



I Am Texas contest letter writing sample lesson

1. Brainstorm Texans both past and present.

Use one of these websites for help:

[100 Famous People from Texas You'll Never Forget - Texas Proud](#)

[Texas Famous People: History and Biographies \(ereferencedesk.com\)](#)

[An Impossible List: The Greatest Texas Athletes \(cowboysindians.com\)](#)

[12 Things Invented In Texas You May Not Have Known \(onlyinyourstate.com\)](#)

Charles /Molly Goodnight Cabeza de vaca Chip /Joanna Gaines
 Sandra Day O'Connor Davy Crockett Selena Mark Cuban
 Jack Johnson Quannah Parker Jose Cisneros Bernardo de Galvez

2. Choose one - *Cabeza de vaca*
3. Create a chart for your ideas.

K	W	H	Q
What I know -	What I want to know -	How do I find out?	What questions do I still have?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish explorer • Lost in Texas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long was he in Texas • What did he eat? • How did he survive? • Who did he meet? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to The Bryan Museum • Do an internet search • Look for books in the library 	

4. Conduct your research and take notes.
5. Complete your chart.

K	W	H	Q
What I know -	What I want to know -	How do I find out?	What questions do I still have?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish explorer Lost in Texas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How long was he in Texas What did he eat? How did he survive? Who did he meet? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to The Bryan Museum Google him Read a book about him 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was his favorite part of Texas? What survival skills did he learn?

6. Write your letter.
 - a. Date
 - b. Greeting
 - c. Body (What you learned)
 - d. Body (Request for more information)
 - e. Closing

January 1, 2023

Dear Cabeza de Vaca,

I know that you spent eight years lost in Texas and that you had to learn many new skills while trying to survive. I think it's really impressive that you walked hundreds and hundreds of miles across Texas looking for your way back to Mexico and the Spanish settlements. I was most interested to learn about your time with the various Indian tribes and how you pretended to be doctor even though you didn't have any training in medicine. I also think it's interesting that you were the first European to get to know so many of the native people in Texas. Your diary is considered the first written information about the area that later became the state of Texas. I saw a copy of your diary at The Bryan Museum on a class field trip.

While learning about your travels, I came up with a couple of questions for you. I know that you saw many interesting trees, flowers, animals, and landscapes. Could you please tell me about some of your favorite ones? Also, I would appreciate it if you could send me information on how to make a fire without matches. I think this would be a useful skill to learn in case I get lost like you did.

Sincerely,
Joe Q. Student

7. Edit your letter for standard English conventions.
8. Submit your letter to the *I Am Texas* contest at www.iamtx.org.

3rd/4th grade ELAR TEKS

3.13 / 4.13 use research skills to plan and present in written, oral, or multimodal formats

3.12 (D) / 4.12(D) compose correspondence that requests information

3.11 (D) / 4.11 (D) edit drafts using standard English conventions

3.11 (D) / 4.11(E) publish written work for appropriate audiences