

## Fifth Grade Keyboarding Homework Lessons

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type each paragraph three times or type for a total of 15 minutes on a covered keyboard. Ask your parent to sign below the paragraph to verify your practice time.**

1. On Sept. 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key peered through clearing smoke to see an enormous flag flying proudly after a 25-hour British attack on Fort McHenry. Mr. Key was inspired to write a poem, which was later set to music.

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2. Before "The Star-Spangled Banner" became our national anthem, the flag that survived the attack on Fort McHenry became a major national patriotic symbol. The flag has an interesting history.

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3. The Fort McHenry flag was created by a professional Baltimore flag maker, Mary Pickersgill, her daughter, and two of her nieces in 1813. After the War of 1812 ended, it "lived" with several generations of a Baltimore family. Later it was donated to the Smithsonian Institution.

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4. The garrison flag that Mary Pickersgill made for Fort McHenry measured 30 x 42 feet, about one quarter the size of a basketball court. Each star was about two feet across. Mrs. Pickersgill was asked to make two flags.

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5. Mrs. Pickersgill was paid \$405.90 for the large flag and \$168.54 for the smaller one. The flags for Fort McHenry were delivered on Aug. 19, 1813. Mrs. Pickersgill received her payment on Oct. 27, 1813.

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6. Pocahontas (born about 1596 - died March 1716) was the daughter of Powhatan, an important chief of the Algonquian Indians (the Powhatans) who lived in the Virginia region. Her real name was "Matoaka."

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7. "Pocahontas" was a nickname meaning "playful" or "mischievous one." Pocahontas is most famous for saving the life of English Captain John Smith. Throughout her short life (she died at the age of 22), she was important in other ways as well.

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8. Pocahontas tried to promote peace between the Powhatans and the English colonists. She married John Rolfe, a Jamestown colonist, and helped bring the two groups together. Her death in England hurt the chance for continued peace in Virginia between the Algonquians and the colonists.

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9. The Virginia Company of England made a daring plan: sail to the new, mysterious land, which they called Virginia in honor of Elizabeth I, and begin a settlement. One hundred twenty people made the trip across the Atlantic. They established Jamestown, Virginia, on May 14, 1607, the first permanent British settlement in North America.

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10. About fifty percent of the Jamestown settlers were craftsmen, soldiers, and laborers. The other fifty percent were "gentlemen," men of wealth who did not have a line of work, and who may have had no idea about the rough work necessary to survive in the New World.

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11. After eight months, only 38 of the 120 pioneers were still alive. Among the survivors was Captain John Smith, adventurer and explorer. Despite problems, he kept the colony going those first two years, as Jamestown grew to 500 people with new arrivals from England.

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12. After Captain Smith left in 1609, more trouble came. Weather conditions were rough and supplies were low. Only 60 of the 500 colonists survived the hard winter that followed.

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13. Jamestown's harbor was swampy, filled with mosquitoes, and lacked freshwater sources. The settlers fought against disease, food scarcity, and the Algonquian Indians. New supplies and leadership eventually arrived from England and the colony began to grow.

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14. Johnny Appleseed was born September 26, 1775. You've probably heard about the legendary "Johnny Appleseed" who, according to story and song, spread his apple seeds all over the nation. Did you know there really was a "Johnny Appleseed"? His name was Jonathan Chapman. Born in Massachusetts on September 26, 1775, Chapman earned his nickname because he planted small orchards and individual apple trees during his walk across 100,000 square miles of Midwestern wilderness and prairie.

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15. In 1801, Chapman transported 16 bushels of apple seeds from western Pennsylvania down the Ohio River. He had acquired more than 1,000 acres of farmland on which he developed apple orchards and nurseries. But he didn't just stay there. Each year, he traveled hundreds of miles on foot wearing a coffee sack with holes cut out for arms and carrying a cooking pot, which he is said to have worn like a cap over his flowing hair.

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16. About 1830, Chapman also acquired land in Fort Wayne, Indiana. There, he planted a nursery that produced thousands of seedling apple trees that he sold, traded, and planted elsewhere. Fort Wayne still celebrates the life of "Johnny Appleseed" with a festival every September when apples are harvested. Next time you bite into an apple, think of the man who spread wealth through apples, Jonathan Chapman, better known as "Johnny Appleseed."

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17. Tensions between the American colonists and the British were already running high in the early spring of 1770. On March 5, a crowd of people throwing snowballs gathered around a small group of British soldiers guarding the Boston Customs House. The soldiers became angry after one of them was hit, and they fired into the crowd. Their shots killed four civilians in an event that has come to be known as the Boston Massacre.

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18. The first person who was hit when the British soldiers began firing was an African American sailor named Crispus Attucks. Although not much is known about his life, it's likely that he escaped slavery around 1750 and worked on whaling ships for the next 20 years. Of the four civilians who died in the Boston Massacre, Crispus Attucks is the only one who became widely known.

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19. Conflicts between the British and the colonists had been increasing because the British government had been trying to build up control over the colonies and raise taxes at the same time. The event in Boston helped to unite the colonies against Britain. What started as a minor fight became a turning point in the beginnings of the American Revolution.

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20. The Boston Massacre helped spark the colonists' desire for American independence, while the victims became heroes for liberty. Can you think of other major events in history that began with a small incident?

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