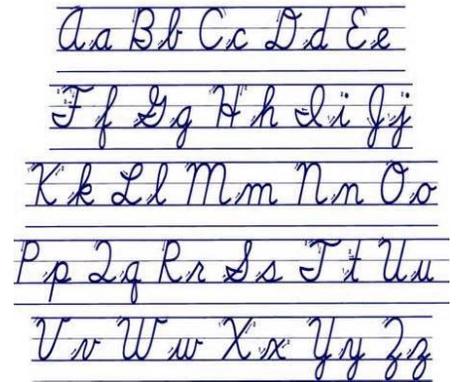


## Cursive Writing

### *Farallon Islands*

Directions: Copy the following passages using perfect cursive writing.

- **Shape** – letters formed according to D’Nealian standard.
- **Size** – correct height and width, staying on the line.
- **Spacing** – letters and words demonstrate clarity and flow.
- **Slant** – words slanted slightly and consistently.



Russians, shipwrecks, birds, sharks, nuclear waste, and a deadly egg war – welcome to the Farallons! Actually, you are not welcome. It is designated a national wildlife refuge with no public access. Thirty miles west of the Golden Gate Bridge, these small islands (141 acres) are part of the City of San Francisco.



Early American Indians believed dead spirits inhabited the islands, and in 1539 Portuguese explorer Cabrillo officially charted their location. In the early 1800’s, Russian seal hunters used the islands. Later, a lighthouse was created to warn ships of the dangerous islands, yet shipwrecks still occurred. By 1863, the islands were very popular for seabird egg collectors. So popular, that at its peak 500,000 eggs were harvested per month and sold in San Francisco. The competition for eggs led to a disagreement, resulting in a violent shootout on the islands.

The absence of human interference has made the islands an ideal area for long-term ecological research. With an ocean current and upwelling providing nutrients, sea life thrives around the islands.



The bird population is over 250,000 with 400 species. There are 470 seals, and four whale species feed around the islands during their migrations. Great white sharks also live by the islands, feeding on the seals. Some of the 30-100 sharks have been tracked, showing they swim the wide-open ocean as far as Hawaii, before returning to the Farallons in the fall. Without predators, an estimated 60,000 Eurasian house mice have infested the islands. This equals 500 mice/acre or

one for an average kid’s bedroom! The nearby water is also home to nearly 90,000 radioactive waste containers. The containers were disposed in several locations from 1946-1970.