GrandPals™ Postcard Pals

Grandparents & Grandchildren Connecting Through Snail Mail



TheGrandkidConnection.com

The GrandPals[™] series will help you establish a pen pal relationship with your long-distance (or local) grandkids. Kids LOVE snail mail! Whether your grandchildren live hundreds of miles away or just across town, they will light up when they receive a letter or postcard from you in their mailbox!

To read about some of the benefits as well as get more information about things to do as a pen pal to your grandchild, read this article on our blog: <u>Be Pen Pals with Your Grandchild</u>.

In this packet, we have provided several ways to use postcards to enhance your pen pal relationship with your grandkids. Postcards are a fun way to send a quick note or to let your grandchild know you are thinking about them. The postcard ideas in this packet have games and activities and are very colorful. They will be fun to send and receive!



One thing that seems to really hold up sending letters back and forth, is the fact that there's never a stamp and envelope convenient when you go looking. This is easier solved on your part than it is for your grandchild.

We suggest that you begin your pen pal journey by sending a fun box of supplies to your grandchild that includes stamps and envelopes. However, you could include some fun things like stickers, markers, crayons, colored pencils, (etc. (The post on being pen pals with your grandchild from above has a great section on what supplies you could send your grandchild.)



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This eBook may contain affiliate links. If you decide to click on something I recommend and buy it, I may get a small commission. But. . .here's the best part. . .you get something you want but won't pay anything extra!! Win-win for both of us!

And, just for the record...I only recommend stuff I really love and would tell my own family about.

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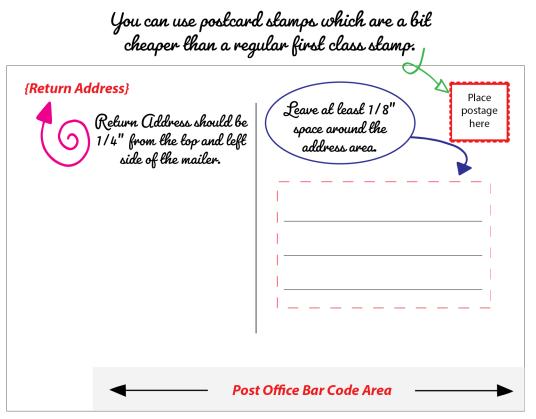
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You can contact us at: www.TheGrandkidConnection.com | grandkidconnection@gmail.com

Intro to Postcards & Templates



Welcome to the wonderful world of postcards! Using postcards are a fun, easy way to connect with your grandkids through snail mail. There are a few things to know before you send your postcards. The diagram below will help you with the *rules about the front of the mailer. Anything goes on the backside! Have fun and send something fun to your grandkids. **These rules are for U.S. Postal Service.*



In this packet, you will find two standard sizes of postcards 4x6 and 5x7.

Here are a few olher things to think about. . .

- Don't ever put personal info that you don't want others to see on the post card (like your grandchild's full birthday or any potentially sensitive info).
- Make sure your postcard is a sturdy coverstock (80 110 lb.)
- Try to obey the "rules" for the front side of the postcard. It's a respect thing. . .and sometimes a delivery thing.
- You can use a first-class Forever stamp for postcards.
- You can put anything you want on the backside of the postcard you want...no rules!



Postcard Sandard Templates

The following two pages have templates for the front side of the postcards. There are two sizes: $4'' \ge 6''$ and $5'' \ge 7''$. The sizes are indicated for each postcard and there are 2 per page.

If you use the front of the templates, they need to be printed double-sided. So you will need to be familiar with how to do that with your printer. Notice that these front templates do not have outlines around the postcards –only the backs do. This is so you don't have to try to line up the front and backs exactly. Considering the differences in printers, it could be an impossible task to line them up 100% perfectly. By leaving the front sides without outside borders, you cut the card according to the lines on the back of the card and the front should fit comfortably inside.

When printing the postcards, it is not necessary to print both sides. You only need to abide by the rules for postcards regarding:

- the receiver's address (with no less than 1/8'' space all the way around)
- leaving the lower right corner of the postcard blank for the post office's bar code information.
- the stamp being put in its normal position in the top right-hand corner.
- the return address would normally go in the top let-hand corner but there is some flexibility there.

However, even though it is not necessary to print the postcards double sided, it does make things easier to visualize where things are placed on the front side if it's printed. All the postcards in this packet are lined up front and back for printing. The beauty of this is that it doesn't even need to be printed a certain direction so if you print one side upside down, it's just fine! If you have trouble with this, please feel free to reach out to us at: *grandkidconnection@gmail.com*.

Place postage here	
Place	7

Place postage here

 Place

 postage

 here

Place postage here

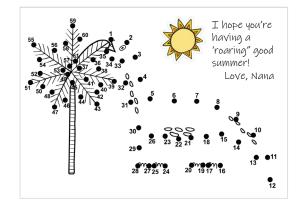


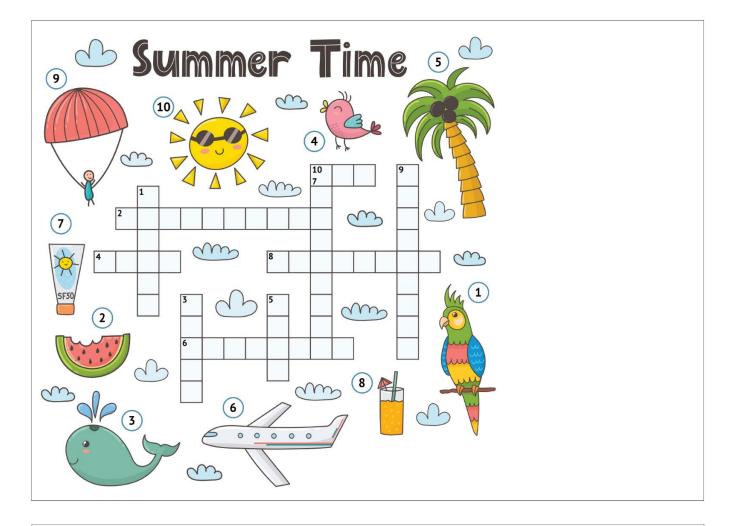
The following pages have activities for the kids to do after they receive the post card from you. They are each $5'' \times 7''$ postcards.

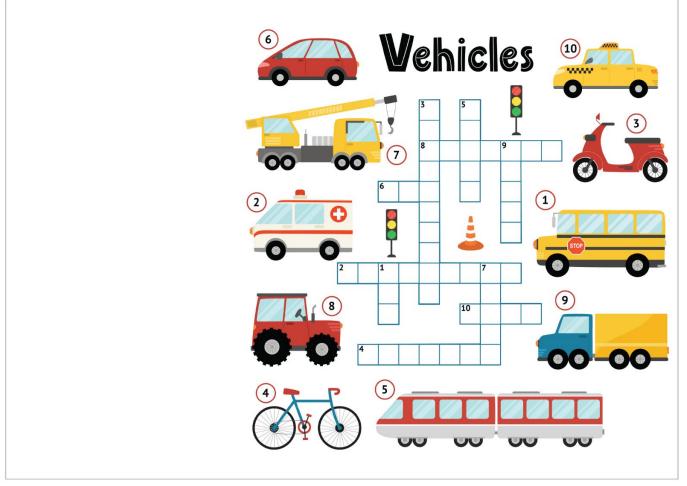
The activities on these postcards are pen and pencil games for the kids. At the end of this section of postcards, you will find a sheet that has the answers to the crossword and wordsearch puzzles. It might be fun to get the kids on video chat and share the answers with them after they complete those puzzles.

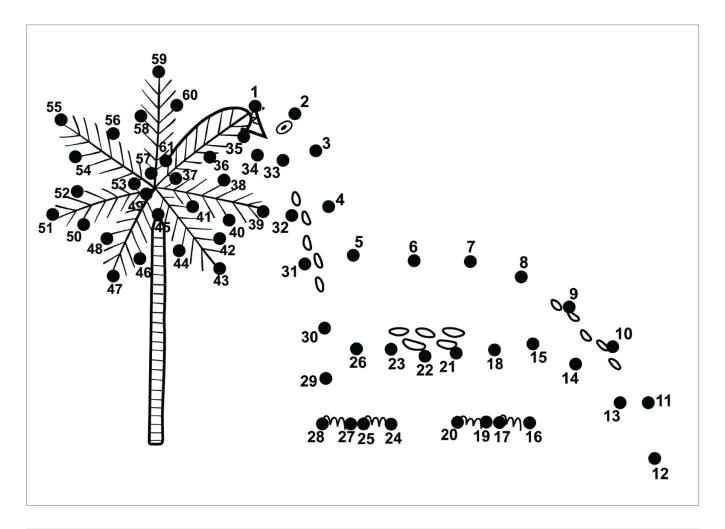
You will notice that there is white space on each of the cards. This is for you to write notes or a greeting to your grandchildren. You can also use the left side of the front of the postcard to write something also. You could also put fun stickers on the card. For instance, put a sun sticker on the dinosaur dot-to-dot or some snowflake stickers on the penguin and snowman dot-to-dot.

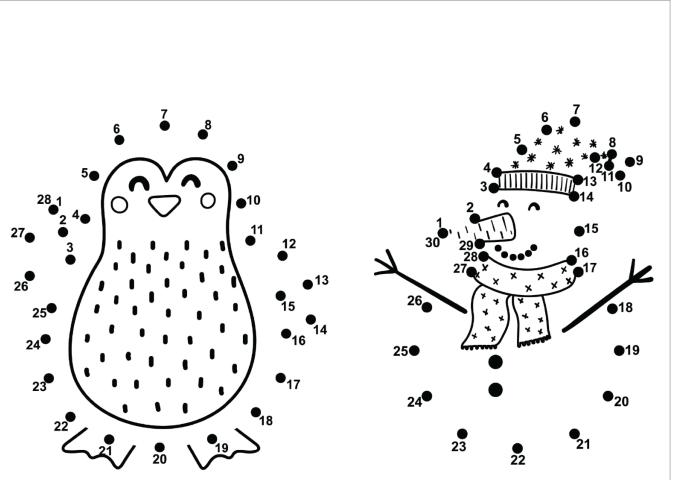












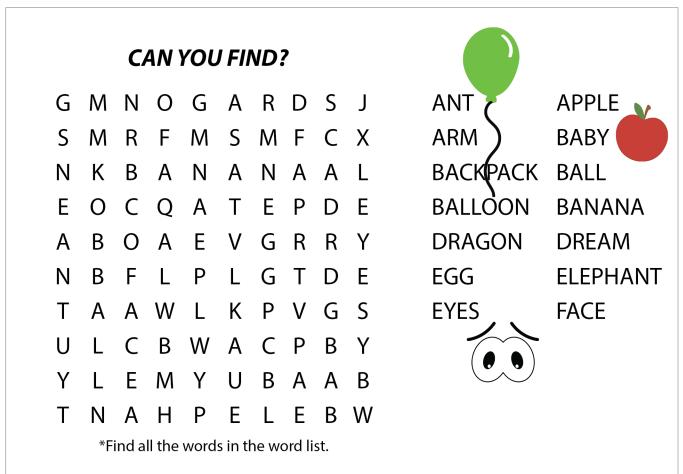


Help the unicorn find his way back to the castle.

Help this little sea creature find her way home.



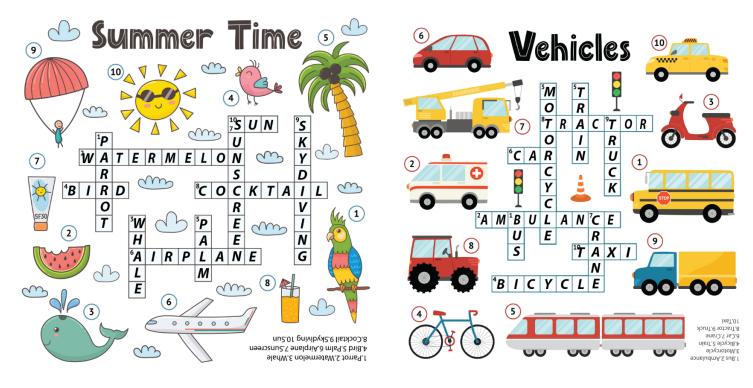




Activity Postcards Answer Key



Crossword



Bookmark Postcards

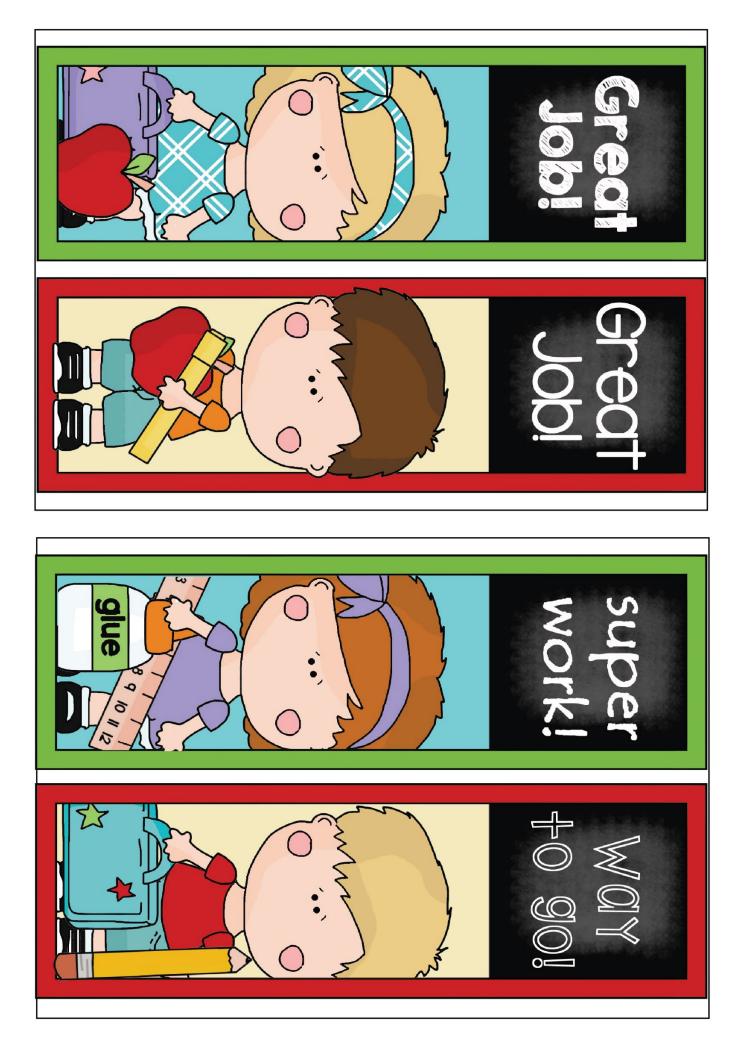
The following pages have fun, full-color bookmarks. The postcards are each $5'' \times 7''$ with two bookmarks on each card.

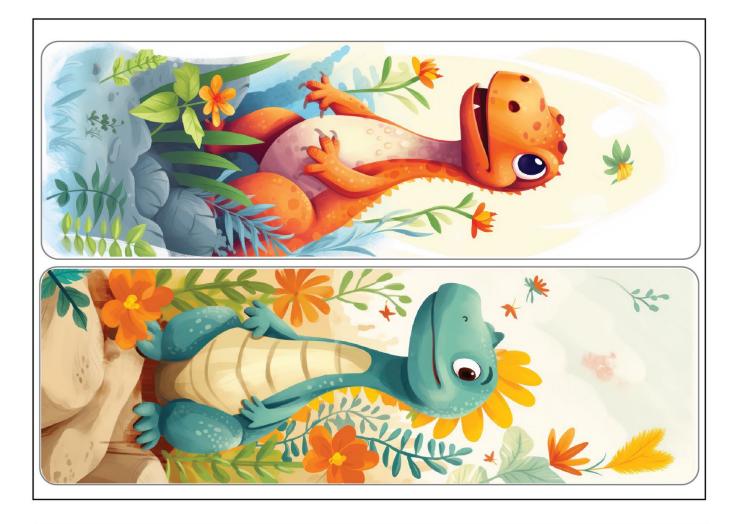
There are a variety of types of bookmarks for you to send to your grandchildren. These are fun to send at the beginning of a school year or when your grandchild has a favorite book that they are reading. With 24 bookmarks to choose from, there is certainly one that will be just right for your grandchild(ren).

When your grandchild receives the postcard, they can cut out the bookmark that they want to use. You may want to encourage them to laminate the bookmark so it will last longer. They could even punch a hole in the top and hang a tassel on it.

This will make a fun gift to send as part of a birthday gift along with a digital gift certificate for a bookstore. Or perhaps you could send the postcard along with an actual book.







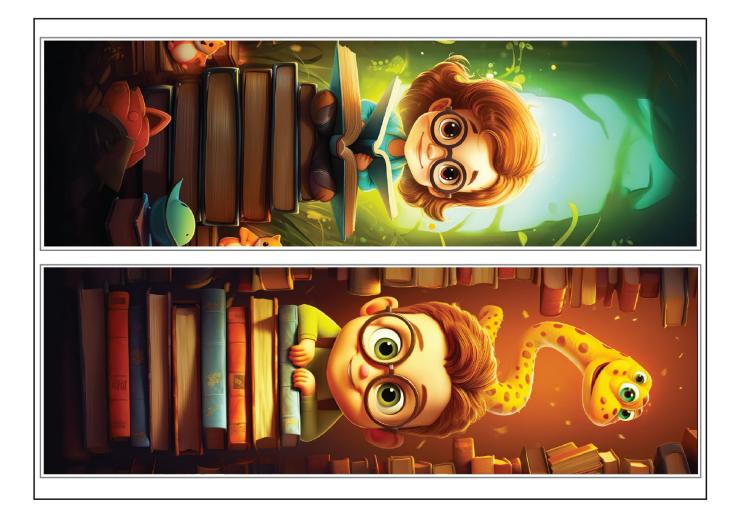




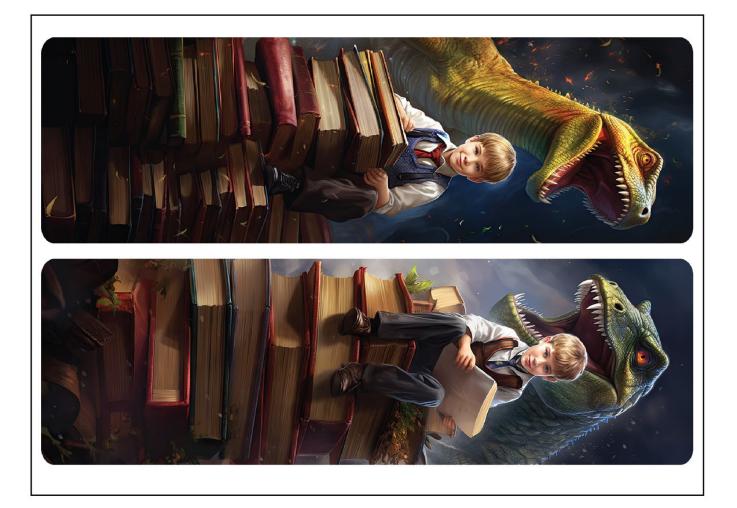














Fun & Funky Border Postcards

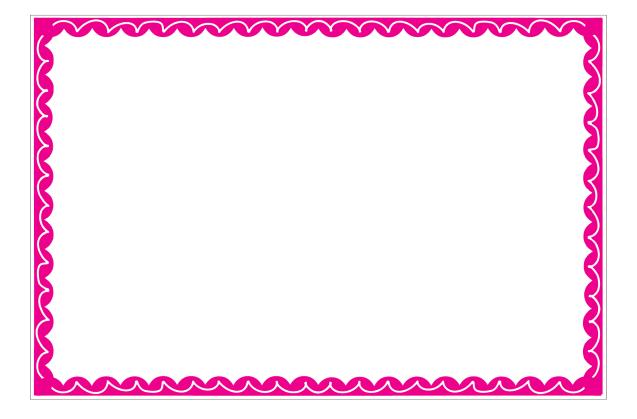
These fun and funky borders adorn these cute postcards. Each postcard is the $5'' \times 7''$ size.

Okay, so you definitely will want to have some postcards to write actual letters or a message of some kind. These postcards have fun borders but are pretty generic so they can work for any situation – birthdays, "Good Luck", just to say "hello", etc.

Use markers, stickers, or paint to brighten up your message. Have fun!

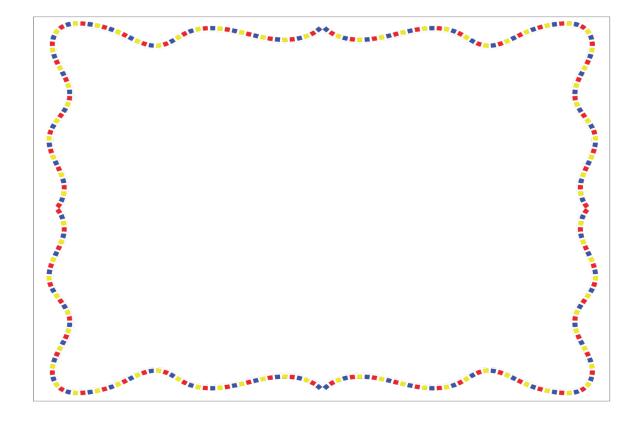


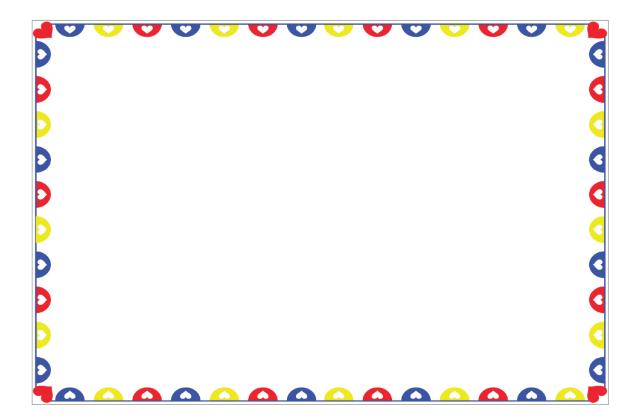
Fun & Funky Postcard Pals Borders



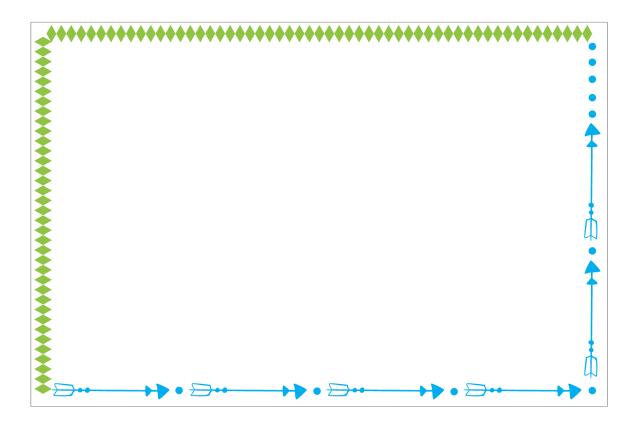


Fup & Fupky Postcard Pals Borders





Fun & Funky Postcard Pals Borders



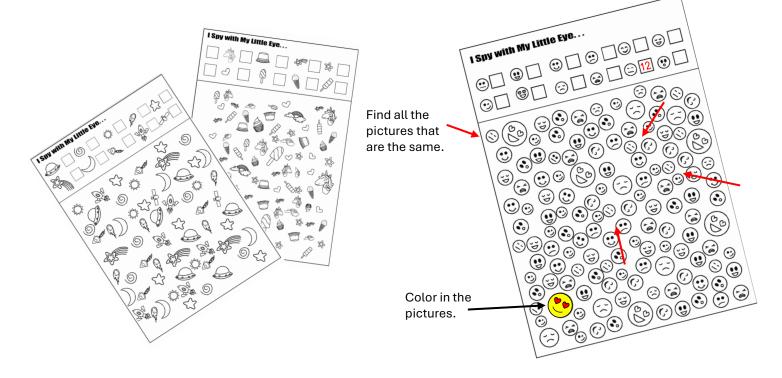


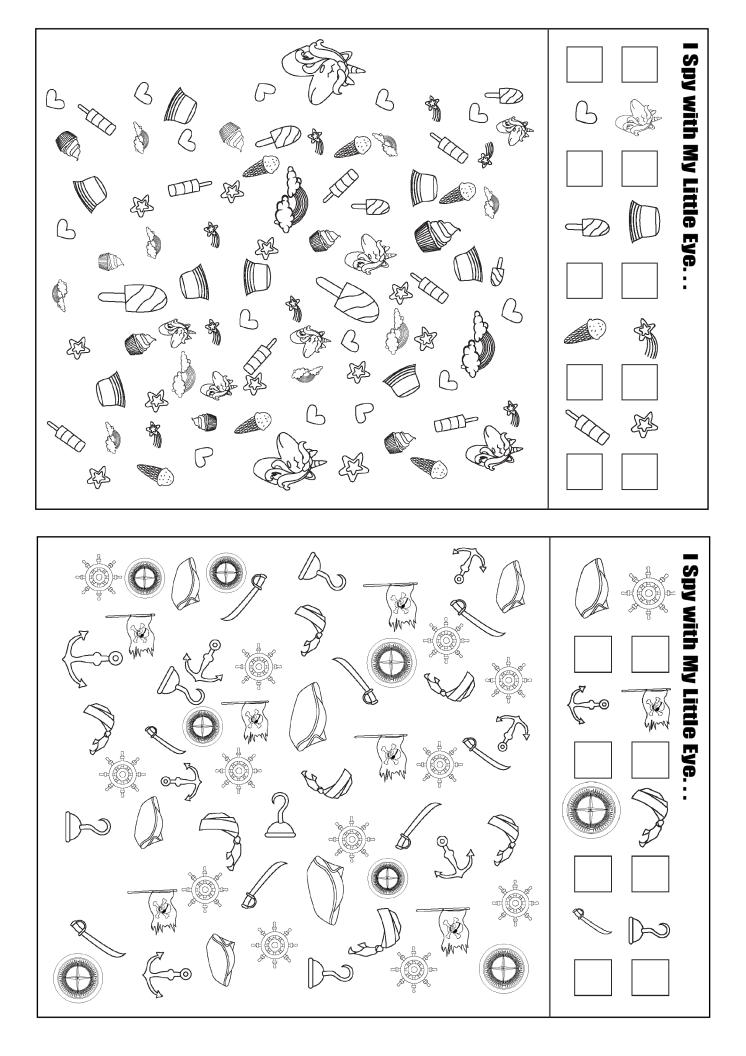


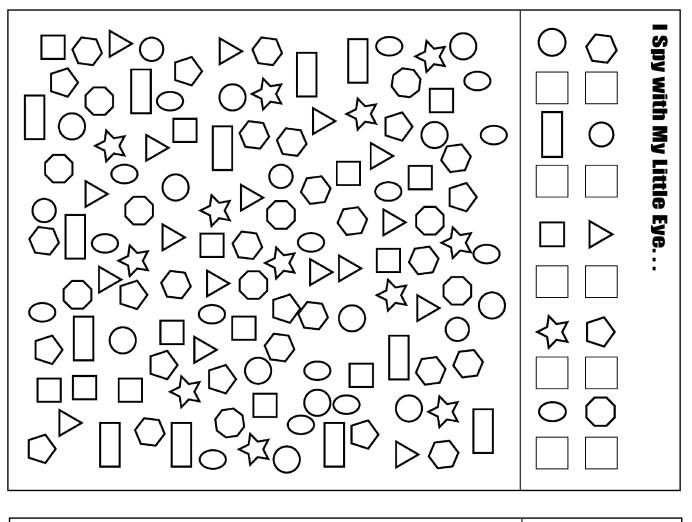
Every kid loves a good game of I Spy. These double as a coloring page too! These postcards are $5'' \times 7''$.

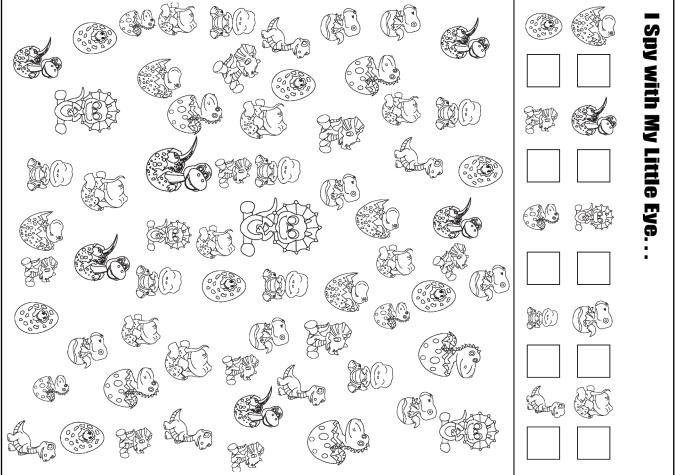
Want to play a game of I Spy long distance?? Well, here are some postcards to send to your grandchildren that are full of I Spy fun. Each postcard has several pictures that the kids need to find on the postcard. After (or before) they find the pictures, they can color them.

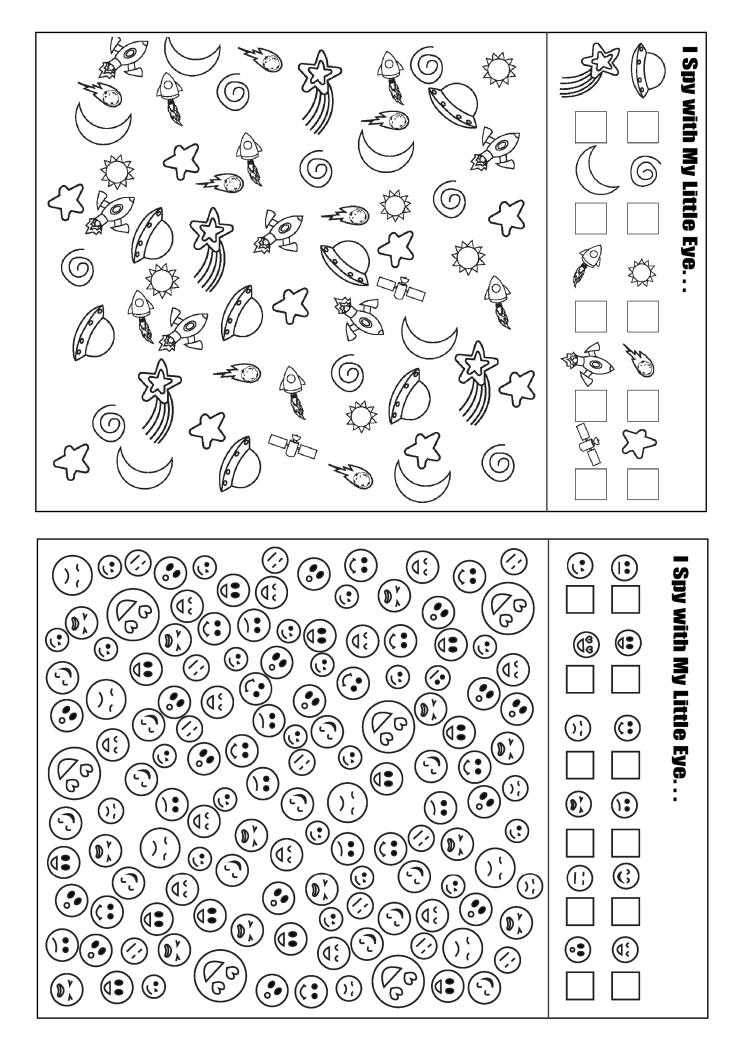
As an alternative, you can send the postcard to the kids and then get together with them on video chat and find the pictures together. Your grandkids will love it!

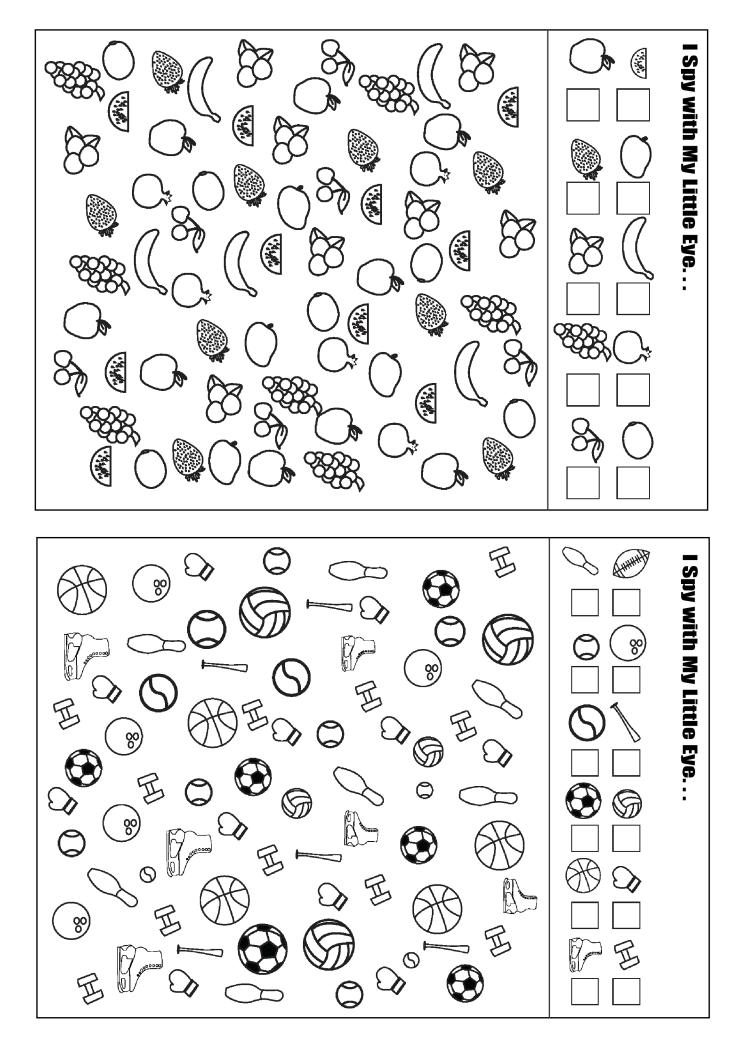














Postcards are a very economical way to send a birthday greeting. These postcards are all the $5'' \times 7''$ size.

Kids absolutely love to get snail mail! And. . .because the birthday of your grandchild is a fun way to help them celebrate while sending them a bit of love through snail mail.

We have included several different types of birthday postcards for you to send to your grandchildren on their special day. From toddlers to teens, you'll find a postcard to fit their personality.

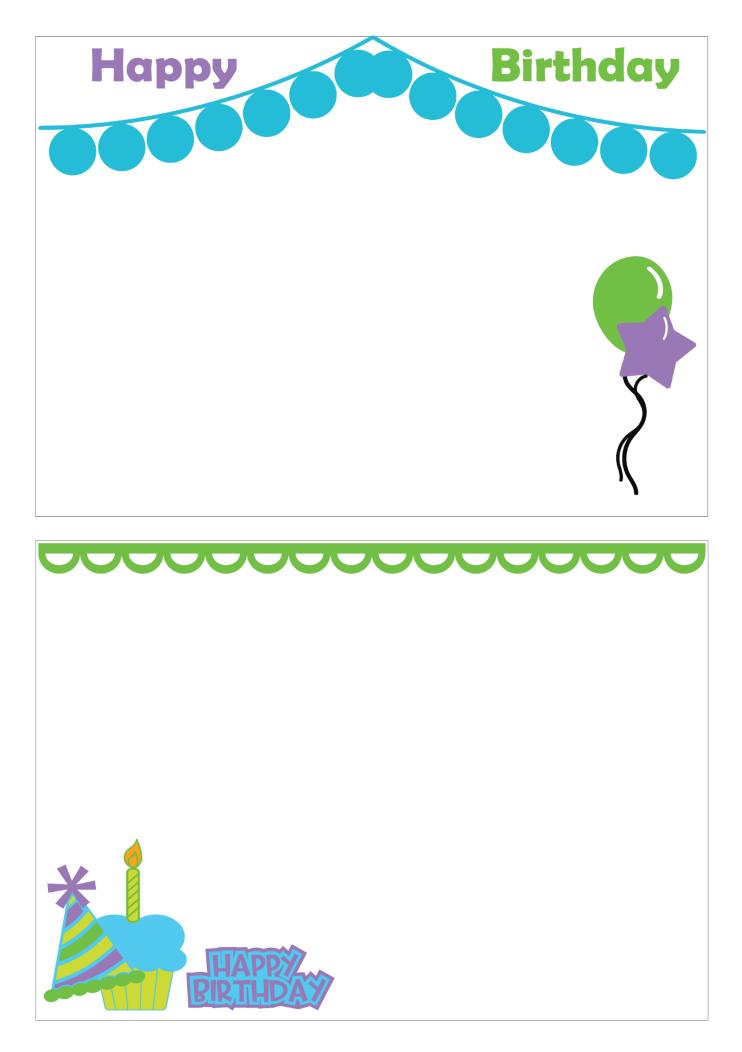


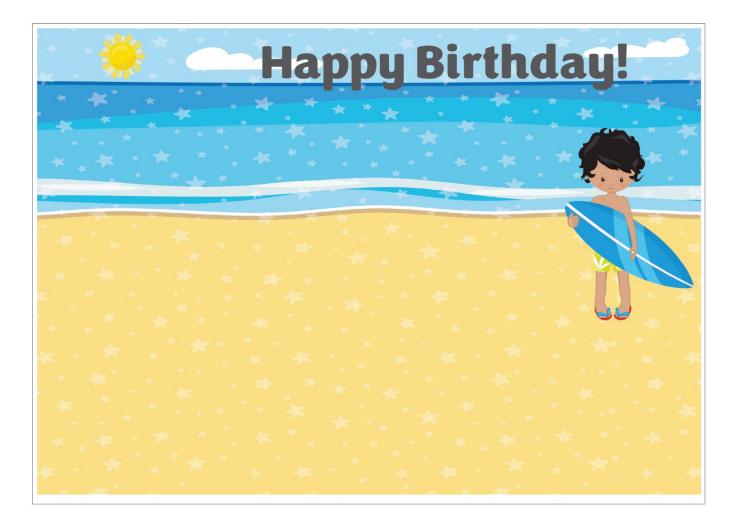












Here's hoping you score lots of happiness on your birthday!







Let's get cooking through snail mail! These are $5'' \times 7''$ sized postcards.

How about this idea? Write out your favorite recipe on a postcard and send it to your grandchild. Then, get on video chat with your grandchildren, make that recipe, and enjoy it together. Depending on the age of your grandchildren, they may need help from their parents. So, send a recipe that matches up with your grandchild's abilities.

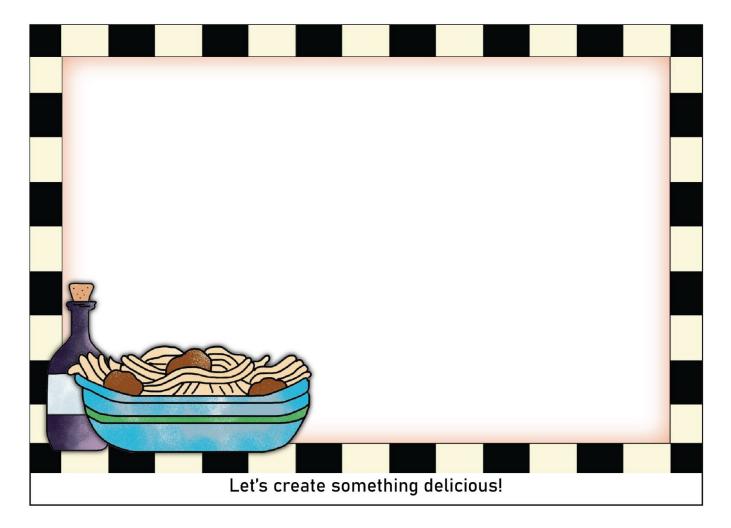
This will serve two purposes -

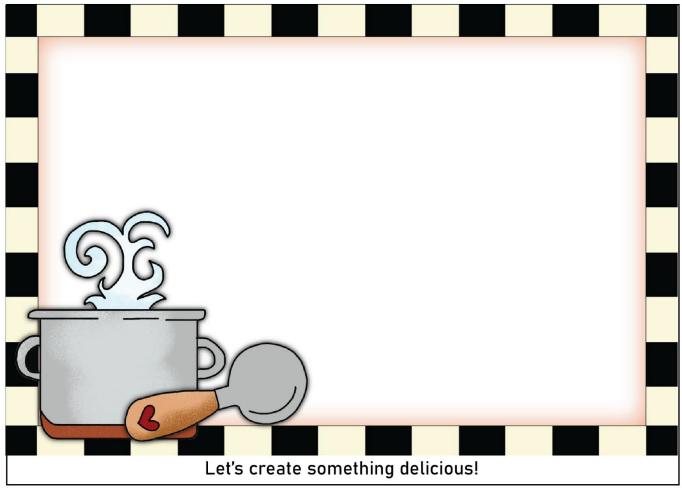
1.) Create an opportunity to connect with your grandchildren;

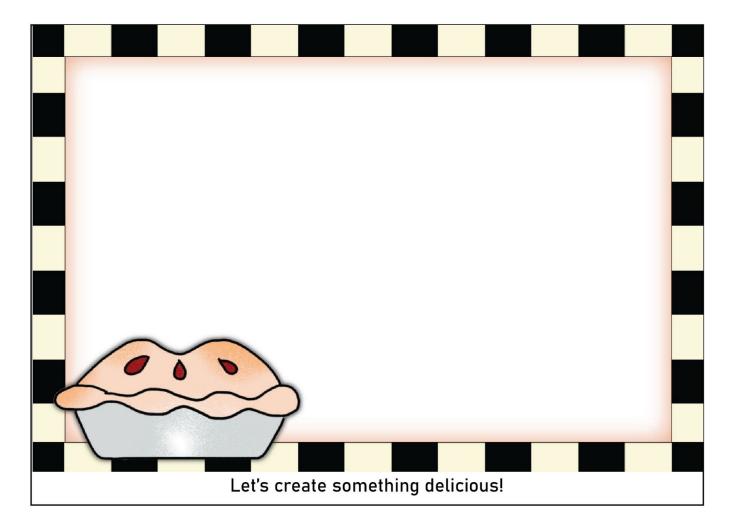
2.) Preserve your legacy by passing on a family recipe and teaching your grandchildren how to prepare it.

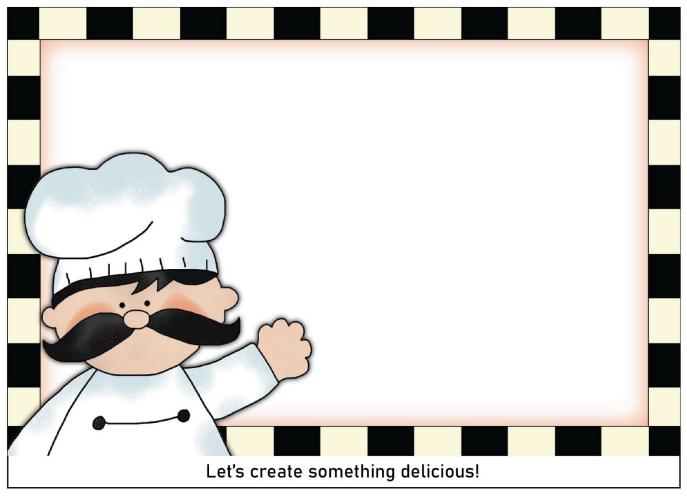
Use these cute recipe postcards to send a snail mail recipe to cook up with those grands!







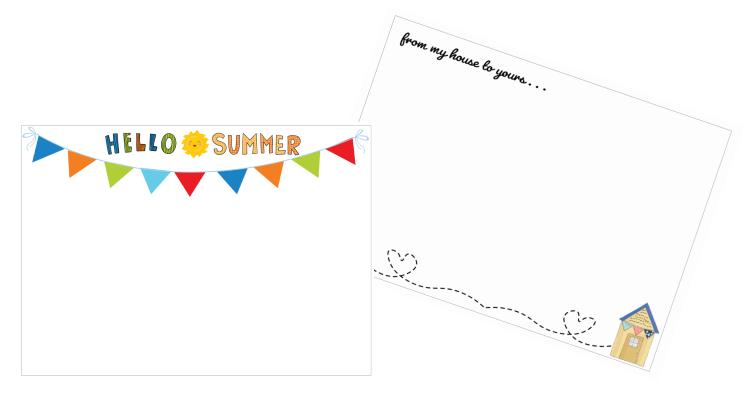


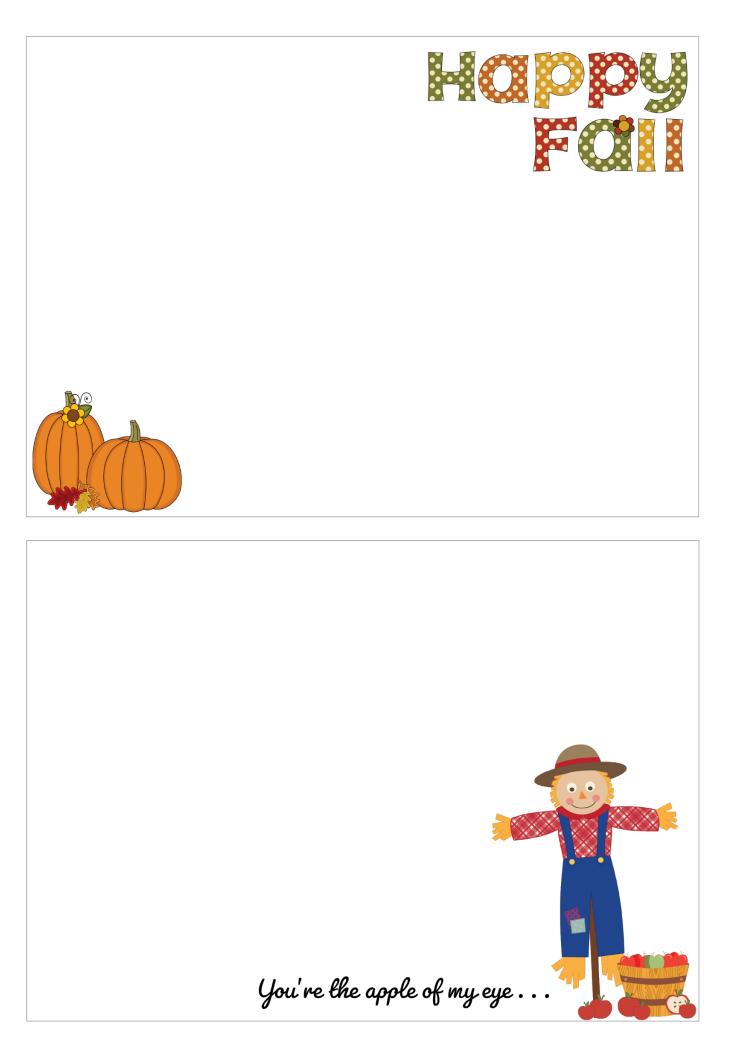


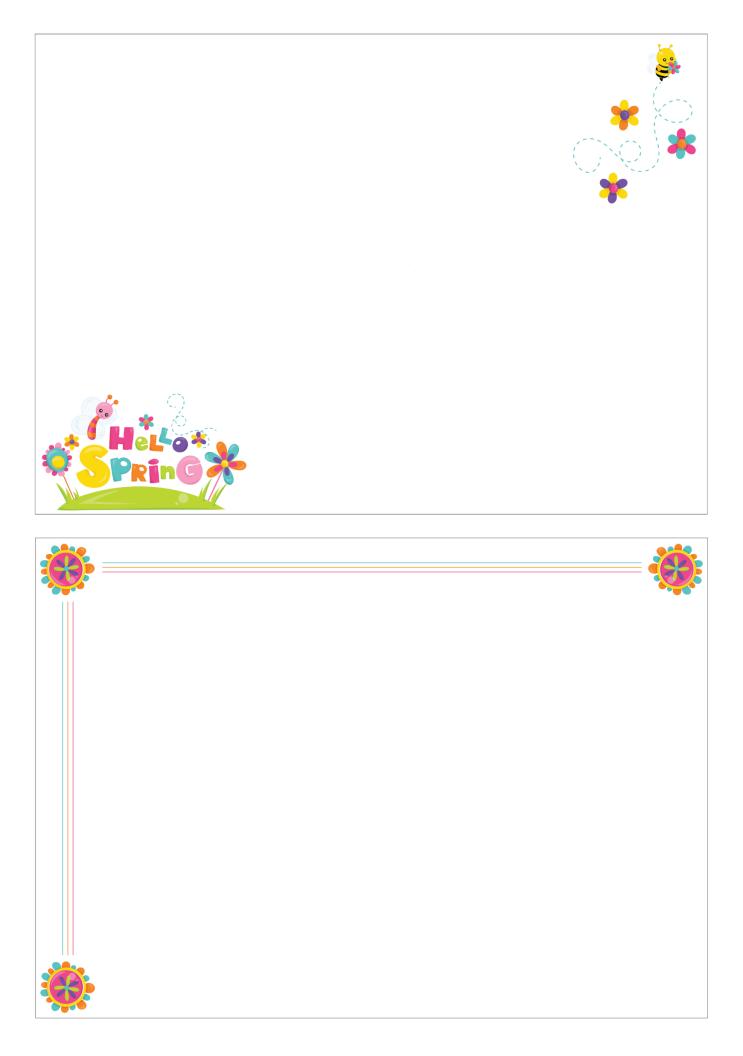
Seasonal Postcards

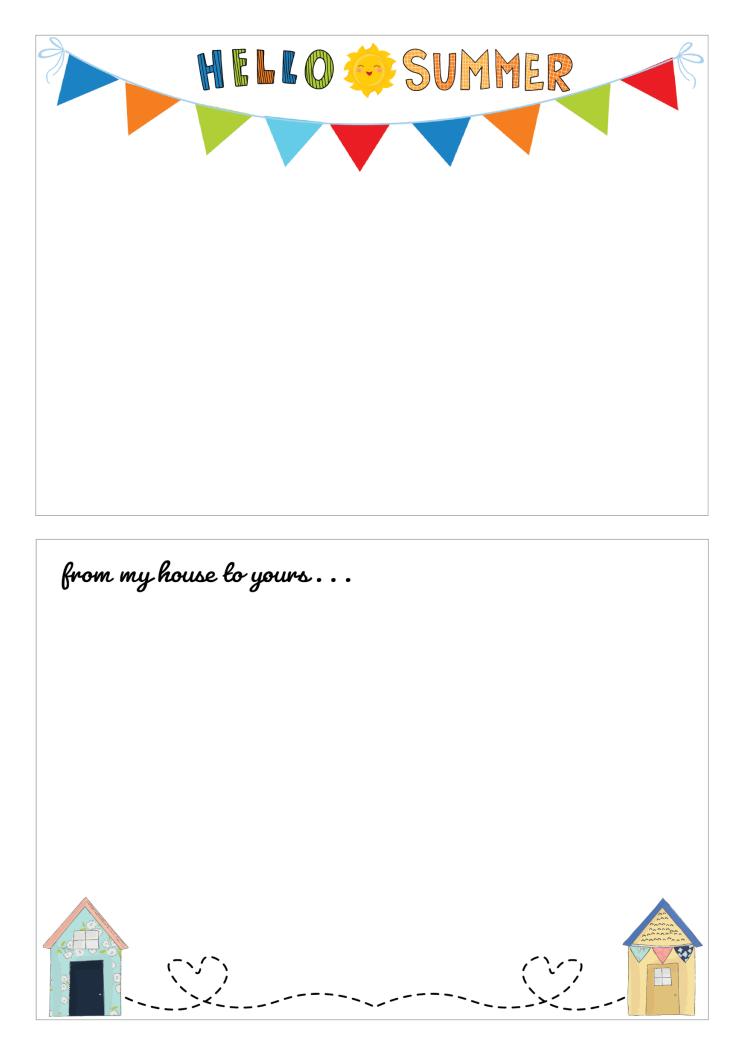
Need a postcard to reflect the season? Here are 8 seasonally-themed postcards to send. These postcards come in the $5'' \times 7''$ size.

These cute seasonal postcards have plenty of room to write a letter or a message to your grandchild. What kid doesn't want to receive a fun piece of snail mail to herald in the new season? Whether it's spring, summer, fall, or winter, create a connection by sending a "not for any specific reason" postcard to your long-distance grandchild.











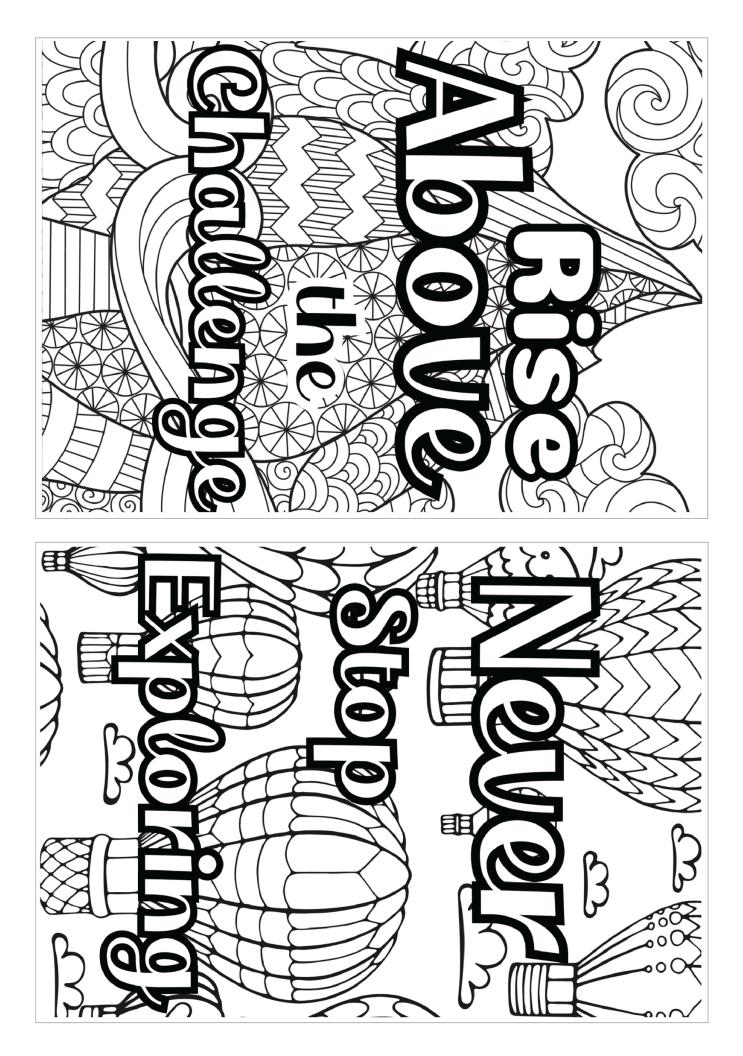
Colorful Quotes Postcards

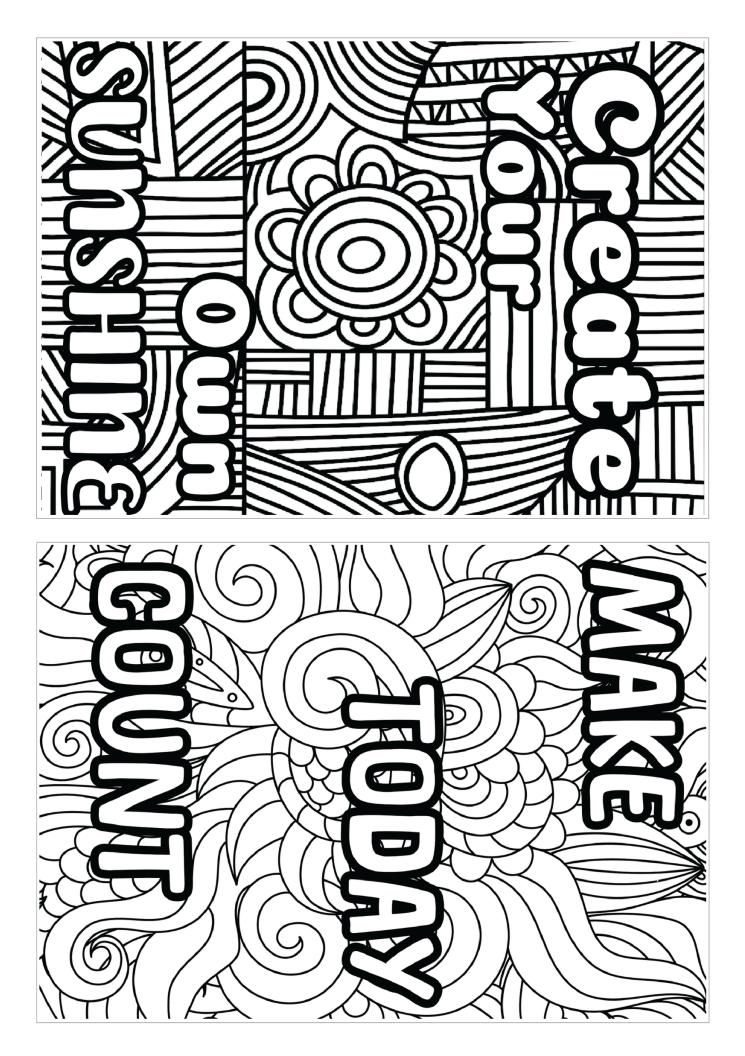
Are these inspirational quotes or coloring pages? Well. . . they're BOTH! These postcards are all the 5" x 7" size.

These quote are on the large postcard size so that there is plenty of room for the kids to color. Once they are colored, they can be hung in their rooms or on the refrigerator to remind them of just how much you are cheering them on in whatever they are doing. Perhaps a teen grand will pin this up in his or her locker as a reminder that someone loves them. . .especially when they are having a tough day.

You can simply print and send these in black and white form. Or, if you enjoy coloring, you can color them in before you send them. Either way, your grandchildren will be receiving snail mail that tells them they are being thought of.







Imagination Postcards

How big is your imagination or rather your grandchild's imagination! These postcards are the smaller $4 \times 6''$ postcard size.

This is a unique way to stimulate imagination while providing lots of fun for your grandchildren. These unique splashes of color will serve as a backdrop for the kids' imaginations. They get to decide what they "see" and then they can draw whatever they want in that space.

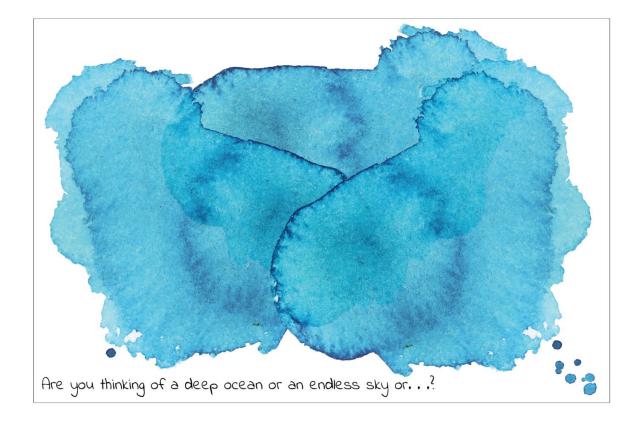
Get together on video chat to talk about what they drew and maybe they will even have a story to tell you about their picture.















Doodles for Postcards

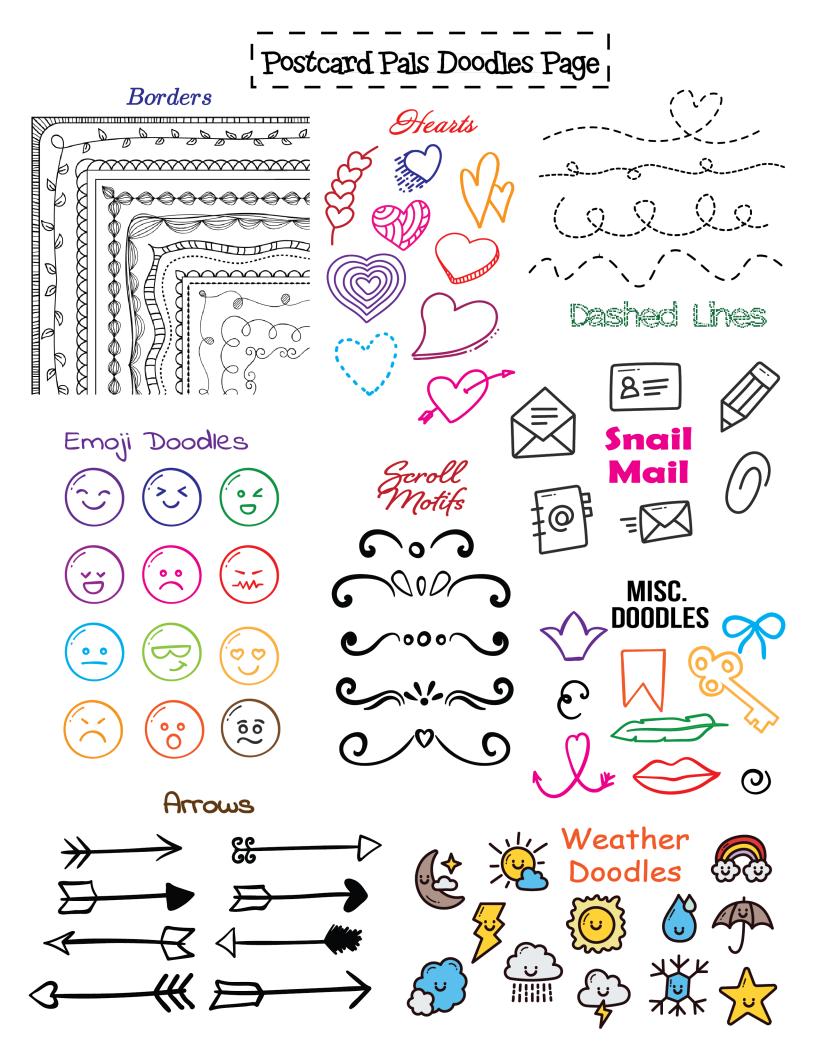
Want to spice up your postcards? Try some of these fun doodles.



If you are naturally artistic, you will probably not need this section. However, for those who are a bit "stick-figure guy" challenged, this is for you.

We have put together some of our favorite doodles on the next page that you can use to give your postcards a bit of flair. These are pretty easy to draw freehand and add to your postcards. If you are unsure, use a light touch with a pencil and then go over it again with a marker or pen.

Use colors or leave black and white. Just get your creative on and doodle away!



More Fun Postcard Ideas

Here are a few more postcard ideas to help you with sending some fun snail mail. . .



Picture Perfect Vacation Postcards



Going on a vacation?

This idea is really simple but requires just a bit of pre-planning. Here is the prep that you need:

- Have the address(es) of your grandchildren.
- Get some postcard stamps (or you can just use regular first-class stamps).
- Grab a pen, pencil, markers, or whatever you want to write with.
- Be prepared to purchase postcards from your vacation one for each day that you are gone.

What Do You Do?

Write a note to your grandchildren on each one of the postcards and put a stamp on each of them. Then mail one postcard each day. Your grandchildren will likely begin receiving the postcards before you even get home and ideally, one each day.

Maybe You're Not Traveling, But...

You can use this idea even if you're not traveling. Pick up some postcards that have local vacation spots and landmarks in your area. Write notes on them and send them off to your long-distance grandchildren – one each day for a week. They will be thrilled to get these non-vacation postcards.

Cereal Box Postcards



Even though the name says, "Cereal Box" Postcards, it doesn't necessarily mean that you have to use cereal boxes. . .although they are pretty fun. Basically, you can use any box that is made of lightweight cardboard.

All you need to do is find a box that has something interesting on it that will make a fun postcard for the grandkids. (You can see the photos for some inspiration.) Then cut one of the box sides to be the size of postcard that you would like to send.

We'll give you more details on the following page. . .



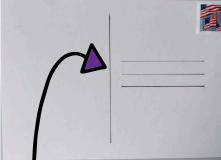
Cereal Box Postcards (cont.)

Cereal Box postcards can be made out of any cardboard box that is about the same weight as a food cardboard box – not heavier.

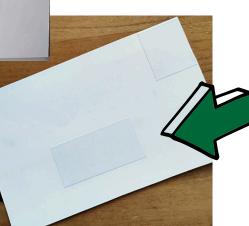
As an alternative, you can use a mailer that is already postcard weight.

Here is a sample of a mailer that had a cool picture of a truck and even had an awesome inspirational caption. We cut up the mailer to highlight the truck and caption.





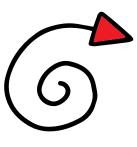
On the back of the postcard, you will need to make sure it can be properly addressed.



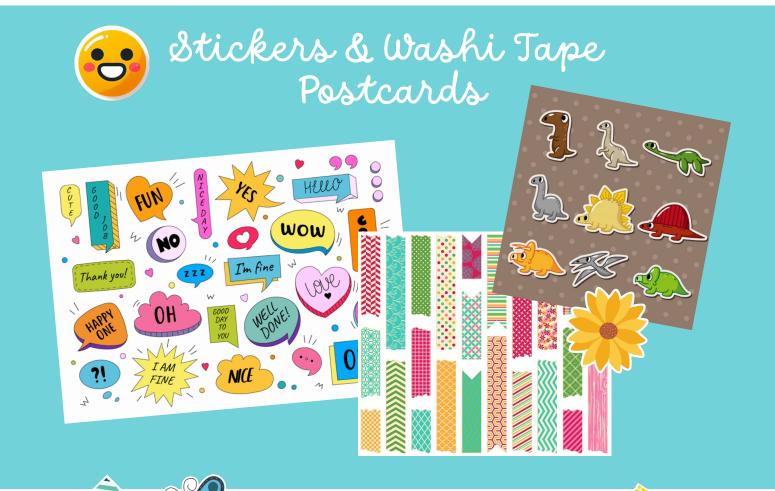
If there is anything on the back of the "postcard" that you need to cover up, we recommend using some full-sized label sheets cut up to hide whatever you want covered up.

You can draw in some address lines with a separating line or leave blank.

> That's about all you need to know. Make sure you follow all the rules about postcards that we talked about a few pages back. Have fun and be creative! You'll never look at your food boxes the same again.







This is a super simple idea that looks cute and festive. All you do is add some washi tape around the edge of a postcard. Get some inspiration from the pictures above.

Make sure that you put the tape on and rub it down really well, so it won't come up. Go over the edges several times rubbing them down securely. You can even use the edge of a plastic card (like a credit card) to smooth and secure the washi tape down.

Use one tape all the way around the postcard or several different tapes alternating them around the edges.

Use tapes that match the feeling of the postcard you are sending – birthday, holiday, surprise, seasonal, just because, or whatever excuse you have to send some snail mail to the kiddos.

Stickers generally need no explanation. Just use as wanted anywhere on the postcard.

Stickers & Washi Tape Postcards (cont.)

Another fun thing to do is to create your postcard out of things you have around your house.

In this photo

You will see some colored cardstock, heavy scrapbook paper (cardstock weight), an insert from a wedding announcement that I had received, and even a file folder. Look! This came in a wedding announcement that I • received. Use it all!

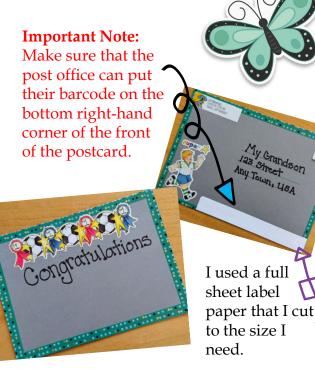




Washi tape is so much fun! It comes in all kinds of colors, finishes, and sizes. You can go crazy decorating with these! Try to keep it under control so the postcards don't get to busy or mis-matched. . .unless that's what you are aiming for. I put them on borders, edges, and across the middle.

So, get creative and send those postcards!

I love creating postcards out of anything that I can find. If what you have on hand is too busy for writing, just glue a solidcolored paper in the area where you want to write.



Thank You for investing in your grandchildrenthey are the future!

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