Cards from the heart

Topic
Students will discuss why people give and receive cards and reflect on how giving and receiving cards makes them feel. Students will design and make their own pop-up card for someone they care about, after considering various design options.

Year levels: Early Years (5-7 years)

Values for Australian Schooling
- Care and Compassion
- Doing Your Best
- Fair Go
- Freedom
- Honesty
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion
- Individualism
- Creativity
- Thoughtfulness

KLA focus
- The Arts
- Society & Environment
- Technology

Lesson plan

Introductory activity

Activity 1: Let’s talk about cards
Before the class, ask students to bring in cards from home.

Students discuss cards. What are they? When do we give them? How do we feel when we give and receive them?

Use the cards students have brought in and any you have brought in to discuss the different occasions when cards are given: Thank You, Birthdays, Anniversary, Religious Events, New Year, Invitations, Valentine’s Day, Missing You, Friendship, Bon Voyage, Graduation.

Students identify what the different cards are used for and when they are given. Which cards have students given and received? How did this make them or the other person feel?

Ask students to brainstorm why you might send someone a Thank You card. Discuss which values are reflected in sending such a card, for example, showing you appreciate someone’s kindness, being thoughtful.
Guided inquiry activity

Activity 2: How do cards look and feel?
Ask students to think about different ways to make cards and the different materials that can be used. Distribute different materials used in making cards including types of paper (plain, coloured, glossy, textured, tissue, newspaper), types of cardboard (thick, thin, corrugated, coloured), fibres and fabrics, any recycled materials like egg cartons, milk cartoons, bottle tops, etc. Students discuss the feel of the materials, consider the size, colour and shape and are assisted in naming them.

Culminating activity

Activity 3: Let’s make pop-up cards!
Ask students: What are pop-up cards? Show some examples and show students step by step how to make them. Guidelines can be obtained from the following website: http://www.macnexus.org/users/dianahunt/C-Cards.htm

Ask students to decide on the size of the card they want to make before they start. Invite the class to decide what would be a suitable size, taking into consideration the maximum size an envelope needs to be to have a 50-cent postage stamp and the stability to stand upright. Draw a picture of the size for students on the board so they can make sure their folded paper/cardboard fits it.

A template for a pop-up card is provided.

Some basic steps to make a pop-up card are:

- Step 1: Fold the piece of paper or cardboard in half to make the inside of the card.
- Step 2: Rule lines that are 3 cm apart and 3 cm deep on the fold, and use scissors to make two cuts. (For younger students, prepare a 3-cm square template so that the students can draw around it.)
- Step 3: Pull the section you have cut out to make the fold come out.
- Step 4: Create some artwork to include in the centre of the card. (This artwork will need to be smaller than the card.)
- Step 5: Paste or tape your artwork or message to the pop-out part and fold the card again to make it flat.
- Step 6: Use one more piece of paper or cardboard for the outside of the card.

Safe work practices need to be agreed upon such as not running, being responsible and passing scissors correctly and not pointing scissors at anyone, using glue carefully, sharing resources and working cooperatively together.

Invite students to use tools such as pencils and crayons, scissors, rulers, glue and sticky tape to join and shape the materials provided and make a pop-up card for a special person of their choice. Encourage students to be as creative as possible using the resources.
Activity 4: Reflection

Students show their card to the class explaining how they made it, why they chose the materials they used, how it works and who the lucky recipient of their unique pop-up card will be. Discuss the process of card making, giving and receiving and how it fits in with values. In a Think, Pair, Share activity, students could ask questions such as:

- How does your card show you care for someone?
- How does your card show your true feelings?
- Why did you choose the colours, materials and words on your card? How unique (or individual) was your card?
- How much freedom did you have to select the materials you did for your card?
- How have you ‘done your best’ in making your card?
- How did you take responsibility to ensure you worked in a safe manner?
- What do you like about other students’ cards? Why?
- How are you going to give this card to your special person?
- After you have given this card to your special person, think about what happened. How did they react? What did they say to you? How did you feel?