clock Letters: Lowercase 'a', 'c', 'd', 'g', 'o', and 'q'

- Tell students they will start learning the cursive alphabet with the lowercase letters, beginning with the letters 'a', 'c', 'd', 'g', 'o', and 'q'. Print each of the letters on the board, and then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Ask students what the shape of the cursive letters have in common.
 - » They all have a round shape; each includes a circle or part of a circle.
- Tell students that because of the roundness of these letters and the way they are formed, (by moving a pencil in the opposite direction of the movement of a clock's hands), they are called the Counter-Clock Letters.
- Write the letters on the board again, emphasizing the circular shape that is part of each.
- Direct students to Activity Page C2.1. Point out that some of the letters on the page are written with dotted lines rather than solid lines. Tell them that the dotted letters are for tracing and the solid letters are for copying.
- Point out that some letters also have small arrows around them. Tell students that these are to help guide them in the correct way to form each letter.
- If possible, project a page of the activity book and model tracing, copying and forming letters using the guiding arrows.
- Stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the Counter-Clock Letters, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to observe your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace it on Activity Page C2.1.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate and offer assistance as needed.

LESSON 3

The Kite String Letters (Part One): Lowercase 'i', 'j', 'l', 't', and 'u'

- Print lowercase 'i', 'j', 'l', 't', and 'u' on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart, emphasizing the first upward motion of your hand as you write.
- Tell students that because forming each of these letters starts with writing an upwards line, these are called the Kite String Letters. Have a few students draw kites attached to the upward lines of the letters.
- Direct students to Activity Page C3.1. Remind students that the dotted line letters are for tracing and that the arrows provide guidance in the correct way to form the letters. Have students briefly study the guiding arrows.
- Stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the Kite String Letters in cursive, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to observe your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace it on Activity Page C3.1. Then have students copy the letters on the activity page.
- Remind students that an advantage of cursive is that most letters are connected, so the writer rarely has to lift his or her pen or pencil off the page when writing a word.
- Slowly write the word *lad* on the board, emphasizing the connections between the letters.
- Have students trace and then copy the word *lad* on their activity pages.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate and offer assistance as needed with forming and connecting letters.
- Assign Activity Page C3.2 for homework.

LESSON 4

The Kite String Letters (Part Two): Lowercase 'p', 'r', 's', and 'w'

- Print lowercase 'p', 'r', 's', and 'w' on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart, emphasizing the first upward motion of your hand as you write.
- Tell students that these are the rest of the Kite String Letters. Have a few students come to the board to draw kites attached to the upward lines of the letters.

- Direct students to Activity Page C4.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the Lesson 4 Kite String Letters in cursive, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C4.1.
- Model writing several of the words on the activity page, one at a time, having students trace and copy each word you model.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate to offer assistance in forming and connecting the letters.
- Assign Activity Page C4.2 for homework.

LESSON 5

The Little Loop Group: Lowercase 'b', 'e', 'f', 'h', 'k', and 'l'

- Print lowercase 'b', 'e', 'f', 'h', 'k', and 'l' on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Tell students that these letters are called the Little Loop Group because they all begin with a line that starts out like the kite string, but then loops as it approaches the middle or top line. Write each letter again slowly, emphasizing the loop motion.
- Direct students to Activity Page C5.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the Little Loop Group Letters in cursive, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C5.1
- Model writing several of the words on the activity page, one at a time, having students trace and copy each word you model.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate to offer assistance in forming and connecting the letters.
- Assign Activity Page C5.2 for homework.

LESSON 6

The Hill and Valley Letters: Lowercase ‘m’, ‘n’, ‘v’, ‘x’, ‘y’, and ‘z’

- Print lowercase ‘m’, ‘n’, ‘v’, ‘x’, ‘y’, and ‘z’ on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Tell students that these letters are known as the Hill and Valley Letters because of their shape. Have students point out the hills and valleys in each of the letters.
- Write each letter again slowly, saying the word *hill* when writing the “hill top” of the letters, and the word *valley* when writing the “valley bottoms” of the letters.
- Direct students to Activity Page C6.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the Hill and Valley Letters in cursive, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C6.1.
- When writing n, count out the two hills that make up the letter, and when writing m, count out the three hills that make up the letter.
- Model writing several of the words on the activity page, one at a time, having students trace and copy each word you model.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate to offer assistance in forming and connecting the letters.
- Congratulate students on learning the entire lowercase cursive alphabet. Tell them that once they begin learning the uppercase letters, they will be able to write complete sentences instead of just words.
- Assign Activity Page C6.2 for homework.

LESSON 7

The Slim Sevens: Uppercase ‘P’, ‘R’, ‘B’, ‘H’, and ‘K’

- Tell students that now that they have learned all the lowercase cursive letters, they are ready to begin learning the uppercase letters.
- Print uppercase ‘P’, ‘R’, ‘B’, ‘H’, and ‘K’ on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Tell students that these uppercase letters are known as the Slim Seven Letters because the first step in forming each of them is writing a slim number seven.

- Write each letter again on the board, emphasizing the seven that starts each letter. Have students come up to the board and circle the 7s in each letter.
- Direct students to Activity Page C7.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the Slim Seven Letters in cursive again, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C7.1.
- Model writing a line or sentence from the activity page, having students copy the words you model.
- Tell students that like the lowercase letters, most of the uppercase letters also connect to the letters that follow them.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate to offer assistance in forming and connecting the letters.
- Encourage students whose names begin with one of the Slim Seven Letters to write their names in cursive at the top of the activity page, starting with an uppercase letter.
- Assign Activity Page C7.2 for homework.

LESSON 8

The Umbrella Top Letters: Uppercase ‘C’, ‘E’, and ‘A’

- Tell students that they will now continue to learn the uppercase cursive letters.
- Print uppercase ‘C’, ‘E’, and ‘A’ on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Tell students that these uppercase letters are known as the Umbrella Top Letters because a section of each letter looks like the top of a sideways umbrella.
- Write each letter again on the board, and have students identify the part of the letter that looks like a sideways umbrella.
- Direct students to Activity Page C8.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the Umbrella Top Letters in cursive again, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C8.1.

- Model writing a line or sentence from the activity page, having students copy the words you model.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate to offer assistance in forming and connecting the letters.
- Encourage students whose names begin with an uppercase letter they have learned to write their names in cursive at the top of the activity page, starting with an uppercase letter.
- Assign Activity Page C8.2 for homework.

LESSON 9

The Egg Letter: Uppercase ‘O’

The Snake Top Letters: Uppercase ‘F’ and ‘T’

- Tell students that they will learn two new sets of uppercase letters today—the Egg Letter and the Snake Top Letters.
- Print uppercase ‘O’ on the board. Then slowly write the letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Tell students that the uppercase ‘O’ is known as the Egg Letter because it looks like an egg.
- Direct students to Activity Page C9.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows for uppercase ‘O’. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing the letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the uppercase ‘O’ in cursive again, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling the letter, have students trace and copy it on Activity Page C9.1.
- Print uppercase ‘F’ and ‘T’ on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Tell students that the uppercase ‘F’ and ‘T’ are known as the Snake Top Letters because the top of each letter is formed with a squiggly line that resembles a snake. Circle the squiggly lines.
- Direct students to Activity Page C9.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows for the Snake Top Letters. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing the Snake Top Letters in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the Snake Top Letters in cursive again, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C9.1.

- Model writing a line or sentence from the activity page, having students copy the words you model.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate to offer assistance in forming and connecting the letters.
- Encourage students whose names begin with an uppercase letter that they have learned to write their names in cursive at the top of the activity page, starting with an uppercase letter.
- Assign Activity Page C9.2 for homework.

LESSON 10

The High Hill Letters: Uppercase ‘M’ and ‘N’

- Print uppercase ‘M’ and ‘N’ on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Remind students that the lowercase ‘m’ and ‘n’ were known as Hill Letters because of their shape. Tell them that the uppercase ‘M’ and ‘N’ are known as the High Hill Letters, because they are written by forming higher hills.
- Write each letter again slowly, saying the words *high hill* when writing the “hill top” of the letters.
- Direct students to Activity Page C10.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the High Hill Letters in cursive again, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C10.1.
- Point out that:
 - the lowercase ‘m’ is written with three hills while the uppercase ‘M’ is written with two high hills.
 - the lowercase ‘n’ is written with two hills while the uppercase ‘N’ is written with one high hill.
- Model writing a line or sentence from the activity page, having students copy the words you model.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate to offer assistance in forming and connecting the letters.
- Encourage students whose names begin with an uppercase letter that they have learned to write their names in cursive at the top of the activity page, starting with an uppercase letter.

- Assign Activity Page C10.2 for homework.

LESSON 11

The Deep Valley Letters: Uppercase ‘U’, ‘V’, ‘W’, and ‘Y’

- Print uppercase ‘U’, ‘V’, ‘W’, and ‘Y’ on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Remind students that several lowercase letters were known as the Valley Letters because of their shape. Tell them that the uppercase ‘U’, ‘V’, ‘W’, and ‘Y’ are known as the Deep Valley Letters because they are written by forming deeper valleys than those formed in writing the lowercase letters.
- Write each letter again slowly, saying the words *deep valley* when writing the “valley bottom” of the letters.
- Direct students to Activity Page C11.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the Deep Valley Letters in cursive again, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C11.1
- Model writing a line or sentence from the activity page, having students copy the words you model.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate to offer assistance in forming and connecting the letters.
- Encourage students whose names begin with an uppercase letter that they have learned to write their names in cursive at the top of the activity page, starting with an uppercase letter.
- Assign Activity Page C11.2 for homework.

LESSON 12

The Big Loop Group: Uppercase ‘I’ and ‘J’

- Print uppercase ‘I’ and ‘J’ on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Remind students that several lowercase letters were known as the Little Loop Group because they included a loop that took up half a line. Tell students that the Big Loop Group Letters, the uppercase ‘I’ and ‘J’, include a loop that takes up almost a full line.

- Write a lowercase 'e' to show students the difference in the size of little and big loops.
- Write the Big Loop Group Letters again, emphasizing the loop in each.
- Direct students to Activity Page C12.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the Big Loop Group Letters in cursive again, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C12.1.
- Model writing a line or sentence from the activity page, having students copy the words you model.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate to offer assistance in forming and connecting the letters.
- Encourage students whose names begin with an uppercase letter that they have learned to write their names in cursive at the top of the activity page, starting with an uppercase letter.
- Assign Activity Page C12.2 for homework.

LESSON 13

The High-Flying Kite Strings: Uppercase 'G' and 'S'

- Print uppercase 'G' and 'S' on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart, emphasizing the first upward motion of your hand as you write.
- Remind students that several of the lowercase letters they learned were called Kite String Letters because forming them began with writing an upwards line resembling a kite string. Tell students that the kite strings on the High-Flying Kite String letters are longer, so the kites fly higher.
- Have a few students draw kites attached to the upward lines of the letters.
- Direct students to Activity Page C13.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the High Flying Kite String Letters in cursive again, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C13.1.

- Model writing a line or sentence from the activity page, having students copy the words you model.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate and offer assistance as needed.
- Encourage students whose names begin with an uppercase letter that they have learned to write their names in cursive at the top of the activity page, starting with an uppercase letter.
- Assign Activity Page C13.2 for homework.

LESSON 14

From the Top Letters: Uppercase 'D', 'L', 'Q', 'X', and 'Z'

- Print uppercase 'D', 'L', 'Q', 'X', and 'Z' on the board. Then slowly write each letter in cursive underneath its print counterpart.
- Tell students that the letters in this group are called the From the Top Letters because, unlike many other cursive letters, the writer starts forming them from the top parts of the Letters.
- Direct students to Activity Page C14.1 and have them briefly study the guiding arrows. Then stand facing away from the class and model writing each letter in the air. Have students do the same.
- Model writing the From the Top Letters in cursive again, one at a time, on the board or using a projector that permits students to see your hand movements. After modeling each letter, have students trace and copy the letter on Activity Page C14.1.
- Model writing a line or sentence from the activity page, having students copy the words you model.
- Have students complete the activity page. As they work, circulate and offer assistance as needed.
- Have all the students write their names in cursive at the top of the activity page.
- Congratulate students on learning all of the lowercase and uppercase cursive letters.
- Assign Activity Page C14.2 for homework.

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