

Lesson Plan for World Postcard Day

Prepared by Kristin M. Morris (VolvoMom)
Chelmsford, Massachusetts, USA
Educator with Westford Public Schools

The basis for this plan is built upon Understanding by Design, a Backwards Design Process developed by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe.



Stage 1 – Desired Results

Established Goal(s)/Content Standard(s): Students will learn how mail works, and be able to experience communication via the medium of postcards.

Understanding(s):

Students will understand:

- How mail works
- How to write and mail a postcard
- Why postcards are still relevant in today's society

Essential Question(s):

- What happens after a postcard is dropped in a postbox?
- How can I use postcards as a method of communication in my own life?
- Who can I send a postcard to?
- How can I create my own postcards?
With photos? With artwork?

Student Objectives (outcomes):

Students will be able to:

- Describe what happens behind the scenes when a postcard is mailed
- Detail elements of a postcard (message, address, stamp) and where to place them
- Utilize postcards to express themselves with both an image and words

Stage 2 – Assessment Evidence

Performance Task(s):

- Watch short documentary (links listed below)
- Talk about the format of a postcard
- Creation of postcard for class activity, based upon instructor / educator's plan (sending to family, another class, elder care home, classmate, etc.)

Other Evidence:

- Students will be able to recall some parts of the documentary, in order to explain in their own words how mail works
- Evidence will include completion of a postcard within the parameters that the individual educator establishes

Stage 3 – Learning Plan

Learning Activities:

- Watch a documentary on how mail works, for instance, Postal Systems at Work: <https://bit.ly/postal-systems> Similar documentaries are linked in the resources below.
- Show the class a written and stamped postcard, describing each element (message, address, stamp) and where these should be placed. If the students are unfamiliar with the address format, help them understand the different elements of an address.
- Connect with another classroom (even a few miles away is great!) to exchange cards with. Consider the following when establishing a classroom links:
 - Age of students
 - Language abilities
 - Frequency of correspondence (including mail times)
 - Number of students participating

- Parent / guardian permission
- Correspondence only going to teacher or school's address, not that of students.

Suggested discipline links, for topics of the postcards:

- **Art**
 - Creation of postcard, based upon postcard era / history article
 - Self-expression
 - Artwork to demonstrate influence of artists, mediums, etc.
- **World Language**
 - Write a postcard in the language being studied.
 - Create a card with an image from the location of target language.
- **Composition (any language)**
 - Instructor chooses a topic for students to write about.
 - Explore topics related to question / answer format.
- **Ages 4-10**
 - Consider creating self-drawn cards, or those with photos they have made to send to relatives or family members in their own homes.
 - Align writing pieces to educational standards.
- **History / Social Sciences**
 - Students may find a historical item to put on the front, and explain it on the back for someone just learning about the item.
 - Have students design a "political advertisement" postcard for an action item they believe in.
- **Sciences**
 - Explore scientists or scientific discoveries. Highlight them on a postcard. Write about not only the items, but how they impact you personally.
 - Conduct an experiment, and on the back of the postcard have students detail what they learned and how it will be used in everyday life. Have them illustrate or photograph the experiment on the front.
- **Community Service**
 - Send cards to local elder care facilities. Contact program directors for names and/or where to send.
 - Write cards with drawings, basic vocabulary to day care centers.
 - See additional links at bottom for sending community service cards.

Bonus material and extra resources:

- **World Postcard Day:** <https://worldpostcardday.com>
- **History of Postcards:** <https://worldpostcardday.com/history>
- **Postcrossing, the postcard exchange project:** <https://postcrossing.com>

- Video "Journey of a Letter" (UK): <https://youtu.be/8pFd8DLcPIY>
- Video "Journey of a Letter" (NZ): https://youtu.be/poJ1mS_4sVg
- Video "The Journey of a Letter" (Australia): <https://youtu.be/u09359eecQg>
- Video "Come Outside - A Letter" (smaller children): <https://youtu.be/AZOAqqrW0GU>
- Video "Mr. Rogers, How People Make Stamps": <https://bit.ly/mr-rogers-stamps>

- **Universal Postal Union address formats for all countries:** <https://bit.ly/upu-address>
- **Post here to establish a classroom link:** <https://bit.ly/classes-link>

- **More Love Letters:** Send good wishes to people going through a tough time. Recipients listed on the website. <http://www.moreloveletters.com/the-letter-requests>
- **Any Refugee:** Send a postcard to a refugee child to help lift their spirits. Based in the USA, but worldwide outreach. <https://anyrefugee.org/>
- **The Rainbow Cards Project:** To help support the LGBTQ+ community. <https://www.therainbowcardsproject.org/send-a-card>
- **Braid Mission / Cards of Hope** - To support foster youth. <https://braidmission.org/get-involved/cards-of-hope/>

The World Postcard Day is an initiative by Postcrossing, a worldwide community of postcard enthusiasts.

Find us at www.postcrossing.com or get in touch at info@worldpostcardday.com.



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