

**Religions of the Ancient Middle East****Focus on Writing****Writing a Letter**

Your goal is to describe an event related to early Judaism, early Christianity, or early Islam in a letter to a friend. Use language that you would use naturally with a friend. At the same time, remember to convey important information about the event.

**PREWRITING**

- 1. Identifying Events Related to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam** How would you feel about witnessing the events you read about in this chapter? If you were there, how would you have acted? Identify two important events from each section that you found interesting or would like to have witnessed. Record your ideas on a chart like the one below.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Events</b>
<b>1</b>	• •
<b>2</b>	• •
<b>3</b>	• •
<b>4</b>	• •
<b>5</b>	• •
<b>Letter Topic</b>	

- 2. Selecting An Event** Review the events on your chart. Select one event from the chapter to write about and record it in the bottom row of your chart. Write a letter to a friend from the point of view of someone who witnessed one of these events.

**WRITING**

**3. Writing Your Letter** Follow the guidelines below to write your letter.

- Begin with an introduction that sets the tone for your letter. For example, you might express surprise, admiration, wonder, horror, or disgust about the event you are describing.
- In one or two paragraphs, describe the event. Set the scene by telling what happened leading up to the event. Describe people, places, and actions. Use vivid details and descriptive language to describe the event.
- Write a conclusion describing why this event was important in history and how it affected you.

**EVALUATING AND PROOFREADING****Rubric**

**4. Evaluating Your Letter** Does your letter describe the event clearly and vividly? Use the questions below to evaluate and revise your letter.

- Did you explain the significance of the event in history?
- Did you describe how the experience impacted your life?
- Does your letter include an introduction, body, and conclusion?
- Is your letter interesting?

**5. Proofreading Your Letter** Check the following:

- Correct capitalization and spelling of all proper names and places
- Correct punctuation and grammar