

Fossil Postcards

This activity incorporates art and writing skills. Students will observe fossils, artistically represent them on paper, and then use the back of the paper to write a note to a friend or family member about their fossil. This activity could be done intermittently throughout the day as students finish their other assignments since it requires little set up or teacher assistance.

The following ***Virginia Language Arts Standards of Learning*** may be met with this activity and it may be expanded to suit many grade levels. Additionally, many of the general ***Virginia Visual Arts guidelines*** apply to the postcard activity.

K.11 The student will print in manuscript.

- a) Print uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet independently.
- b) Print his/her first and last names.

1.13 The student will write to communicate ideas for a variety of purposes.

- c) Revise by adding descriptive words when writing about people, places, things, and events.
- g) Share writing with others.

2.12 The student will write stories, letters, and simple explanations.

2.13 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

3.9 The student will write for a variety of purposes.

4.7 The student will write cohesively for a variety of purposes.

5.7 The student will write for a variety of purposes: to describe, to inform, to entertain, to explain, and to persuade.

6.7 The student will write narration, description, exposition, and persuasion.

7.7 The student will write in a variety of forms with an emphasis on exposition, narration, and persuasion.

8.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, including narration, exposition, persuasion, and informational.

Activity: Cut pieces of cardstock (3 X5 inches) or use index cards for the postcards, placing them near the fossil casts (or other fossil materials) so that your students may use the fossils as inspiration for the front of the postcards. On one side of the card, show students where to leave a space for the stamp and mailing address. Students may free write or write to a prompt or question. *Suggested prompts/questions:* Describe your fossil and explain why you chose it. Use your favorite fossil fact to write your postcard. How would you describe the “life” of a fossil to someone in your family? Encourage creativity. You may make this a more in-depth writing assignment by having students brainstorm and draft their postcards. Encouraging them to mail or hand deliver their postcards to someone would be a great conclusion!