Send Me a Postcard!

Congratulations on your purchase of this Really Good Stuff® **Send Me a Postcard!**—a hands-on resource you can use to support narrative writing.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:
- A set of 120 *Postcards* with 30 unique images showing scenes from natural landscapes, modes of transportation, sports, and entertainment.
- This Really Good Stuff® Teaching Guide

Management
- Laminate this Teaching Guide or store it in a binder for future use. Or download another copy of it from our website at www.reallygoodstuff.com.
- Demonstrate how to use the *Send Me a Postcard* set and show students where to store the remaining *Postcards* once they make their selection from the set.

Overview

Send Me a Postcard! helps young writers become authors. They turn into world travelers as they write postcards about real or imagined experiences. Each consumable *Postcard* in the set provides one side with lines for letter writing, which is designed to support clear handwriting. The other side includes a unique photo showing scenes of natural landscapes, modes of transportation, sports, and entertainment. Each *Postcard* comes with a statement about the photo to help build background knowledge and increase vocabulary skills. Students can write themselves into the scene as they create their narratives. Throughout this process, students are exposed to the letter writing process and become familiar with how letters need to be addressed to successfully go through the postal system.

Introducing *Postcards*

As an introductory lesson provide students with some background on why we write postcards and how to address them. Taking a field trip to a local post office can help students understand the postal system and give them an opportunity to see the importance of correctly addressing their letters. A great way to start practicing address writing is to have students write their own addresses in the correct format. Review the components of the address. Start with the number, which identifies the exact home; followed by the street name, the city, state, and ZIP code. Explain that the ZIP code was established so that large amounts of mail can quickly be coded and sorted to send to local post offices around the world. Give students an overview on stamps and why we purchase stamps. Explain that mail is typically priced according to weight and the stamps help fund the postal process. This is a good opportunity to present **Send Me a Postcard!** and compare the *Postcards* to traditional letters in an envelope. Discuss the weight difference and why postcards would be an economic alternative to traditional letters. Having students calculate the prices of multiple stamps or the postage for various letter weights allows for an integrated math lesson.

According to The United States Postal Service, "every person in the United States—no matter who, no matter where—has the right to equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service." For more than 231 years, the Postal Service has delivered on that promise, continually changing according to the times and technology. For centuries, this universal mail system has supported relationships between friends, families, and community members. United States postal workers process, transport, and deliver the mail as follows:

1. The customer deposits his or her letter in a collection box. After a postal worker takes the letter from the box to the post office, it goes on a truck headed to the mail processing plant.
2. Letters are sent through a machine to separate them by ZIP code. Postmarks that show the date and the location the letters are sent from are applied.
3. The addresses are scanned.

4. Barcodes are applied to letters in order to identify each piece of mail. The barcode helps sort the letters into a machine based on ZIP codes and locations for delivery.

5. Letters are placed on a tray with other letters bearing the same ZIP code range. That tray goes on to the airport for flight. Once the tray arrives at its destination, it is processed at the local post office for delivery.

6. Letters go through the barcode sorter for a final sort.

7. Letters are provided to specific carriers for each delivery route and loaded into the mail vehicle. The carrier drives and delivers the letters to the specific address.

For more information regarding the United States Postal System visit:
http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/pubs/pub100/welcome.htm

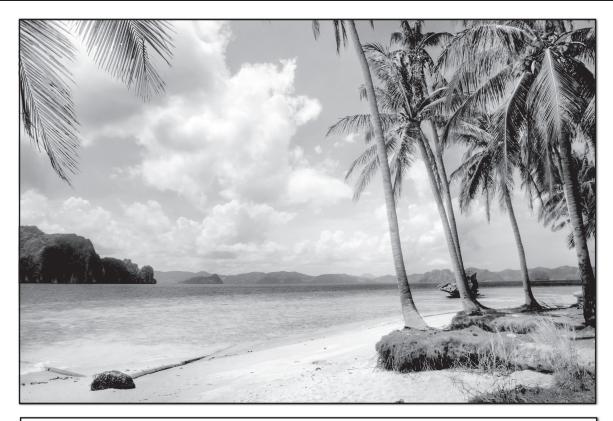**Purpose of a Friendly Letter or Postcard**

A friendly letter or postcard is a way of communicating between two or more people who are usually well acquainted. There are many uses and reasons for writing a friendly letter, but usually friendly letters consist of personal topics. A postcard is a modified form of a friendly letter that is usually written by someone traveling. The front of the postcard displays a picture of something representing a particular location or region (scenery, historical artifacts, hotels, landmarks, etc.) The back of the postcard is where the letter is written. Students' *Postcards* should be written as follows:

- **Receiver's Address:** Write the recipient's name and address on the lines on the right-hand side of the *Postcard*. The top line is for his or her name. The street address goes on the next line, and the city, state, and ZIP code go on the bottom line. Don't forget to include the country—you might not have to do this at home, but you do if you're traveling out of the country or sending the card from the U.S. to a foreign country.

- **Salutation:** The left-hand side of the *Postcard* is for your message. Start by writing "Dear or Hi ... (the name of the person you're writing to)." **Note:** There is a comma after the end of the salutation (you can use an exclamation point also if there is a need for some emphasis).

- **Body:** The body is where you write the message of the *Postcard*. Tell the receiver about your trip or experience. State where you are and what it's like, for example: "I'm in Paris, it's great!"
  - o Write a sentence about what you're doing right now, for example: "I'm writing to you while I'm waiting for the double-decker tour bus."
  - o Write a sentence about your accommodation, like: "The hotel is beautiful, it has a big fountain outside and we have a view of the ocean."
  - o Then include a description of something you did on one of the days that you enjoyed, such as: "Yesterday we went on a boat trip around the bay. I loved finding out about all the sea life here."
  - o Write a comment about something particularly good, bad or funny about the trip, like: "I tried frog's legs but they were horrible—they tasted like cardboard!"

- **Closing:** Let the reader know that you are finished with your *Postcard*; end with Sincerely, Wish you were here, See you next week, Miss you, and so on. Note that there is a comma after the end of the closing, and only the first word in the closing is capitalized. The closing is usually indented to the right on a postcard.

- **Signature:** Your signature goes after your closing (next to the closing or under it).

- **P.S.:** If you want to add anything additional to the *Postcard*, you write a P.S. (post script) and the message after that.

- **Postage:** Stick a postcard stamp onto the top right corner of the *Postcard* and send it through the mail.

Discover this tropical oasis in the Caribbean. The island is filled with palm trees, shells, beaches, and turquoise waters ready to be explored.

Really Good Stuff
Fun & creative teaching tools for today's classroom®

Place Stamp Here

Dear Mom!
I am getting ready for the beach. The sun is so strong here. Our hotel is right on the beach and in town. Yesterday we went on a boat ride. There are so many water sports here. The food is so fresh but I still miss your cooking!
                    Miss you, Jonah

Mom Hutkin

1234 Great Street

Big City, Florida 54321-1234

USA

Suggested Postcard Recipients:

Classmate	Family members	Relative
Teacher	Friend outside of school	Pen pal
Principal	Neighbor	Book author
Across the grade-level	Pet	Book character