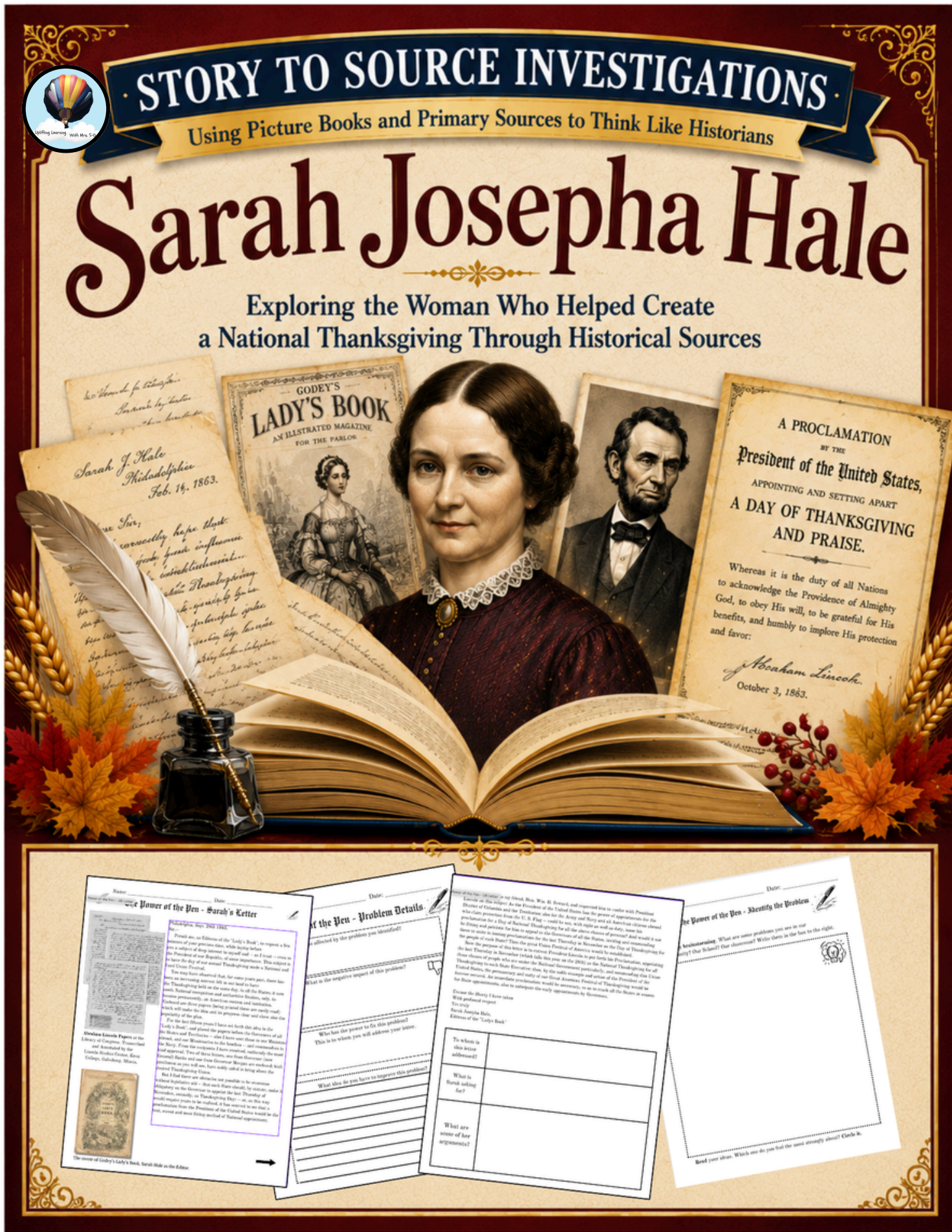




Name: _____ Date: _____

Day 2: The Source

Materials:

image of a letter Sarah

Body:

Lesson Question: How did Sarah Hale help make Thanksgiving a national holiday?
Before reading give students this purpose: As we read, pay attention to:

- What Sarah Hale wanted
- What obstacles she faced
- What actions she took
- Why she refused to give up

Possible responses:

- She wanted a national Thanksgiving.

The Power of the Pen

Day 1: The book.

Materials:

Included with download:

- “What did we learn about Sarah Hale?” table. Could be used by just the teacher, students could fill it out during discussion as well.

about Sarah Hale:

m-materials/thanksgiving/documents/sarah_hale.pdf
roes/2021/11/a-presidential-history-of-thanksgiving/
ication-resources/biographies/sarah-hale

Classroom

- The

(S

we

Anticipate

Write

Give s

Possible

- No

No, it would take Congress.

Maybe if they were famous.

Maybe if they had a really good idea.

Introduce the Scenario

Tell students: “Imagine there is something you think every American should do.

You write a letter asking the president to make it happen. He says no.

So you write another letter.

And another.

And another.

You keep trying for seventeen years.

Ask: “Would you keep going? Why or why not?”

Reveal: Tell students: “Today we’re going to meet a woman named Sarah Josepha Hale.

She believed Americans should celebrate Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

For years, she wrote letters, published articles, and encouraged leaders to support her idea.

Our job is to find out: How did one woman help change a nation?

Detailed, standard aligned lesson plans.

What Did We Learn About Sarah Hale?

What Sarah Wanted	What Sarah Did	What We Learn About Sarah

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Power of the Pen - Identify the Problem

To whom did Sarah write her letters?

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Student note catcher pages to accompany *Thank you, Sarah* by Laurie Halse Anderson

Day 3: Write Your Own Letter

Materials:

- “The Power of the Pen - Identify a Problem”
- “The Power of the Pen - Problem Details”
- “The Power of the Pen” writing piece directions
- Bulletin board artwork

Students will brainstorm ideas about problem details, determine who might be able to help, and write a letter.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Analyzing Sarah Hale’s Letter

Directions: Read Sarah Hale’s letter to President Abraham Lincoln from September 28, 1863. Then, answer the questions below using evidence from the text.

1. To whom is this letter addressed?	
4. What does this letter reveal about Sarah Hale’s character?	• •

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Power of the Pen - Sarah’s Letter

Philadelphia, Sept. 28th 1863.

Sir.--

Permit me, as Editress of the "Lady's Book", to thank you for the minutes of your precious time, while laying before me the papers of the "Thanksgiving Union".

For the last fifteen years I have set forth "Lady's Book", and placed the papers before the States and Territories -- also I have sent abroad, and our Missionaries to the heathen -- the Navy. From the recipients I have received kind approval. Two of these letters, one from General Banks and one from Governor Morgan, gentlemen as you will see, have nobly aided the desired Thanksgiving Union.

But I find there are obstacles not possible without legislative aid -- that each State should be obligatory on the Governor to appoint the last November, annually, as Thanksgiving Day; -- would require years to be realized, it has occurred by proclamation from the President of the United States, the best, surest and most fitting method of National observance.

Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress. Transcribed and Annotated by the Lincoln Studies Center, Knox College. Galesburg, Illinois.

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The cover of Godey’s Lady’s Book. Sarah Hale as the Editor.

Name: _____ Date: _____



The Power of the Pen



Name: _____ Date: _____



The Power of the Pen - Problem Details



Who is affected by the problem you identified?

What is the negative impact of this problem?

Name: _____ Date: _____



The Power of the Pen - Identify a Problem



Start by brainstorming. What are some problems you see in our community?

Persuasive Writing Piece inspired by Sarah Hale

What idea do you have to improve this problem?

Read your ideas. Which one do you feel the most strongly about? Circle it.

Sarah Josepha Hale believed one person could make a difference.

Through letters, articles, and determination, she helped convince leaders to create a national Thanksgiving holiday.

Inspired by her example, students brainstormed problems they wanted to solve and wrote **persuasive letters**.



The Power of the Pen



Artwork for a bulletin board to display students' writing.