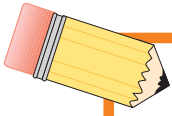


# Hats Off To Capitalization!

Cap your study of capitalization with this captivating lesson!



**Skill:** Using capital letters correctly



**Estimated Lesson Time:** 45 minutes

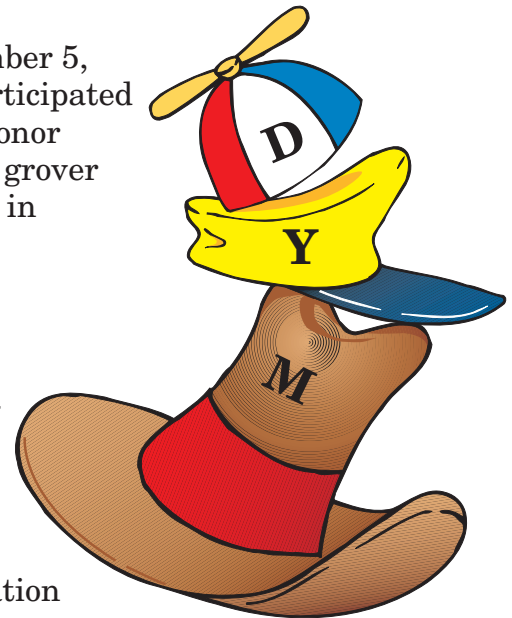
## Teacher Preparation:

1. Duplicate one copy of page 7 for each student.
2. Write the paragraph below on the chalkboard or on a blank transparency with a wipe-off marker.
 

the first labor day Parade was held on september 5, 1882, in new york city. since so many people participated in the Events on that day, Officials decided to honor Workers every year. on june 28, 1894, president grover cleveland officially proclaimed the first monday in september as labor day.

## Materials:

- 1 transparency with a paragraph containing capitalization errors
- 1 wipe-off marker
- 1 copy of page 7 for each student
- crayons
- a grammar textbook that lists the rules for capitalization



## Background Information:

Capitalization rules govern the use of capital letters. Some words that are always capitalized are:

- proper nouns that name specific persons, places, things, or ideas—the *Dallas Cowboys*
- the first word of a sentence—*The dog was wet.*
- the pronoun *I*—*I like hot dogs.*
- the months of the year and the days of the week—*May, Monday*
- the first word in both the greeting and the closing of a letter—*Dear John, Yours truly*
- titles—*President Clinton, Mrs. Jones, Dr. Kirk*
- school subjects when they name either a specific language or course—*German, Honors English*
- geographic locations on a map that refer to specific areas—*Middle East*
- holidays—*St. Patrick's Day*

## Introducing The Lesson:

Begin this lesson by soliciting your students' help. Explain that your friend has asked you to edit an article that he has written for the next issue of your local newspaper. Explain further that you need your students' help with identifying and correcting his capitalization mistakes. Display the transparency that you made; then have a student volunteer read it aloud to the class.

## Steps:

1. Call on one student at a time to point out the capitalization errors on the transparency. Require the student to give his reason for capitalizing or not capitalizing a particular word. As a student provides the correct reason, use your wipe-off pen to correct that mistake (see the key on page 313).
2. After your students locate and correct all of the capitalization mistakes on the transparency, have them brainstorm other situations in which capital letters can be used (see page 5 and a grammar textbook that lists capitalization rules). Record your students' responses on the board and discuss them.
3. If desired, challenge your students to cite additional examples for each capitalization rule that you discuss.
4. Give each student a copy of page 7. Direct her to follow the directions on the reproducible for additional practice with capitalization.

