

Lesson in Penmanship

When Simon Fraser set out on his voyage he brought along with him Alexander Mackenzie's journal as a reference. He encountered many scenes on the 71 day trek in which he recorded in a journal. The journal that was constructed by Simon Fraser was done so under some very difficult conditions. Lighting, weather, and terrain are a just a few elements that made writing a task. Fraser's journal would have been composed with a feather pen which is not an easy skill to master.

TRY writing with the pen and inkwell provided in the "River of Memory" exhibit. This will give you an idea of how hard it is to use this type of writing tool.

IMAGINE that you are Simon Fraser and that you have to make a journal entry about something or someone that you have come across on your voyage. You can describe a landscape, an event, or a person. Use the pen and inkwell to create your journal entry. After all of the class members have finished their individual entries they can be gathered and made into a group journal.