

Brattonsville Academy Teacher Resource Packet

Directions for Making Copybooks

What is a copybook? Students wrote in copybooks to practice their penmanship (handwriting). Copybooks usually had blank pages, like a notebook today. Teachers wrote a sentence at the top of each page. Students copied the sentences over and over again, imitating the teacher's handwriting. Copybooks could be handmade or bought ready-made from the store.

Materials Needed:

Copy Book Pages: Cover Design, Grammar Activity, The Presidents of the United States
Manilla paper, or beige/tan construction or copy paper
Hole punch (optional)
Yarn, twine or string (optional)
Watercolors, pencils (optional)

Directions for making your copy books:

Copy the copybook pages on three pieces of manila or beige paper. Place the copy with the heart design image facing down. Next, place the Sheet of the Presidents face up on top of the heart sheet, and the page of Nouns and Verbs (also face up) should be placed on top of the Sheet of Presidents. Fold the stack in half and crease.

Optional: You may use a hole punch to make two holes along the fold, one about an inch from the top and one about an inch from the bottom. Thread with yarn or string and tie off in double knot or bow.

You should now have a completed copybook. The cover will be the heart design. When you open the book, you should have 2 blank pages, then two grammar pages, then on the final page will be a list of the Presidents.

Cover

The cover design is typical of those used in the 18th and 19th century to assist students with their fine motor coordination. Students would use watercolors to color in the design, being careful to stay within the lines. (Imagine an early form of coloring book pages.)

Your students may like to color the design to personalize their copybooks before attending the Brattonsville Academy. If you choose to allow them to do this, please do not use crayons or markers, as they are not period appropriate. They should use watercolors, or shade the design with a lead pencil as students would have done in 1840. To identify personalized books, please put student's names on the back of the book. During their Academy visit, the students will write their names with Quill pen and ink on the front of their copybook and therefore we would prefer no writing on the front.

