

Parent/Teacher Fun and Learning Activity Manual

Welcome to the Print Factory! You are about to enter an exciting world of art and creativity. In the Factory, your imagination can roam free and your fingers will itch to start creating and printing.

At the Print Factory, you can create all types of artwork and print projects ranging from cards to banners, from 3D ornaments to origami frogs, from stationery to notepaper, from posters to flyers, from awards to coupons, from bookmarks to stickers, and even party decorations. You can draw pictures yourself using art tools like Brushes, Stamps, Crayons, Crazy Lines and Markers. You can color in your art, create a mirror image of it, or even turn it upside down! Or you can look through the Picture categories to find just the right piece of art you need. The Print Factory also comes with special paper to print out your masterpieces. Standard paper is fine, too.

You probably have plenty of printing ideas of your own that you'd like to experiment with right now. But just in case you run out of ideas, we've put together a few that we hope you like. We've divided them according to the seven Easels: Posters, Decorations, Cards, Awards, Banner, Stationery, and Bookmarks and Stickers. So, for example, if you'd like a great idea for creating cards, take a look at the suggestions listed in that section of this guide. Or, if you need ideas for making fancy party decorations, flip to the Decoration section. Following each Easel's printing ideas is a list of helpful hints - suggestions on how to use the various creativity tools and how to interact between the Easels.

You see printed materials around you every day. Now it's your turn to create printed marvels yourself! So let your imagination soar. The possibilities are endless!

Helpful Hints for using the Creativity Tools:

Use any of the drawing tools like Crayon, Marker, Brush and Fill to design and decorate your own creations.

Use the Crazy Lines tool to decorate the edges of your creations.

Use the Picture tool to choose between the following categories of clip art: Animals, Transportation, People, Food, Borders, Sports, Holidays, Dinosaurs, Nature, Scrapbox.

Create attractive, symmetrical designs by using the Backwards and Upside-down tools.

If you wish to make simple shapes on your creations, such as squares, triangles, and circles, don't forget to try the Shape tool. You can print the shapes in different colors and textures, too.

The Stamp tool allows you to "stamp" repeated art on your creation.

Use the Copy tool to save artwork on the Clipboard. When you click Copy, the art will appear in the Clipboard. You can use the Paste tool to paste the artwork back onto the Easel or onto any of the other six Easels.

Don't forget, if you make a mistake, the Eraser tool can help you clean up your errors.

Make art bigger or smaller using the Big and Small tool.

To enlarge sections of your creation to see it more clearly on your computer screen, use the Zoom tool.

Posters and Flyers

Posters and flyers are excellent for advertising events and presenting information. Design attractive posters that will catch the eye of all who pass by!

Put on a Show!

If your class, school, or friends are putting on a show, offer to help make posters to advertise it. Come up with a unique way to write the title. Then draw using the creativity tools or add art from the Picture categories. Don't forget to include all the important information, such as the time and place of the performance and who is part of the production. You might show the poster to the actors to make sure they like it. Then print out plenty of posters, and display them around the school and community, inviting everyone to come to your production.

Colorful Reports

The next time you are assigned to give a report in class, create an impressive information poster. Design and decorate the subject items with the Brush, Crayon and Marker tools. You can also choose appropriate art from the Picture Categories. Then type in information large enough for the entire class to read. You might design your poster in four sections, taping the pages together to make your poster as big as possible. Glue your poster to poster board to make it sturdy, or glue the posters to file folders. Then present your information poster to the class.

Flyer Fun

Besides posters, flyers are another way to convey information. Flyers are perfect to place near a mailbox or to hand out, alerting people to special events or services. Here are a few instances when you might find flyers helpful to hand out:

Flyer Fun 1: Jobs Wanted

It is summer time, and you would like to earn some extra money. First talk to your parents or a grown-up about what kinds of jobs you might be able to do. Then think about how you can tell people about your services. Create a flyer! Come up with a title for your flyer, such as, "Responsible and Reliable". Then suggest ways that you can help out, such as: walking a dog while neighbors are at work during the day; watering plants; bringing in newspapers; baby-sitting cats while neighbors are on vacation; cutting neighbors' lawns, weeding and raking; being a "mother's helper," and any other tasks you think you can do. Ask an adult to serve as a reference for you, someone who can vouch that you are a reliable and hard worker. Place this person's name on your flyer, too, for prospective customers to contact. You can also create business cards. Check out the Sticker Easel, and design business cards that match any logos or art on your flyers. Be sure to include your name and phone number on your flyers and your cards. Staple the cards to the flyers then pass them out to friends and neighbors.

Flyer Fun 2: Community Capers

The next time your community holds an event, such as a block party, a neighborhood garage sale, or a holiday parade, work with the organizers to create flyers advertising the event. Take notes about the type of information the organizers would like presented on the flyer, such as the date, time, and place, special things people should bring, and, of course, the reason for the event. Then design a flyer that will encourage neighbors to attend. Show the flyer to the organizers for their approval, then pass out your flyers to inform neighbors of the community event.

Flyer Fun 3: School Clubs

If it is the beginning of the school year and your special-interest club needs new members. Why not pass out flyers to students that describe your club. First talk to a teacher or coach to discuss

your idea. Then choose art from the Picture categories that are perfect for your activity. Print out as many flyers necessary to get your point across. Hand out the flyers with the school's permission.

Sports Poster

If you have a favorite sports figure, create a poster on which to display articles and pictures about her or him. Using the Markers, Crayons or Brushes, draw a picture of your player in action. Use the Crazy Lines "grass" icon to create a playing field. Make sure you leave room in which your articles and pictures will go. Then tape your poster to a wall. Every time you read about or see a picture of your sports hero, cut it out and display it on your poster.

Nature Is Nice

Posters with a nature theme make beautiful wall decorations. In the middle of the poster, type in a favorite nature poem you learned at school, or even a poem you have written yourself. Or draw pictures of a beautiful place your family has visited. You can also decorate the poster with art from the Nature Picture category. Print out the poster. For an added nature touch, you might include some leaf rubbings. Place the poster page over a leaf, and rub over it with a crayon. The impression of the leaf will appear on the poster. Hang the poster in your room or at home for all to admire.

Movie Poster

What's your favorite movie? Let everyone know by creating a movie poster. Come up with an exciting way to write the movie title. Then paint in scenes from the movie using the Crayon, Brush and Marker tools. Also type in the names of actors and actresses who appeared in the movie, and perhaps even a few brief sentences that explain why you find this movie worth seeing again and again. Decorate your room with posters of all your favorite movies!

Favorite Book Poster

Have you ever read a book and were so excited about it, you wanted to share it with friends and classmates? Well, now you can! Talk with your school librarian about holding a "Favorite Books" poster contest. Then choose your favorite book, and design a poster that shares with others your excitement about the book. Be sure to use as many of the creativity tools as possible. Then display your poster in the school library or in class. Your poster is sure to be a winner!

Class President

If you or someone you know is running for class president or another office, help her or him by creating flyers. Use Crazy Lines "diamond" icon to design a snazzy border. Be sure to type the candidate's name in big, bold letters across the top. Use school colors for letters and other art you add to the flyers. Then list the things the candidate hopes to accomplish if he or she is elected. Add some Pictures to make the flyer attractive. Then print plenty of flyers to hand out to students in school. To help your classmate stand out even more, you might print the flyers on bright-colored paper.

Helpful Hints:

Here are some other ideas and hints to get you started:

Information on your Posters and Flyers can be neatly typed in different colors using the Letter tool.

If you would like headings to almost jump off the page, choose bold in the Letter tool.

Glue your poster to poster board to make it more sturdy.

Print out your Flyers on colored paper to make them more colorful and eye-catching.

Decorations

Creating Decorations can be just as fun as, well, having a party! Use the Print Factory to create all sorts of fancy party decorations. Of course, you can use the Card Easel to make invitations, the Banner Easel to create a welcoming banner, the Award Easel to make awards, and the Bookmark Easel to design place cards. But here are some other things to try.

Seasonal Decorations

Help your family or class decorate with a seasonal flair. For instance use the Heart Decoration for a Valentine's Day party. Decorate the edges of the shape with the Crazy Lines "heart" icon or print them out and decorate with glitter crayons or glitter glue. Print out lots of different colors. You might cut out the holiday items and glue them to a banner for the party, or suspend them from strings to dangle around the room. You can also use the Pyramid or the Paper Balloon Decorations. Make several of each and glue them together to make tree ornaments.

Souvenir Cubes

The Cube Decoration serves as a great souvenir. Decorate it with art from the Picture categories special to your party, or with images you draw or paint yourself. Type the name of the guest on the top of the cube. Print and cut out the cubes, then assemble them along the folded lines. As the party guests leave, give them each a cube as a souvenir from your party.

Pyramid Centerpiece

Create an intriguing centerpiece for your party using the Pyramid. In each panel, draw or paint interesting designs. Add art from the Picture Categories as desired. If the party has a color theme, use the Fill tool to paint the sides of the Pyramid the right colors. Design at least six pyramids. Print, cut out, and assemble. Then stack the completed Pyramids in the center of your table for a sensational centerpiece.

Welcoming Pinwheels

Decorate the Pinwheel pattern to reflect the theme of your party. Then follow the directions for putting the Pinwheel together. Thumbtack the center of the Pinwheel to a straw or a large, thin stick. Then place the Pinwheels outdoors along the path leading up to your home. When the wind blows, the Pinwheels will spin, welcoming the guests in a fun, attractive way.

Fantastic Fortune Tellers

Make a Fortune Teller for each of your party guests. Print out the appropriate number, then follow the directions to fold the paper into the Fortune-Teller shape. Show your friends how to use the Fortune Teller, then invite them to have fun telling each other's fortunes. Let your party-goers take their Fortune Tellers home as party gifts.

Balloon Blow-ups

Invite your party guests to help you blow up Paper Balloons. Ahead of time, design Balloons specific for your party. Practice folding and blowing up the Balloons yourself. Then pass out a

Balloon sheet to each party guest, and have them follow along with you as you construct the Paper Balloon. Make as many Balloons as you wish to decorate your party room.

Money Matters

Another fun thing you can do with Decorations is to create Play Money. Using the Play Money Decoration, design the money and print it out. The money can have fun illustrations, such as animals in the middle and art designs you paint or draw. Make sure you also include money denominations, such as one dollar, five dollars, and so on. Print and cut out as much money as you feel you need. Then use the money to set up pretend shops, restaurants, and other businesses.

Cards

If you've ever wanted to make that perfect card for a special occasion or special someone, or just because, now you can. The Card Easel suggests several different card formats. Choose the one you want, and start creating. After you've run out of your own card-making ideas, try some of these:

Riddle Cards

Stump your friends with riddle cards. Select the "tall, fold once" format. On the cover, type in a riddle. Here's a silly one that we know: What flowers do we wear all year long? You might decorate the cover with a border using the Crazy-Lines tool. Then on the right inside page, add a tulip. (Get it? Two-lips?) You can use the tulip Picture, found in the Nature category, or try to paint the flowers yourself. Print out both pages. Then cut a small hole on the front cover that reveals just part of the flower. As your friends read the riddle, they can try to figure it out by studying the picture clue. Have them open the card to find the answer.

Pop-up Cards

These cards work well with the "tall, fold twice" and the "wide, fold twice" formats. Illustrate the front of the card with art appropriate to the occasion. Type in a special message. Print it out. Then choose Pictures that you'd like to pop up from the card. One great pop-up idea is the hot-air balloon, found in the Transportation category. The balloon itself is the perfect place on which to write your message. Print out the picture and cut around it to get rid of the excess paper. Then cut out a strip of paper and accordion-fold it, back and forth. Tape one end to the back of the hot-air balloon, and the other end to the inside of the card. When your honored friend or relative opens the card, the picture will spring forward.

Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Grandparent's Day

Now is the chance to tell your mother, father, or grandparents just how special they are. Choose any card format. Decorate the cover with pictures of things you know they enjoy, such as big bouquets of flowers or their favorite animals, or even a special sport or hobby. Decorate the inside of the card with more pictures, or use the creativity tools to paint a portrait of yourself. Don't forget to also type in your special message. Then print out your card, put it together, and present it to your mother, father, or grandparents.

From the Whole Team

Send a card signed by your entire class, team, or family. This card is a great idea if someone is sick or moving away, or if they are celebrating a birthday or a special event. Select the "tall, fold twice" format. Create art across all three panels, appropriate for the occasion. For example, if you are sending a get-well card to a teammate who was injured during the big baseball game,

decorate the card with baseballs and baseball bats. Or, if your class would like to present your teacher with a group card at the end of the school year, volunteer to design it. Once you are satisfied with your card design, print it out. Then invite your entire class, team, family, or other group members to sign it. What a great way to tell someone you care!

Party Invitations

Don't limit yourself to the party invitations you see in the store. Make your own! These cards work well with the "two fold card" format. If your party has a special theme, such as a party for a team sport you play, decorate the invitation by drawing the images yourself with the creativity tools. If your party is for a birthday or graduation, decorate it with balloons and streamers. Be creative, have fun. You can also choose special art from the Picture categories. After you print the invitations, drop some small star stickers inside the folded cards (which you can create in the Sticker Easel). When your party invitees open their cards, they'll have an extra surprise.

Holiday Cards

Try this fun holiday idea. Use the "wide s-fold" or the "tall s-fold" formats. Place art from the Picture Categories, or create art of your own, blown up to fit the entire length. For example, if it is Christmas time, you might show the beginning of Santa's sled on the front of the card, using the vertical format. As the recipient opens the card, the rest of the sled, and Santa's reindeer, will be revealed. For the horizontal format, you could create a giant evergreen tree. As the card is opened, the tree will appear to grow! Other ideas include a large grinning pumpkin at Halloween, a long parade during the Fourth of July, or even a tall, beautiful flower or an entire flower garden for Mother's Day or Grandparent's Day.

Thank-you Cards

Use the Print Factory to thank those around you, decorating the cards with appropriate art. For example, if you would like to thank your coach for teaching you how to kick a soccer ball, decorate the card with soccer balls. If you'd like to thank an older brother or sister for helping with homework, decorate the card with pictures of things that she or he likes. Type in what you are thankful for, then present the card to your important person.

Just to Say "Hello"

Cards are also fun to send to and receive from people you haven't heard from in a while. Create a card with art and borders that remind you of that special person. Then write your message inside. Any format will do. Make sure to explain that you created this card with your special person in mind.

Helpful Hints

Here are a few hints to help you create the best cards possible:

The Stamp tool can be used to create your own logo on the back of your cards.

The formats in the Card Easel can also be used to make stickers! Instead of making eight stickers in the Sticker Easel, you can make two larger stickers in the Card Easel. Just add the special sticker paper in the printer and have fun!

Banners

Banners are an exciting way to announce special events. You've probably seen banners at fairs or school outings. Now it's your turn to create inviting banners to decorate a special place.

School Banners

Volunteer to make Banners for your school for any occasion. Whether it's a science fair or a carnival, click on to the Banner Easel and design something cool to entice people to visit. Depending on the theme, choose art that fits your special occasion. If your class is having a car wash, choose art from the Transportation category. Decorate a banner for a class bake sale with drawings of cookies and cakes. Use a hole punch to make holes in the corners, then tie on string and suspend your banner for all to see. Other areas for which you might create banners include: Welcoming visitors to the library; informing students of special library sections and where books can be returned, for example,

"Return Books Here!"

"Try Out the New Computer!"

Information banners in the cafeteria, such as, "Milk Line" or "Pay Here"

A welcome banner for parents during open house

Banners marking individual booths at a school carnival

Banners to announce special holidays and seasons

Banners to welcome a new student to your class

Block Party/Yard Sale

Decorate an exciting banner the next time your neighborhood has a block party or yard sale. Using all the creativity tools, write the information in a fun eye-catching style. Then decorate the banner with pictures that help describe the event, games, or items for sale. Show the organizers the banner you created, and ask if they'd like you to change or add anything. Then print it out. If the neighborhood is hosting a potluck dinner, make a table sign for each family's creation.

Door Banners

Create special door banners to decorate the front of your home. You can also design spooky banners for doors that lead to garages, basements, and attics. To let everyone know whose room is whose, create banners to display on the doors of your home. Design a special door banner for yourself, loaded with things you enjoy. You might choose art from the Picture categories, or try to paint the items yourself. Make sure you also paint in your name. Then create banners for other members of your family. You might talk with family members first, working with them to design banners they'd enjoy. Then roll up the completed banners and tie them with ribbon to present to your family.

Time Out for Your Team

Get your team psyched for that special game by creating a motivating banner. Think of a message to cheer them on, then type it. Add Pictures according to the sport your team plays. Then invite a team member to help you hold up or display the banner to cheer on your team. Display the banner in an area where the team members can see it.

Special Party Wish

Create banners that set the tone for any party. Type or paint the party message, such as, "Happy Birthday!" or "Good Luck!" or "Congratulations!" For an added idea, invite party-goers to sign the banner, too. The banner then becomes a party souvenir. The person of honor can display the banner to remember the party and everyone who attended.

Special Treasure

Do you have a special collection at home? For example, you might collect models you've made, or baseball cards you've traded, or trophies you've won. Why not put them on display, and

announce them by creating a banner? Select art from the Picture categories that illustrates your special collection. Make sure you also use attractive letters to announce what your collection contains. Then post the banner in your room above your special collection.

Helpful Hints

Here are some other ideas and hints to get you started: Don't limit yourself to these ideas!

You can make banners for just about everything: bake sales, car washes, used-book sales, garage sales, white-elephant sales, a school play or concert, piano recitals, opening day at the neighborhood pool, and so much more. Each time you'd like to create a banner for a community or school event, work with the event organizers to design eye-catching banners that everyone will enjoy. Center your Banner on a large sheet of colored mural paper, poster paper, or construction paper, then glue it down. You've created a colorful paper border.

To make your banners sturdier and longer lasting, cover them with clear laminated paper.

Stationery

The stationery you choose to write on often reflects the things you enjoy. Instead of depending on a store to have that certain special paper, why not create your own?

Journal Pages

Keeping a journal is a wonderful way to record important things that happen to you and to express your feelings. What would make your journal even more special would be pages designed by you. Create notepaper that reflects your personality. Add art from the Picture categories of things you enjoy, then draw in a border using the Crazy Lines tool. Print as many pages as you wish. Then punch holes in the pages with a three-hole punch (check with your teacher or a parent), and place your pages in a loose-leaf notebook or you could sew the pages together with yarn. Or, simply staple the pages together. Be sure to save your journal paper on your computer so you can print additional pages as you need them.

Sensational Stationery

Each time you write a letter, create new stationery that reflects your own interests or those of the person to whom you are writing. For example, if your grandmother loves flowers, create stationery with a flower motif. If a cousin is really into cars and other vehicles, create stationery with a border of trains and tracks. Browse through the art in the Picture categories, looking for that perfect picture or symbol. Then print out your stationery on which to hand-write your letter, or type your letter on your computer.

Great Gifts

Stationery also makes a great gift. Think about the person for whom you'd like to give the gift. Then create stationery perfect for her or him. Flip through the art in the Picture categories for ideas. Print out about 50 sheets of stationery, and bind the pages with an attractive ribbon. Place all the pages in a gift box and wrap it. Print-out a nice small card to let them know that you created it.

Photo Album

Design notepaper on which to display photographs you take. Use the full page format. Then check out the Borders category for a border that would complement any picture, such as the lace border or the crayons border for an art motif. Print out as many pages as you wish. Glue two

pages to thin sheets of poster board to make front and back covers. Then punch holes in the paper with a three-hole punch, and bind the pages with yarn to complete your photo album.

Postcards

Using the Stationery Easel, you can also create postcards. Set up the paper using the "medium and wide" format, and draw a picture of a place you've visited or something fun you've recently done. Be sure to use as many of the creativity tools as possible. Include art from the Picture categories to enhance your illustration. Then write a few sentences to describe the picture you drew. Then write the name and address of the postcard recipient on the other side of the paper.

Scrapbook

A scrapbook is a great place to store mementos. For example, you might have sung in your school's choir, and your name is listed in the program. Or, your team won the county championship and had its picture in the paper. What do you do with these things? Glue them into a scrapbook! Decorate the pages with things you enjoy, such as art from the Picture categories of rainbows and clouds or balloons. If you create a scrapbook for your summer vacation, you might choose a beach pail and shovel. Also create a cover, perhaps enlarging the art you used. Be sure to come up with a title for your scrapbook, such as, "Souvenirs from My Summer Vacation", or "My Winning Team". Bind the pages by using a three-hole punch and yarn. Then glue your souvenirs and mementos into your scrapbook.

Join the Club!

Do you belong to a club at school or in your neighborhood? If not, form a club with your friends. Design notepaper to be used for club events. Design a club logo, or choose art from the Picture categories that represents your club. Then use the notepaper to record the minutes of club meetings, to send messages to club members, or even to write letters to special groups your club is interested in, such as a professional sports team or a fan club. Your exciting club notepaper will show off the unity of your club and its members! Notepaper is also a great way to create newspaper pages that tell others of your special group events.

Helpful Hints

Here are some other ideas and hints to get you started.

Drag the Brush tool around the edges of your notepaper to make a stylistic border, or, select a fun Crazy Lines style to decorate the borders of your notepaper.

If creating covers for photo albums, scrap books, or even journals, use the Big and Small tool to enlarge the art, re-creating it for the cover.

If you do create covers, you might choose to print them on glossy paper for a professional finishing touch.

Awards

When you receive an acknowledgment for a job well done, often you are handed a certificate. Create Awards to honor others for the hard work they do.

Fabulous Families and Friends

Create special Awards for family and friends that recognize their efforts and make them feel special. Their accomplishments don't need to be big ones, but can be small achievements

important to them. For example, if a younger brother or sister has just learned to ride a bike, create a certificate using the bicycle art from the Transportation Picture category. If an older brother or sister has made the high-school basketball team, decorate a certificate with basketball art from the Sport Picture category. Type in appropriate sentences, such as, "This award is presented to __ (name) __ for the amazing achievement of __ (accomplishment) __." Include the date and your signature. Then present the award for a job well done.

Gold-Star Coupons

Create coupons to keep track of special things you accomplish. Use the smaller format. For example, if you set goals for yourself concerning school work, create a coupon for each one. Each time you accomplish the goal, place that coupon in a box or glue it to a specially designed poster. To check all the goals you've accomplished, refer to the coupons you created and collected.

Readers Club

With family and friends or classmates set up a readers club. Every time a club member reads a certain number of books, like five, for example, she or he gets a certificate. Present the certificate in an awards ceremony, and ask the honoree to describe each book he or she read. The next thing you know, everyone will be reading!

Family Foods

Who are the cooks in your family? Encourage everyone in your family to practice cooking skills, and award their creative culinary talents. Create awards that show the foods the family cooked. You may choose art from the Picture categories or draw the foods yourself. Present your "Fabulous Food" Awards after sampling the cook's culinary delights.

Chore Score

You probably have plenty of chores, including homework, that you must finish before you can meet with friends, watch television, or just goof off. Sit down with your parents or other family members to devise a coupon system of keeping track of your activities: a chore score. List all the chores you normally need to do, creating a coupon for each one. Surround the coupon with a fun border you create with the Crazy Lines tool, then type the chore inside. Each time you accomplish that chore, hand the coupon to your parents. This way, they'll know exactly which chores you've finished.

Achievement Coupons

You and your parents want you to do well in school. Set up a reward system that recognizes achievements. Each time you accomplish something special, you get a coupon. When you collect a certain number of coupons, you get a special reward. For example, if improving your grades is the goal, set up coupons so that each time you get a good grade, you get one coupon. When you get 5 good grades, trade in your five coupons for something special, such as an ice-cream treat or a movie. Other achievements you might work at are improving on spelling tests, kicking goals during soccer games, and so on. Create the coupons by drawing with the creativity tools and adding art from the Picture categories.

Party Time

Ahead of time, create awards to hand out at parties. As you set up special games or activities, create a certificate for each one. Make sure your awards reflect the party theme. For example, if you have a pool party, check out the pool float in the Sports category. If your party is held outdoors, create awards with trees and flowers from the Nature category. Award your party-goers

for such feats as eating the most ice cream, winning certain games, being the best dancer, designing the best Halloween costume, wearing the funniest costume, having the silliest singing voice, and so on. You might make sure you have an award for each guest so no one feels left out.

Don't Forget Yourself!

If you are proud of something you did, reward yourself! Create a certificate for your special accomplishment, decorating it accordingly. Make sure you write in the date. Save your awards in a scrapbook to remember the special occasions.

Helpful Hints

Here are some other ideas and hints to get you started.

Stamps are a wonderful way to make your coupons and awards uniform and similar. Choose the stamps appropriate for each occasion, then use them for each set of coupons.

You can print out awards and hand print in the names yourself.

Bookmarks and Stickers

Bookmarks and Stickers are not only fun for you, but for others, too. Create stickers and bookmarks to decorate your surroundings and to give as gifts.

Notebook Beautiful

Decorate your school notebooks and folders with stickers you create. Flip through the art in the Picture categories, and choose art you think would make fun stickers. To print, use the sticker paper that comes in the box or apply double-stick tape to the back of regular paper. Print and cut them out. Your stickers are ready to place on any surface. For an extra touch, you might go over the color on your stickers with glitter crayons.

Bookmark Smart

What are your favorite books to read? Create bookmarks that reflect your reading choices. For example, if you like science-fiction stories, make bookmarks with art of planets and stars. If books with animal characters are your favorites, choose art from the Animal Picture category. After you print out your bookmarks, cover them with clear contact paper to make them last longer. Finish your bookmark by punching a hole at the top and tying a colorful strand of yarn through it. Also design bookmarks to give as gifts.

3-D Bookmarks

Try this bookmark idea. You will need an adult's help. First, design your bookmark with a nature theme using crayons with the color of nature, decorating it with flowers and leaves. Then go outside and collect the real thing. Pick wild flowers, fallen leaves, or flowers from a recent bouquet your family has received that they might like to save. Print out your bookmark, and arrange the real flowers and leaves on it, blending the real with your printed plants. Then place the bookmark, plants and all, between two sheets of wax paper, with the waxy sides facing inward. This is when you will need an adult's help. Ask the adult to warm up an iron. Place a towel over your bookmark, then have the adult run the iron over it. As the wax melts, the paper will stick together. Cut away the excess wax paper, and you have a beautiful 3-D bookmark.

Sticker Name Tags

The next time your class goes on a field trip, volunteer to make a set of name tags. Decorate stickers with the theme of your field trip. For example, if you visit an aquarium, select sea-horse art from the Animals Picture category. Or, if you visit a planetarium, choose art of planets and stars. Use the Shape tool to create a box to write in the names. Using the Fill tool, make the background your school color. Be sure to make a name tag for each classmate. Ask the teacher if the childrens' names should go on the tags or, for safety's sake, if the tags should list only the name and phone number of the school. Then carefully poke a safety pin through each. Present your classmates with their specially designed name tags. You can also make name tags to give to party guests, too.

Sticker IDs

If you play a team sport, your team members might have trouble keeping each other's equipment straight. Create stickers to label your own equipment. Choose the appropriate sports equipment from the Sports Picture file. Type in your name, too. Use sticker paper to print the stickers and then cut them out. Place your stickers on lockers, sports gear, and other items to show that it is yours. Once the sticker is on the equipment, use clear tape to protect the sticker from wear and tear.

Party Place Cards

The shape of the bookmarks make excellent party place cards. Decorate using the Crazy Lines tool to create a festive border, such as the confetti. In the centers, write the party guests' names. Then set the place cards on the guests' plates. Everyone will know where they sit, and they'll have a colorful memento of the party, too. Use the place cards not only for parties, but for holiday dinners your family has.

Sticker Collections

Start a collection of stickers to commemorate special things you experience. Design a sticker for each special family activity such as concerts, baseball games or vacations. Draw a picture of something that will help you remember that activity! For example, you might use the transportation art from that Picture category to create stickers for each vehicle you ride on, such as the first time you ride on a train, on a plane, on a boat. Tape the sticker in a special notebook, then write a few sentences about the experience. Other stickers you might collect are animal stickers, marking each animal you observe either at a zoo or nature park, and plant stickers, recording different plants you discover. You can also make stickers to note each time you try a new sport.

Helpful Hints

Here are some other ideas and hints to get you started.

Print your stickers on the sticker paper that comes with the Print Factory.

If you ever run out of sticker paper, apply a glue stick or double-stick tape to the back of your stickers.

Bookmarks look wonderful when printed on glossy paper.

Other Fun Things to Do

Without a doubt, you should not feel limited to the ideas presented on these pages, or to the Easels found in the Print Factory. Hundreds of ideas are probably speeding through your brain, thinking of exciting things to do. Here are a few others.

Puppets

Create animal puppets using art from the Animal Picture category. After printing the animals out, cut away the excess paper. Glue the animal to a straw, a craft stick, or even a cardboard tube from paper towels or toilet tissue. Make several puppets, then with your friends or classmates, put on a puppet show. You might retell a fairy tale or folktale you know, or a favorite book with animal characters. Also make sports-figure puppets with art from the Sports category, or draw and color your own puppet figures.

Set Decorations

To complement your puppet show, or any other stage production you participate in, use the Print Factory to make set decorations. Explore the Nature Picture category for appropriate outdoor settings, perhaps printing them on the Banner or Poster Easels. Clouds and suns can also be incorporated into the scenery. Challenge yourself to use the Picture categories, Easels, and creativity tools in amazing ways that make your scenery sensational.

Picture Boxes

The art in the Picture categories also makes any picture boxes come to life. Think of a three-dimensional scene you'd like to create in a shoe box. It can be a scene just for fun, or one you need to make for a school assignment. For example, if you are re-creating a farm setting for a book report, you might print out the barn art to glue to the outside of the shoe box. Inside, glue farm animals and plants. The Transportation category includes excellent vehicles for re-creating a city scene, or perhaps even a train station, airplane hangar, or boat dock. And, of course, the variety of animals allows you to re-create jungle scenes. Add your own touches by cutting fringes on green construction paper to represent grass or use the Crazy Lines "grass" icon.

Amazing Mobiles

Mobiles make wonderful decorations. Choose a theme for the mobile, then select appropriate art from the Picture categories. Use the Sticker Easel or the Card Easel for a variety of different paper formats. For example, if you are throwing a party for your baseball team, create mobile pieces with baseball art. If your parents are having a party for their garden club, offer to make a mobile decorated with flowers and other plants. Tape varying lengths of string to the pieces, then tie the string to a hanger or paper plate. Suspend the mobile in an area where everyone can admire it.

Cube Concoctions

The Cube Decoration can be used in a variety of ways. Re-create scenes from your favorite book to make a story cube. Decorate each side with a scene. Share the story cube with your class as a unique book report. Record on the cube special events from a family vacation. Draw pictures of the event and type captions. Present the cube to your family as a memento of your time together.

By creating several cubes, you can create a three-dimensional puzzle. Draw one large illustration on the Poster Easel, then print it out. Cut the poster into squares and glue it onto the cubes sides. Give the cubes to friends and family members, and challenge them to put the puzzle cubes together.

Decorate the cube faces with decorative borders using the Crazy Lines tool, then print out and assemble the cubes. Use the cubes to display photos you take by taping or gluing them to the center of each cube face.

Cubes also make perfect dice. Use the Shape tool to create circles or other simple shapes to

represent the spots on a die. Create two dice, then use them for board games or games you create.

Game Boards

The Poster Easel is perfect for creating game boards. Set the poster up horizontally. Then design a path for your players to follow. Use Stamps, the Backwards tool, Markers for fine lines, Crayons for illustrations, and the Fill tool for adding color. You might also use the Sticker Easel to create playing pieces. Print your game board and playing pieces on the heavy-stock paper. Roll your cube-dice to complete your self-made board game.

Concentration Game

The Award and Sticker Easels make wonderful playing cards. Create a set of "Concentration" game cards by choosing stamps or art from the Picture categories you like. Create matching pairs of cards. Print out the coupons or stickers on heavy stock to make them more sturdy. Then shuffle the cards and lay them out face down. Play the cards yourself or with a friend, challenging each other to turn over two cards at a time to find the matching pairs. The player with the most pairs wins.

Set Up Shop

Posters, flyers, banners- these are all parts of shops and restaurants. Be creative as you and your friends set up your own restaurant or shop. Create menus using the Card Easel. The Awards and Stickers can make price stickers and sales coupons. Banners can showcase special items for sale. Design store receipts on the Stationery Easel. Challenge yourself and your friends to use the Print Factory to come up with all sorts of attractive materials to help you role-play working in a store, restaurant, or even an office!

That's a Record!

The Print Factory doesn't just have to be about writing and reading, but about math, too! Create charts to record the different lengths and heights of animals by choosing animals from the Picture categories. Compare how fast different modes of transportation go by researching and recording your findings on a Poster using the Transportation Picture category. What are the highest mountains? The tallest buildings? The longest rivers? Illustrate them with the Print Factory to compare and contrast them.

Letter and Number Match

Do you have a younger sibling who is just beginning to learn numbers and letters? Or, perhaps you are tutoring a student in a younger grade? Make your own set of matching cards to help with letter and number recognition. Select the Award Easel, and divide the coupons in half vertically. In one half, draw a letter or a number. In the other half, draw a corresponding word or number of objects. For example, for letters: A/apple, S/sun; for numbers: 3/three baseballs; 5/five flowers. Cut the coupons in half, then challenge your pupil to match the letters and numbers with the appropriate sounds or numbers of objects.

No matter what you decide to make, cards, decorations, posters, awards, masks, whatever, be as creative as your imagination allows. Use the images and suggestions in the Print Factory and this guide to spark your talents and jump start your ideas. We hope the Print Factory helps you create all sorts of printing marvels. And above all else, don't forget to have fun!

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