

## Making birthday cards

by Hans Mol

**Level:** Elementary

**Target age:** 8-10

**Time needed:** 40 minutes

**Objectives:** To make a birthday card with a message.

**Vocabulary:** *Birthday, Father's Day, Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, New Year*; Task words: *send, get, message, cardboard, coloured pencils, glue, drawing, a pair of scissors*

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**Materials:** One copy of Worksheets 1 and 2 for each child, glue, white cardboard paper, scissors, coloured pencils

### Introduce the language

- Tell the children that you are going to talk about birthday cards and other cards people send to each other, and that you are going to make a birthday card.
- Ask the children to bring to class some cards they have received and bring some of your own. Compare the pictures and messages in the cards.

### Worksheet 1

#### 1. Let's read about cards.

- Pre-teach the words needed to understand the reading text: *birthday, Father's Day, Mother's Day, Valentine's Day, and New Year*. Use a (big) calendar to point out when these days are in your country.
- Hand out Worksheet 1 and ask the children to read the text. You can read the text aloud first before the children read it.
- Ask the children to do the matching exercise and feed back as a whole class.

### Worksheet 2

#### 1. Talk about cards you send to people on special days. Tick your answer.

- Explain that you are going to talk about sending cards to people. You do not need to pay attention to the grammar of Do-questions explicitly; it is enough for the children to understand the questions.

- The children read the questions and tick the correct answers. If they want to add another card in question 4, help them to think of the name and write it down. Children may wish to add a card for specific religious holidays that their family celebrates, for instance.
- Feed back with the class by asking some of the children the questions and letting them say their answers without reading.

#### 2. Write messages for a birthday card. Who are you going to send it to?

- Explain that you are going to write messages for cards. Write the word *message* on the board and explain or translate it.
- Let children work in pairs or small groups to think of messages for a birthday card. It helps if they think of a particular person to send the card to. For example: *Happy birthday, Have a great day, You are my best friend! Congratulations!* etc. Accept all messages and write them on the board. Make sure the messages on the board are all correct and that the children copy them correctly.

#### Make a birthday card

- Explain that you are going to make a birthday card with a message in it.
- Make sure there are enough sheets of cardboard paper, coloured pencils, glue and scissors for all the children.
- Go through the instructions with the children, modelling the procedure by folding a sheet of cardboard in half, drawing a picture on the front, etc.

#### Follow-up

You can repeat card-making on many occasions. For instance, the children think of examples of a message they could write on a Valentine's Day card (*You are my best friend, I love you, etc.*). You may have to explain the notion of Valentine's Day.

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### 1. Let's read about cards.

#### Getting cards is fun!

Do your friends send you a card  
when it is your birthday?

**Do you send  
your friends a card?**

You can send birthday cards.

You can give your dad  
a card for Father's Day.

You can give your mum  
a card for Mother's Day

You can send your friends a card  
and say Happy New Year!

*You can send your best friend a card  
for Valentine's Day.*

### 2. Match the cards to the messages. Draw lines.

a) You are the best, mum!

New Year's card

b) I love you, dad!

Birthday card

c) You are my best friend!

Mother's Day card

d) Happy New Year!

Valentine's card

e) You are 10 today! Hooray!

Father's Day card

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### 1. Talk about cards you send to people on special days. Tick your answer.

1. Do you send cards?

Yes, I do.

No, I don't.

Sometimes.

2. Do you get cards?

Yes, I do.

No, I don't.

Sometimes.

3. Do you write messages  
in your cards?

Yes, I do.

No, I don't.

Sometimes.

4. What is your favourite card?

a birthday card

a Father's Day card

a Mother's Day card

a Valentine's Day card

a New Year's card

5. Do you write messages  
in your cards in English?

Yes, I do.

No, I don't.

Sometimes.

### 2. Write messages for a birthday card. Who are you going to send it to?

I am sending my card to \_\_\_\_\_.

His / her birthday is on \_\_\_\_\_.

My message is \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Here you can write your classmates' messages.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_