


Date:

Dear America



A large rectangular area with a double blue border, intended for writing a letter. The top left corner contains the label 'Date:' and the top center features a decorative scroll with the text 'Dear America'.

Diary Template Instructions:

Role: You are a colonial man, woman, or child.

Task: You must write a page from your diary using the format on page 1. Note that a "diary" is a private book where you write about things that happened to you, and what you thought or felt about them.

- Whichever role you are playing, this diary entry should represent a day that was a unique day for you, and you will always remember it because of what happened to you. It could be a birthday, or a stormy day, or a day that you went to a fair, or a day you got into trouble at school - or anything else you can imagine!

- If are writing *as a colonial man*, this page will represent one particular day in your job. Although you do the same job every day, you remember in particular this one day because of something unique that happened.

-If you are writing *as a slave*, this page will represent one particular day in your life. What made this day unique?

-If you are writing *as an important person in colonial history*, choose a day where something important happened related to who you are - perhaps it is the day you became mayor, or the day you were arrested, etc.

-If you are writing *as a colonial woman*, this page will represent one particular day in your life taking care of your home and children.

-If you are writing *as a colonial child*, this page will represent one particular day in your life doing your chores and/or going to school (if you do go to school).

Notes before writing: use the notes from your Kidspiration organizer - you should print them out so you have them available to you. Make sure your writing includes colonial vocabulary words available from the project website.

Things to think about before you start writing:

1. Who are you? Include something about your origins, your education and your family. Why did you leave your home country?
2. Choose a date that corresponds to the setting. For example if your diary entry takes place at harvest time, you would choose a date in the fall.

Check your notes on your family - if your character is based on a real historical person, make sure the dates correspond to when that family was alive. If you do not have actual dates you may use "writer's license" and as a family decide when this family lived; some time between 1600 and 1763.

2. What happened on this day? Note three events that made this day unique. For example, you met someone, someone had a problem, you were sick, you did something with your friends, or someone played a joke at your expense.

3. Where are you? Put your writing in a setting.

Possible settings:

- Home
 - Work
 - School
 - Farm
 - Yard
 - Town
 - Church
 - Fair
 - Sewing bee
 - Court
 - slave quarters
 - wedding
 - First winter
 - etc.
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4. How did you feel? Note at least three emotions or feelings that you had in relation to these events, about your past or about your future.

5. Details. Include as many descriptive details as possible. Possible details:

- Weather
- Names of your siblings or parents
- Pets, animals
- Clothing
- Tools you use
- Medicines you had to take (or give if you are a doctor or apothecary)
- Toys, games

- School items
- Cooking utensils
- Etc.

Organizing your writing:

4. A diary is a story about your past. Most often, a page from a diary tells about a sequence of events, thoughts or feelings. Note here all the verbs or expressions you think you will need to tell about your colonial day. Remember that you will be telling your story *in the past*.

Read this example written by a fifth grade student on the Scholastic website. Notice how much **DETAIL** she includes.

A Day As a Colonial Girl

By: Brittany K
Michigan, Grade: 5

Dear Dairy,

I yawn as I get up at sunrise to do my daily chores before school. My name is Sarah. I am 10 years old and my mother, Barbra, is a tailor. My father is a saddler. I put on my clothing which takes about 5 to 10 min. because of all the layers. I put my dress over the other layers and get out of bed to eat breakfast. For breakfast I am having corn muffins and water and cranberry juice. I went outside to fetch my bucket. As I walked to the lake, I took a breath of fresh air and heard the rosters doo and the birds song. I could smell the flowers and saw dew across the meadows. I went to the barn and fed the pigs and horses. I fed the hens and collected the eggs. I also churned the butter and milked the cows. I had to do all this before leaving for school. I went inside and got my books and my bible. I also grabbed my horn, a wooden board with words on them. I then said my byes to my parents and walked down to the schoolhouse and greeted Mrs. Mally, our best teacher yet. I then, meeted my friends and took a seat next to Emily, my best friend. As I said hello to Emily, Mrs. Mally came in and said to take out our bibles. The bible is what we do our learning from. Mrs. Mally called on me to read Mathew verses 3:20-30. I did as I was asked to. Then we took out our horne boards and sewed our alphabet. Soon, at 12:45, we ate our lunches. I ate a turkey sandwich, oatmeal, ginger cookies, and water. Some of the kids in my school drink wine, but to me wine is horrible and unhealthy. Then we recited Our Father's Prayer and learned numbers. Then at 4:45 we were dismissed from class and I went to Emily and the other girls. We talked about school and our day. Then I walked home with Emily and asked Papa if Emily could play with me. He asked me if I did all my chores and work and I replied "yes." Emily and I played hoops and tag together when my Mother called" Sara, it is meal time. You'll have to tell Emily you will see her tomorrow." I said yes and washed up for dinner. We had turkey, ham, corn muffins and cranberry juice. Then Papa, Mama, and I went to mass and then went to the party Emily was holding. We danced and ate ginger cookies and then at 11:00 pm, we came home. I washed up and took a bath. Then I put on my nightgown and quickly, after a wonderful, long day, fell asleep. That's all until the sun rises, and I am ready for a brand-new day!

-Sara

You're ready! Now it's time to write the first draft of your diary page. Use the following page to write your draft. Remember that a "first draft" is just your first version of your final composition. You should use all your notes and worksheets, and write out all your ideas from beginning to end. After you have finished, you can go back and check the verb tenses, look up any missing vocabulary in the dictionary, change or remove sentences that are too confusing, or add anything else that you think your composition needs. Good luck!

After your first draft is edited and approved, you will copy and paste it on the diary page on page 1. You may type in any font you want, use 12-point size.

This activity is based on an activity developed by [Philip Benz](#) for an immigration WebQuest at <http://www.ardecol.ac-grenoble.fr/english/ellislandwebquest.htm>

MY FIRST DRAFT

NAME:

COLONIAL NAME:

TEACHER: