

**“CREATING GREETING CARDS”  
INTEGRATING MY ART CARDS FUNDRAISING  
WITH YOUR CLASSROOM LESSON PLAN**

This Lesson Plan can be adapted to almost any grade level. The lesson learned on the day a child creates a drawing for his or her card will be one that will forever last in their memory. It is doubly enhanced by the excitement they feel when they actually see their original drawing arrive as a professionally made note card. It will be beautiful. He or she will never forget it. It will build self-esteem. There is no "wrong way" to draw a picture.

**WHAT YOU DO:**

Tell students that the drawing they are about to create will be made into a professional-looking greeting card (show an example of a professional greeting card). Discuss why we send cards.

Optional: Discuss the history of greeting cards.

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. To learn the importance of writing notes and sending cards.
2. To build character. Lessons will talk about acts of kindness. What can you say to make someone feel better, what special things can you do to show your friends you like them and more.
3. To create something that has been a tradition for over 125 years.

**TOPICS:**

- Friendship - cards that say thanks, congratulations, expressions of love and more (learning how to be a good friend increases self-esteem and helps students see the importance of maintaining healthy relationships).
- Responsibility - helps students become responsible adults. Top businesses always mention it is the thank you note that keeps customers.
- Caring - kindness, courtesy, friendliness.
- Compassion - empathy, understanding, love (send a card to a friend who is sick).
- Courtesy - a thank you.
- Forgiveness - to say you're sorry.
- Respect - appreciation, acknowledging an honor received, someone you look up to.
- Relationships - learning how to be a good friend.
- Good manners - By sending thank-you cards to our friends and relatives or to just keep in touch with those people who are important to us.

**VOCABULARY:**

Words they will learn. See Topics above. The more words children learn the greater their capacity to know and accept the world outside. But words do even more: They create.

**STUDENTS WILL:**

1. Express their own thoughts and feelings with art materials as they engage in drawing, painting, or in using other art medium. They may want to talk about card ideas with their parents the day before they begin. What kind of cards will their family send this year? Will it be cards for such special occasions as birthdays, get-well, congratulations, just a "thinking of you" or holidays: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, Valentine's Day, Easter or other holidays celebrated by a child's family?
2. Create a drawing or painting suitable for a card design using lots of color and imagination. Students can choose their own subject matter. If you're studying famous artists, for instance, talk about the artist and show examples of his/her work to inspire a wonderful card idea.
3. As card topics are discussed, a child will learn the importance of writing and sending note cards.

**WHAT YOU NEED:** (depends on the medium you wish to use and for which age group)

- 8 ½" X 11" My Art Cards Designer Form
- Colored markers
- Crayons (all colors)
- Paint & brushes
- (Instructions for operating a MY ART CARD fundraiser will be attached to the lesson plan and sent to the teacher or administrator).

**TAKE IT FURTHER:**

- Write a note to someone you care about to enhance this learning experience, someone who is important to you expressing the personal qualities you appreciate in those people; write a thank you note, write a get well note, write a "thinking of you" note, a congratulations note, and more. These written notes could be sent inside the finished card product.
- Simple quotes that conveniently encapsulate important life skills and principles provide easy recall or core values. Make a famous quotation into a card. Have students write it in fancy cursive or on an 8 ½" x 11" piece of white bond paper to be made into a note card. Find a quote with an uplifting message.

**END YOUR CLASS:**

"Think about the postage stamp; it sticks to one thing until it gets there."  
This is a great quote on perseverance by Joseph Billings.

**HISTORY OF GREETING CARDS:**

Louis Prang of Boston, is called the Father of the American greeting card, even though the custom of sending greeting cards may be traced back 4,000 years, he designed and sold his first colored Christmas card in 1874. His cards became popular in the United States and England. The students could research and add more info for a history lesson.

**WEBSITES FOR LESSON PLANS AND CHARACTER BUILDING INFORMATION:**

[www.artworkskids.com](http://www.artworkskids.com)  
[www.characterbuilding.com](http://www.characterbuilding.com)  
[www.characterworks.com](http://www.characterworks.com)  
[www.newhorizons.org](http://www.newhorizons.org)  
[www.learningnetwork.com/arts](http://www.learningnetwork.com/arts)  
[www.lessonplans.com](http://www.lessonplans.com)