

Name: _____

Sending Unconventional Mail

Write a letter with information about the Louisiana Purchase. You will NOT write your letter on a piece of paper. Instead, you will choose something unusual to write your letter on.

Did You Know?

Did you know that you can mail items that aren't in an envelope or box? Read about five things that you can put in the mail in the United States. Then, choose one to use to send your letter.



A Coconut

Kaua'i, Hawaii offers a coconut mail service. The company, known as Post-a-Nut™ provides coconuts for customers to decorate and write a message. Then the coconut is sent in the mail. Many people send coconuts as birthday cards.



A Frisbee

A frisbee can be decorated and written on with permanent marker or paint before being sent through the mail.



A Raw Potato

A raw potato can be shipped through the U.S. Post Office. However, ink (like from a pen or permanent marker) will bleed or run on the potato skin, especially if the potato gets wet. Most people choose to write their potato messages on paper and then secure the paper to the potato.



A Box of Candy

Boxes of candy can easily be shipped through the mail. However, their colorful and patterned boxes do not leave much room for addresses or messages. Many people use sticker address labels and paper taped to the box to send their message.



A Piece of Wood

A piece of wood can be decorated and written on with permanent marker or paint. The wood can be cut into shapes that help deliver your message, like a balloon shape for a birthday or a heart shape for a loved one.

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Step 1: Choose an Item

Choose one of the five items from the list above. Then, describe how your item looks. For example, the piece of wood might be cut into a star shape or you will send a long and skinny sweet potato, instead of a wide regular one.

- The item I choose is: _____

- Item Description:

Step 2: Choose Recipient of Mail

You will be sending your letter to someone that might want to know more about your historical event. Choose the person you will send your letter to from the list below. Circle your choice.

- A Parent or Guardian
- A Historian
- A 3rd-5th Grader
- A Newspaper Reporter
- Someone Else: _____

Step 3: Brainstorm Ideas for Note

Your note should tell the reader information about your historical event. Your note must include the following:

- The names of two people or groups of people that are involved in your historical event (i.e., George Washington or Revolutionary War Soldiers).
- At least two facts about your historical event.
- Explain what you have learned about this time period and why you are excited to tell the person receiving the note about this time period.

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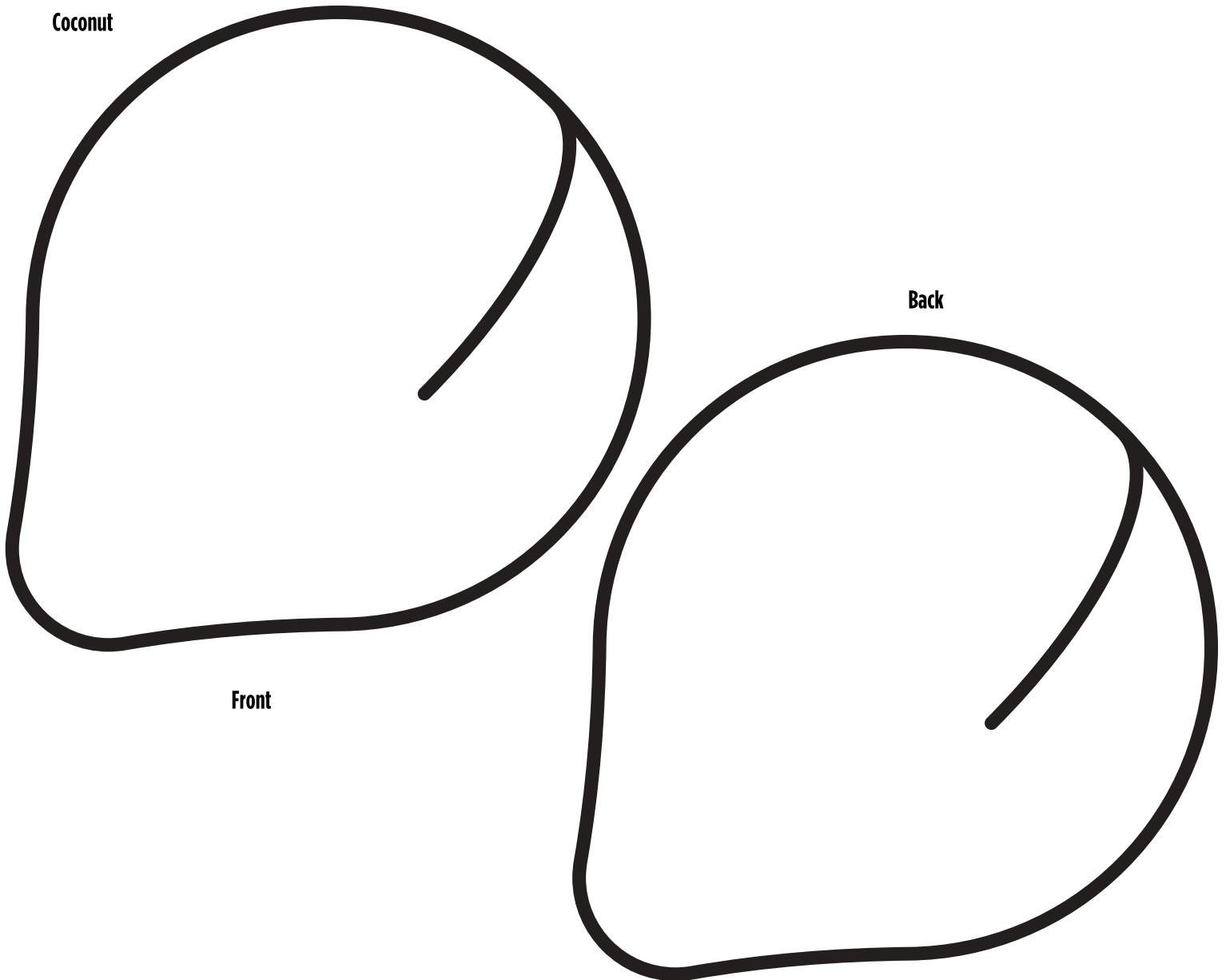
Step 4: Design Your Mail

Use one of the templates on the next several pages to design your note. If you would like to draw your own template, there is a blank page at the end. Your mail must have the following:

- The note you are writing to someone else
- A picture to go along with your note
- Words, pictures or a design on the front and back of you piece of mail
- Your address and the address of the person receiving the unconventional mail (these can be real or made up)
- A place for postage stamps

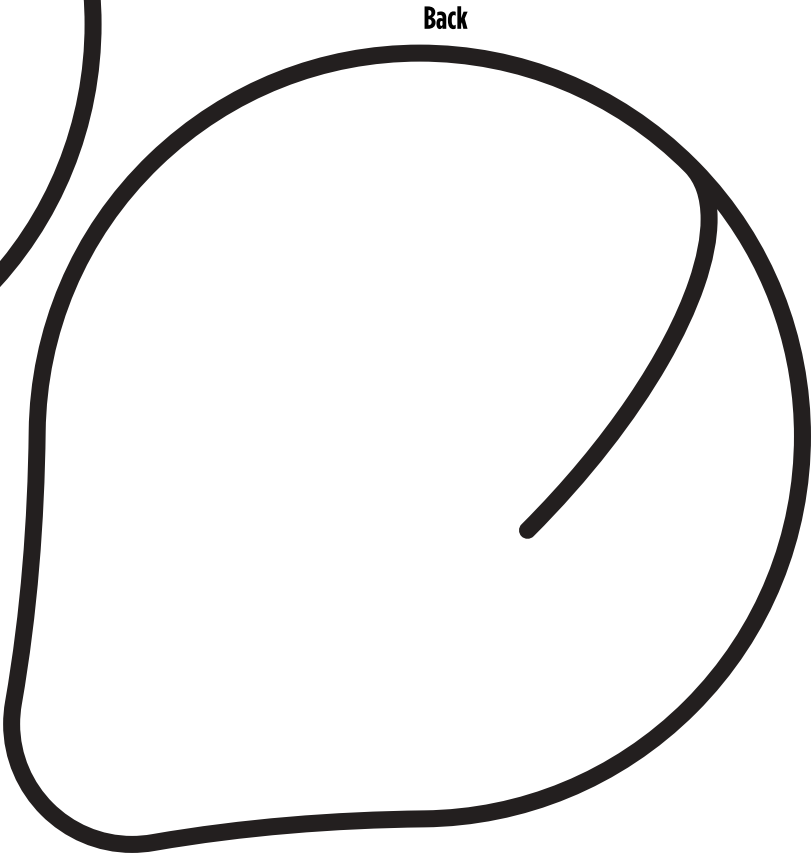
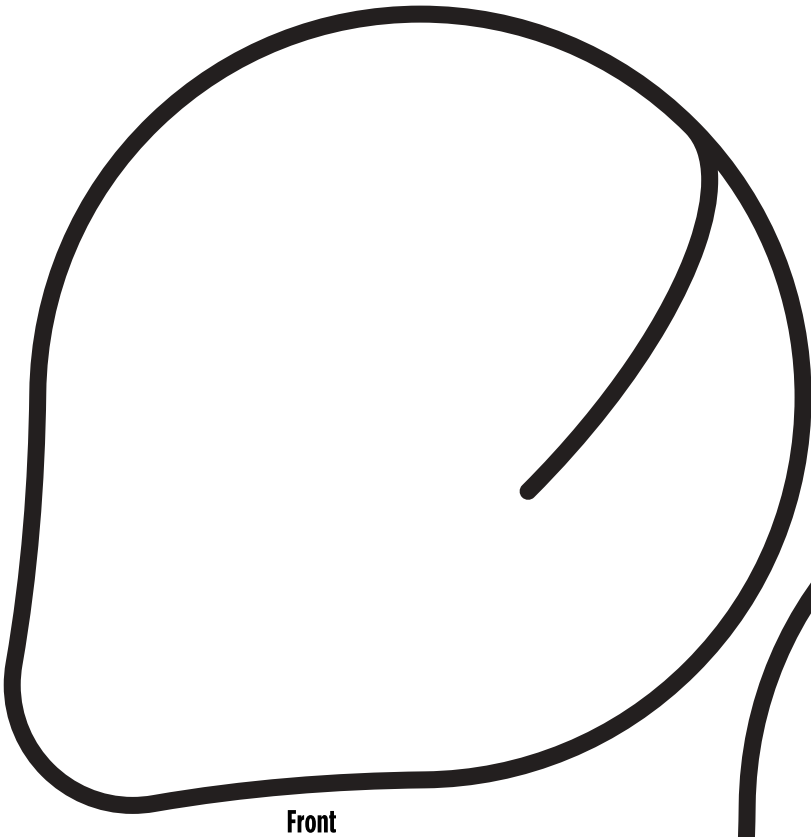
Extra Time? Use craft supplies to build a model of your unconventional mail!

Coconut



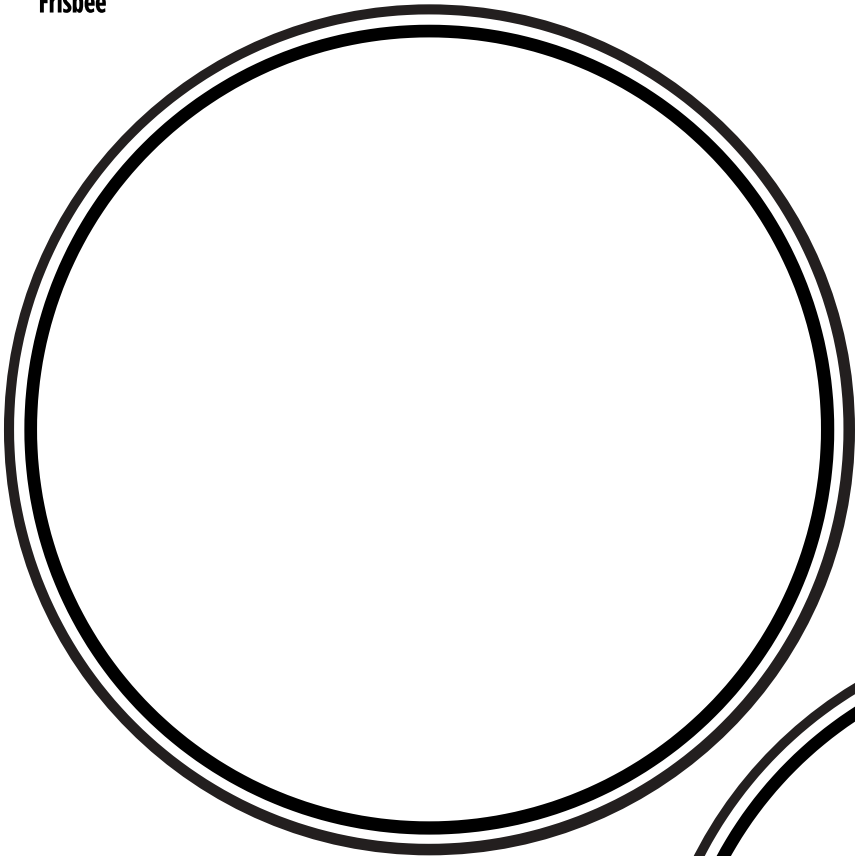
Name: _____

Coconut

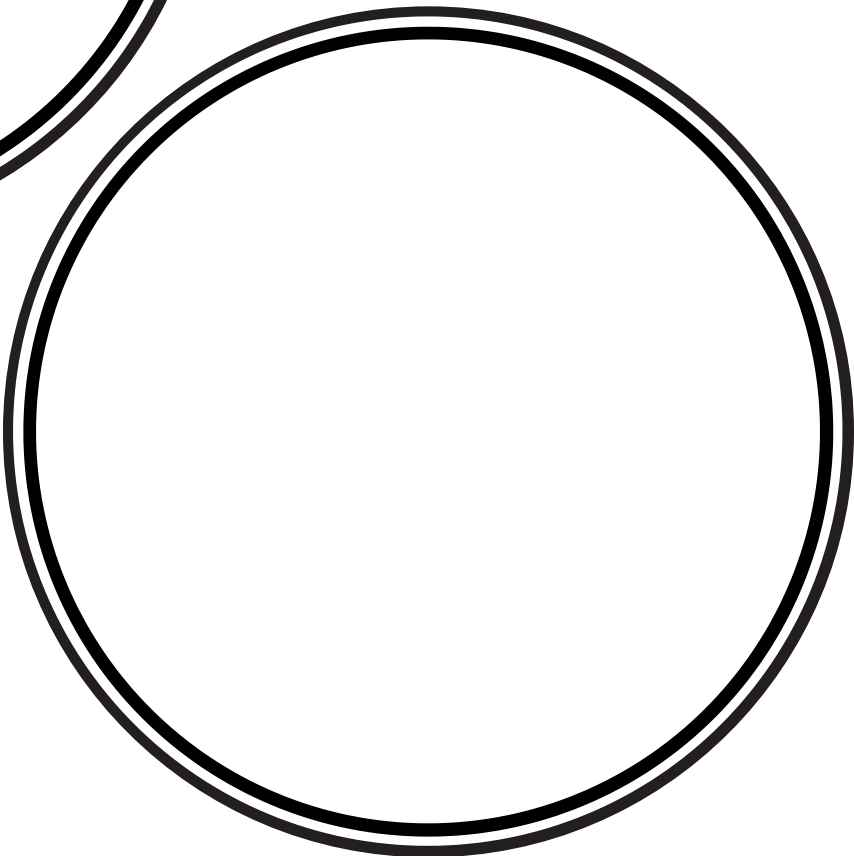


Name: _____

Frisbee



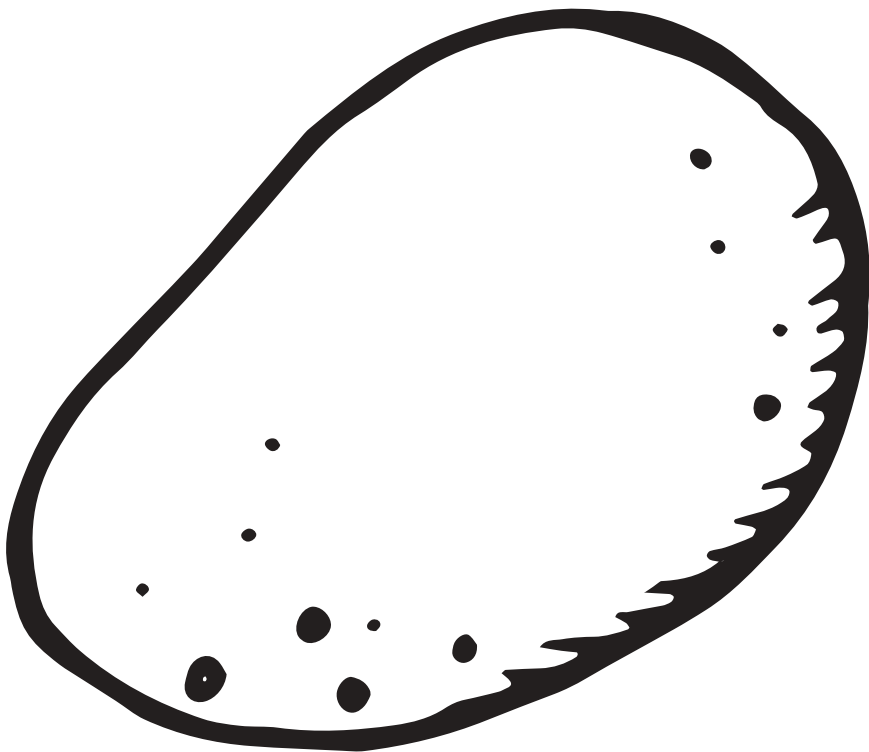
Front



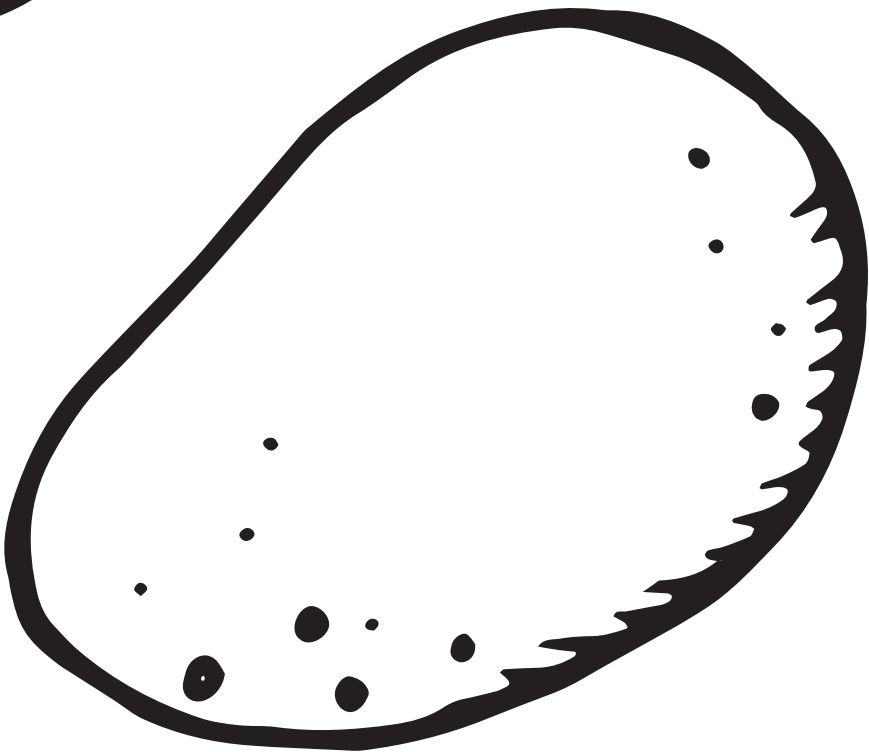
Back

Name: _____

Potato



Front



Back

Name: _____

Box of Candy/Piece of Wood



Front



Back

Name: _____

Draw your own design. Don't forget to include a front and back.