

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

# Vocabulary:

## "Is It Time for Cursive to Die?" and "Why I Keep My Letters"

**Directions:** Read the following definitions and example sentences. Then add one more word from the article.

**1. balm (bahlm)** *noun*; 1. an ointment used to heal; 2. something that gives comfort or support

*example 1:* Her homemade balm, made out of herbs and oils, helped the wound heal faster.

*example 2:* Angie says that classical music is a balm to her soul. She listens to it whenever she is feeling stressed out or sad.

**2. efficient (uh-FISH-uhnt)** *adjective*; able to produce the desired results without waste

*example:* Our new air conditioner is so efficient. It uses far less electricity than our old one.

**3. elective (ih-LEK-tiv)** *adjective*; open to choice; optional; not required

*example:* I'm so excited about the elective courses at school this year—yearbook, newspaper, choir, gardening—how will I pick just one?

**4. eulogy (YOO-luh-jee)** *noun*; a speech that praises someone who has died

*example:* James gave a moving eulogy at his grandfather's funeral.

**5. quill (kwil)** *noun*; 1. a large, stiff feather from a bird's wing or tail; 2. one of the hollow, stiff spikes of a porcupine or hedgehog; 3. a pen made from a feather

*example 1:* Keith found a goose quill lying in the grass at the park.

*example 2:* We had to rush poor Scruffy to the vet last night. He got too close to a porcupine and ended up with quills stuck all over his head and chest.

*example 3:* Quills were popular until the mid-1800s, when people started using metal pens.

**6. relic (REL-ik)** *noun*; something (usually important) that has survived from the past

*example:* Our local museum has a fascinating collection of relics, including Roman coins and Greek vases.

**7. vividly (VIV-id-lee)** *adverb*; in a manner that is strong, bright, clear, or detailed

*example:* I usually can't remember my dreams, but I vividly recall the one I had last night.

8. \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

• *example:* \_\_\_\_\_

# Vocabulary Practice:

## "Is It Time for Cursive to Die?" and "Why I Keep My Letters"

**Directions:** For each pair of words below, write S if the words are synonyms (have a similar or the same meaning) or A if the words are antonyms (have opposite meanings).

- |              |          |       |
|--------------|----------|-------|
| 1. vividly   | dully    | _____ |
| 2. relic     | artifact | _____ |
| 3. elective  | required | _____ |
| 4. eulogy    | tribute  | _____ |
| 5. efficient | lazy     | _____ |
| 6. balm      | comfort  | _____ |

**Directions:** In each row of words, place an X on the word that does not belong.

- |     |           |           |          |             |
|-----|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| 7.  | plume     | brush     | feather  | quill       |
| 8.  | unskilled | efficient | idle     | incompetent |
| 9.  | balm      | solace    | pain     | relief      |
| 10. | mandatory | voluntary | elective | optional    |

**Directions:** Write a sentence that includes **two** of the words from the list on page 1 of this activity.

11. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_