

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Holidays, Written Communication, Greeting Cards

Materials List

- ✓ Stencils (thin enough to cut)
- ✓ Sticky-back adhesive sheet
- ✓ Embossing foil (gold)
- ✓ Cardstock cut to desired size
- ✓ Glue stick or glue
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Optional: glitter or powder

This activity can be used to support the teaching of: National Visual Arts Standards:

- Experiment w/ forms, structures & materials (Creating, Grades K-8)
- Art, society, and culture (Connecting: Grades K-8, 11.1)

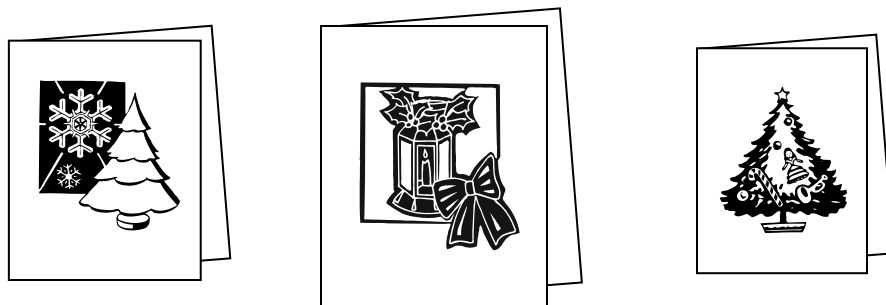
Common Core English Language Arts Standards:

- Write narratives (Grades K-8, Writing, 3)
- Write with organization & development (Grades 3-8, Writing, 4)
- Grammar and Spelling (Grades K-8, Language, 1, 2)
- Use knowledge of language when writing (Grades 2-8, Language, 3)



Foiled Stencil Cards

Shiny Greeting Cards for Sparkling Greetings



To Do and Notice

1. Bend the edge of a piece of adhesive and peel off liner to expose backing.
2. Press a trimmed stencil onto the exposed adhesive to adhere.
3. Press a piece of embossing foil onto the exposed adhesive **SHINY-SIDE-UP**. Rub the top of the foil. Peel the foil from the adhesive. Some of the gold should come off of the foil and remain on the adhesive. If no gold was removed from the foil, turn the embossing foil over and repeat. Repeat the process as desired until all exposed adhesive areas are covered with gold. Optional: If slight amounts of tackiness remain, dust with glitter or talcum powder.
4. Leaving the stencil on the adhesive sheet, cut off any excess or undesired areas of stencil.
5. Glue the foiled stencil to the front of a blank, folded cardstock “card”.
6. Add a greeting and deliver as desired.

The Content Behind the Activity

Greeting cards have actually been used for centuries, even as far back as Ancient Egypt and China. The first recorded modern Christmas card, however, is attributed to artist John Calcott Horsley, hired by Sir Henry Cole in 1843 to design a holiday card that he could send to friends. The greeting card industry has grown ever since, fueled by developments in 3 main areas: printing and mechanization, postage, and literacy. Louis Prang started a lithographic business near Boston in 1856 and perfected the process. He is generally credited with turning greeting cards into an industry. Postal services began using postage stamps in 1840 (England) and services and availability increased. An increase in literacy throughout the 1800’s also led to an increase in letter-writing and other forms of written communication. Today, the greeting cards represent a multi-billion dollar industry.

Taking it Further

Use this method to create ornaments instead of cards by punching a hole into the foiled, cut-out stencil and hanging it with an ornament hook or unbent paper clip.

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=61 for more resources!)

For more information on the history of greeting cards and Christmas cards, visit:

- www.emotionscards.com/museum/john_calcott_horsley_ra_1817.html
- <http://www.emotionscards.com/museum/history.html>
- <http://www.greetingcard.org/AbouttheIndustry/History/tabid/72/Default.aspx>