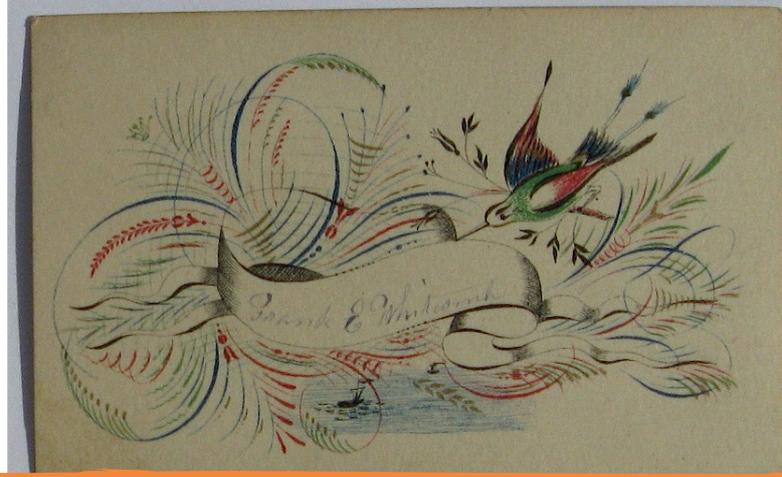


VICTORIAN CALLING CARD

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE



LEVEL
3RD



MATERIALS

3.5 x 2.5" Cardstock (1 per student)
Scissors (plain and decorative edge)
Colored Pencils
Black Fine Tip Marker
Ribbon/Yarn

VOCABULARY

Etiquette | Calling | Calling Card
Card Receiver | Victorian Era

OBJECTIVE

Students will learn about Victorian society etiquette on "Calling" or "Visiting". Students will make their own calling card to leave at the Gibson House during their Tour.

VAPA STANDARDS

3.VA:Cr1.1 | 3.VA:Cr2.1 | 3.VA:Cr2.2
3.VA:Cr3 | 3.VA:Re7.2

STEP 1

Divide students into 3 field trip groups of 8-10 students each. With students in their groups, review the Yolo County Families handout, noting names and locations of origin/destination on a map as well as any local sites of significance. Each group of students should choose a Family to join. Working together, students should learn their family history, trade, and etiquette (please see reverse side of this sheet for further information on etiquette).

STEP 2

Next have students create their own Calling Card using the materials listed. They can begin by drawing decorative patterns, borders, and narrative scenes. Encourage students to personalize their card to their Yolo County Family by incorporating details from their history. Finally, have students embellish their card with decorative edges and/or ribbon.

STEP 3

Have students write a diary entry that details a visit they made to one of Yolo Counties Early Families. What was the date of their visit? What was the purpose of their visit? What activities might they have done? What topics would have been discussed? Encourage students to include details specific to the family they visited.

STEP 4

Wrap up & Review. After the calling activity, have students reflect on the experience. Facilitate a group discussion, noting student feedback on the whiteboard. Ask students what they thought of visiting their friends that way? How has visiting changed in the last 150 years? Which way is a better way to visit friends? Why?

Share your finished projects on Facebook or Instagram and be sure to tag @YoloArtsCA!

Etiquette and Customs for Calling



This card features simple nature design and includes a small bird.



These cards feature bright colors, floral patterns, and break away from the traditional rectangular shape. Note that names could be handwritten or printed.



This card features a landscape scene of people outside a train station.

Initialing a Calling Card

Gentleman would also inscribe initials upon the card to denote the reason for his visit. The initials stood for the following French words:

- p. f. – congratulations (pour féliciter)
- p. r. – expressing one's thanks (pour remercier)
- p. c. – mourning expression (pour condoléance)
- p. f. N. A. – Happy New Year (pour feliciter Nouvel An)
- p. p. c. – meaning to take leave (pour prendre congé)
- p. p. – if you want to be introduced to anybody, send your visiting card (pour présenter)

After introductions, visits or “calls” came next in the first round of the proper Victorian social sequence. Calling hours were limited, and most sensibly, to a restricted time in the afternoon. No one not privileged, on pressing business, or extremely intimate, would think of invading a household before three o'clock. Consequently, no one could be offended when refused at half past two on a Tuesday, when “Mondays, three to six,” is plainly engraved on a carte de visite.

The visitor placed their card on a convenient place in the hall, or on a tray the servant held out, and then mentioned their name to the manservant if there was one. A man or maid usually took the card on a tray, and stood holding the curtains aside, for the visitor to enter, speaking their name audibly at the same time.

In dealing with the subject of visiting in general, the receiving party was always a woman. Nevertheless, gentlemen could receive visits from men at their club, or their offices, and there was a distinct etiquette for these ceremonies.

Nothing could excuse a delay in returning a first visit within a few days, excluding going out of town or an illness. As well, nothing could exempt one from a call after dinner, a luncheon, a supper, or theater party, unless, as said before, a person was ill or out of town. In these circumstances, a card would be sent with a word of regret.

The Victorian system of calling appeared to be one that wasted much time, and was rather senseless, but as a code of signals it had its uses. Without it, it was difficult to see how social lists could be recruited for invitations, or any entertaining done in proper order.

Edited from: Etiquette for Americans by a Woman of Fashion, 1898



This card is very ornate with bric-a-brac trim, brightly colored flowers, and a portrait of the card-owners dog.