



MAKER ED

LEARNING IN THE MAKING: Letter Writing & Pop-Up Cards

INTRODUCTION

Do you love receiving snail mail? These days, we send lots of digital messages, like texts and emails (which stands for electronic mail!). Not too long ago, we wrote those same messages by hand, and even today, there's something special about opening an envelope and pulling out a letter or card that's especially for you. You can send other people that warm, fuzzy feeling too.



Letter writing is one of the original forms of communication or correspondence. It's still a great way to capture memories, tell stories, share feelings, document events, or simply connect with others. Letters existed as far back as 500 BC, and in the mid-1800s, stamps were introduced as a way to pay for the mailing.

Letters can include drawings, graphics, words, and more! Your handwriting adds a unique touch too. Writing and drawing can be good outlets for expressing emotion and being reflective.

Got time for some extra flair, and itching to keep your hands busy? Using materials you can find at home, **create a pop-up card that delightfully adds a 3D component.** The art of folding and cutting -- and sometimes gluing! -- allows you to hide a surprise in your letter!

YOUR CHALLENGE

Your challenge is to write a letter - to anyone about anything!

- Pick a person (family, friend, mentor, neighbor, anyone!) that you're writing for, and share something with them.
- The letter can be short or long. It can include text or doodles.
- It can be on a simple sheet of paper, or it can be on a postcard or card. Any form it takes is great!



Subject

English
Language Arts
(ELA) & Math



Standards

CCSS.ELA-
LITERACY.

CCRA.W.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.



Grades

K-2nd
3-5th
6-8th
9-12th



Key Terms

- Greeting
- Signature
- 3D
(three-dimensional)

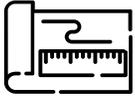


Tools & Materials of Making

Main tools and materials:

- Paper of any kind
- A writing utensil (pencil, pen, marker, crayon)

Additional / optional tools and materials: envelope, stamp, thicker paper (like construction paper or cardstock), scissors, tape or glue, and markers



ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

PLAN

Sometimes, we use “who, what, where, when, why, how” to guide our thinking. Let’s start with “who,” “what,” and “how”!

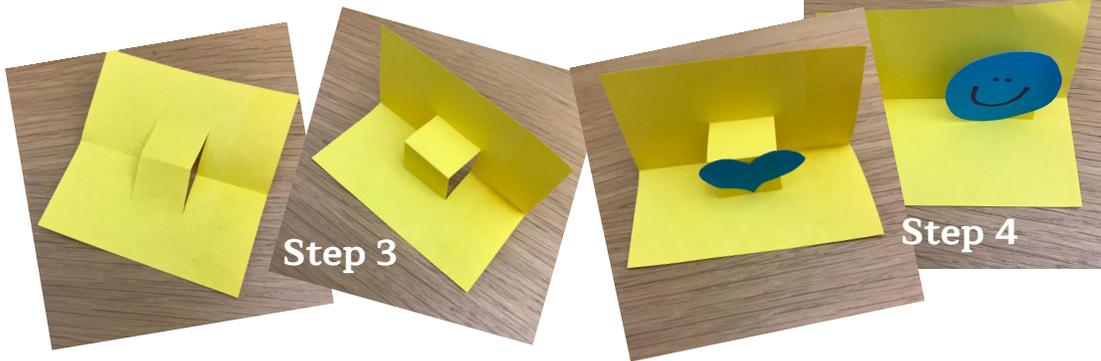
- **Who** is the recipient? It could be a friend, a family member, a teacher, a mailman, a church leader, a neighbor, or a famous person!
- **What** would you like to write about? You can share about a recent activity or event. Maybe there’s a memory or feeling you want to write about. Do you have a wish, question, or appreciation to convey?
- **How** would you like the letter to take shape? Will it be a letter, a postcard, a card, or something different?

WRITE, DRAW, MAKE

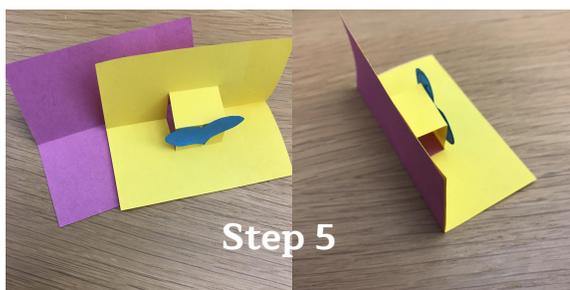
Break out your materials, and go for it!

Try making an easy pop-up card using the steps below:

1. Start with 1 sheet of paper; fold it in half.
2. While folded, cut 2 slits of the same length. It doesn’t matter how far apart the slits are from each other, but don’t cut too deep!
3. Open the sheet of paper back up, and gently poke at the middle section (between the two cuts). You can start to pop it out of the fold!



4. Create a fun element that pops up, and glue or tape it on.
5. Glue or tape an extra piece of paper to the outside of your original folded paper to hide the folds and cuts.



Ta-da! You did it!

Now, feel free to add messages or sketches for the person you’re making it for!

And don’t forget to mail or deliver it!



Watch this activity video here:
bit.ly/MakerEdLetters



For more resources, visit us:
makered.org/blog



Reminder!

Whether you’re writing, sketching or both, there’s no right or wrong way to go. Letters are personal and unique, and that’s all that matters.



A **greeting** is a word or set of words that can start a letter, like “Dear __,” or “Hi there!”



Don’t forget your **signature**!



2D is “flat” like a square, and **3D** is “fat” like a cube.



Helpful Tip:

Don’t forget to test your pop-up element and make sure it’s hidden when the card is closed!



EXTENSION

Try adding more than one pop-up element or shift it away from the center of the card.



MAKER ED

Share your project!
@MakerEdOrg
#MakerEdAtHome
#letterwriting
#popupcards

