



POSTCARDS - THE "WRITE STUFF"

Background Information

In 1861, John P. Charlton of Philadelphia copyrighted a private postal card. He transferred his copyright to H. L. Lipman who began producing and selling postal cards. One side was left blank for a message and the other side for the address and stamp. Businesses put illustrations or messages on them for advertising. In 1873, the United States issued governmental penny postal cards. During the 1893 Columbian Exposition - Chicago World's Fair, picture postcards with images of the exposition became a popular travel souvenir. Over the decades, the practice of sending vacation postcards to friends and family evolved and continues to be popular. Postage for a standard size postcard is 35 cents.

Student Activities

Standards for the English Language Arts

- Students adjust their use of spoken, written, and visual language (e.g., conventions, style, vocabulary) to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes.
- Students employ a wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Standards for Visual Arts

- Students use different media, techniques and processes to communicate ideas, experiences and stories.
- Students select and use subject matter, symbols, and ideas to communicate meaning.

Use the Postcard to have students:

1. Practice writing addresses by addressing the postcard.
2. Practice their writing by composing a short note on the postcard.

Suggested Topics

- Write a postcard about a vacation experience.
 - Write a postcard describing an experience from an imaginary place or a real place they would like to visit as shown in their drawing on the front of the postcard.
3. Create an illustrated postcard for a holiday or birthday by using a blank postcard template and then write an appropriate message.