

The Same, *but Different*

Let's take a look
at two alphabets
at The Huntington



THE HUNTINGTON
Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens

Huntington Education

The Same, but Different

The goal of this activity is to provide an opportunity for elementary school students to evaluate two objects at The Huntington.

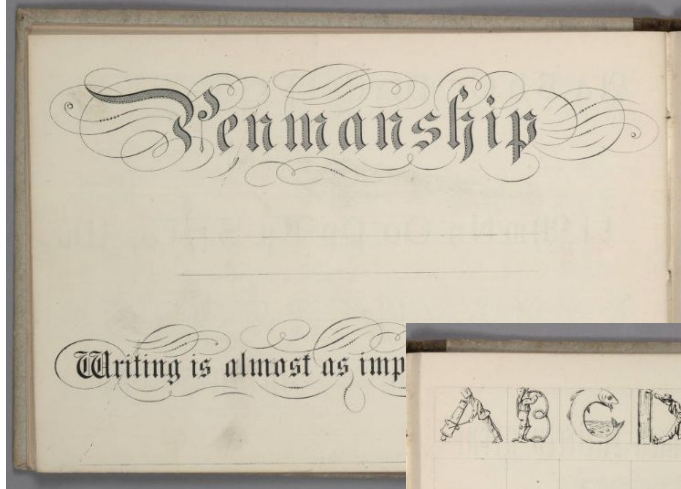
While the objects are the same—maybe through title, material, or function—they can also be different, perhaps through time period, culture, or form.

Here's the format:

- Look closely at both images
- Explore the terms
- Sort the terms on the Venn diagram
- Check your answers
- Learn about each object
- Questions and activity



Elizabeth N. Andrews, *Alphabet Sampler*, no date, silk on linen. Gail-Oxford Collection. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. [Zoom in to view this sampler.](#)



Welby's Book of Alphabets, for Ornamental Penmen, Professional Letterers, and Students, with Practical Directions for Lettering, Illuminating, etc., 1880, Edward Welby (author), Hall and Whiting (publisher). Diana Korzenik Collection of Art Education Ephemera. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. [Zoom in to view this book.](#)

Review the terms that describe **both** images. Which facts go in the **same** area of the diagram? Which facts go in each **different** area of the diagram?

Alphabet

Penmanship

Capital letters

Flowers

Letters

Elizabeth N. Andrews

People

Lowercase

Edward Welby

Silk on linen

A B C

Animals

Hall and Whiting

No date

Book

Embroidered

Aged 9 years

1880

Cursive

The Huntington's collection

Time to sort!

Alphabet Sampler

Welby's Book of Alphabets

Both

A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. The left circle is light green and labeled 'Alphabet Sampler'. The right circle is light purple and labeled 'Welby's Book of Alphabets'. The overlapping area in the center is shaded light blue and labeled 'Both'. The circles are positioned such that they overlap significantly in the middle.

Time to sort!

Alphabet Sampler

Elizabeth N. Andrews

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Learn about the alphabets



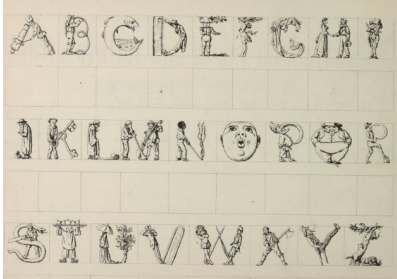
- This is a sampler made by Elizabeth N. Andrews when she was just 9 years old. A sampler is an embroidered work made by hand with a needle and thread (like silk) and created as a way to practice stitching letters, numbers, and even decorations like flowers. Do you ever practice writing letters, words, or the alphabet?
- Oftentimes, a sampler would show an alphabet stitched in a variety of styles. In this sampler, there are UPPERCASE, *cursive*, and lowercase letters stitched in neat rows.
- Of the three styles of letters, which one is your favorite? Why?
- Look closely at this sampler. Do you see any letters missing? Where? Why do you think they are missing?
- Since this alphabet was stitched with silk on linen, imagine running your fingers over the top. What textures do you feel? Smooth? Bumpy? Do you think you could feel each stitched letter? Use your finger in the air to trace out each letter as you imagine how it would feel.



- This shows two pages from an instructional book for penmanship, or writing. It could have been used by a variety of people, including students.
- The book shows different fonts, or types of letters. There are lines underneath the letters to allow people to practice copying the letters themselves. Want to see some other fonts in the book? Click here! Try practicing one of these alphabets. Which one would you choose? Why? Is it easy or difficult to copy?
- The letters on this page were designed to include people, animals, and objects. If you zoom in to view this page, you might spy a snake, a fish, a person with an umbrella, and even two keys!
- On the left page is the phrase “Writing is almost as important as speaking.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why?
- Of the letters illustrated or drawn here, which one is your favorite? Why?

- What did you notice about object 1, *Alphabet Sampler*?
- What did you notice about object 2, *Welby's Book of Alphabets*?
- How are they the same?
- How are they different?
- What did you learn?
- Which alphabet style did you like best? Why?

Activity



Style your own alphabet

Materials: Piece of paper, and something to write with (pencil, crayons, colored pencils, markers, etc.)

Time: 10 minutes

Steps:

1. Create your own style for the alphabet. Will you write in all UPPERCASE? Will you alternate between UPPERCASE and lowercase? Will you create drawings as part of your lettering, like the page in *Welby's Book of Alphabets*? You can even experiment with different colors. It is up to you. Be creative!
2. Once you know what style you want to create, write your styled alphabet on your piece of paper!

We would love to see your work!

Please take a picture of your Venn diagram.

Then post it on social media and tag The Huntington!

#LearnAtTheH