

Greetings From America

Lesson Two

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GREETINGS ACROSS AMERICA

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe the purpose of sending postcards
- Describe interesting features of their community
- Identify the parts of a postcard
- Create and mail a postcard

Materials

- Cancelled postcards from friends and family members
- Sample postcards from throughout the region (available at drugstores, hotels, and truck stops)
- Postcards that are blank on both sides
- Stamps

Set Induction

Discuss: Invite students to bring in postcards they have received from someone who was on vacation. Ask students why they think people send postcards to family and friends.

Transition: The purpose of sending postcards is to communicate with people, or send greetings, from across America. Show sample postcards from throughout the region. Talk about the parts of a postcard: picture on front, description on back, message and address areas. Generate the concept that postcards highlight the beauty and interesting information about the area. You don't have to go on a trip in order to send a postcard, however. Today we are going to create postcards about our community to send to people across America.

NOTE: This activity can be adjusted by focusing upon the school, classroom, or individual students instead of the entire community.

Activities

1. Create a conceptual web of fascinating features about your community. Your community's name would be in the central circle. Features might include: places to visit, fun things to do, scenery/natural beauty, population, elevation, when the community was founded, landmarks, historical trivia.
2. Students create postcards featuring one or more of the Fascinating Features of their community with a picture representing each feature, and mail postcards to one or more participating schools in each state.

Extension

Try to collect one postcard from every state (as a classroom or as a school-wide activity). There are a number of ways to keep track of the cards.

- Display a large map of the United States with a plastic sleeve superimposed upon each state. Put the postcards in the sleeves as they arrive.
- String a coast-to-coast clothesline down the longest hallway in your school. Clip on clothespins labeled with each state's name (in alphabetical order). "Hang up" the postcards as they arrive by clipping each card to the line with the state clothespin.
- If you have a large USA map painted on the playground, paint the name of the community on the correct states as postcards arrive.