



Recycled Christmas Cards -Ideas Sheet



Christmas is a time of year when the amount of waste we throw away can increase considerably & it's especially important to think about the 3Rs –
Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.

This fact sheet contains ideas about how materials that would otherwise have been thrown away can be used to make Christmas cards.

General materials needed:

- Sheets of handmade recycled paper*
- Old Christmas/greetings cards
- Sheets of recycled card
- Paper scraps & off-cuts
- Fabric scraps & off-cuts
- Embellishments – reclaimed buttons, beads, sequins etc
- Glue sticks & PVA
- Scissors
- Pencils



***If your school has made recycled paper with SWAC this makes an excellent background mount for the designs. Alternatively contact us to arrange to borrow a paper making kit free of charge.**



Making the cards



For all the designs the main body of the card could be made in two ways; either by using sheets of shop bought recycled card or by reusing old greetings cards and covering any unwanted pictures or words with pieces of recycled paper.

Christmas Stocking Card

You will need:

- General materials
- Kitchen roll
- Reclaimed wrapping paper/
Christmas cards
- Buttons



1. Cut out a Christmas stocking shape from recycled paper or paper off-cuts.
2. Glue onto the sheet of handmade recycled paper, allowing space above for parcels.
3. Cut out parcel shapes from reclaimed wrapping paper or Christmas cards.
4. Glue onto paper so the parcels appear to be coming out of the top of the stocking.
5. Cut out a rectangle from the sheet of kitchen roll.
6. Glue onto the top of the stocking. Ensure that the bottom of the parcels & the top of the stocking are covered.
7. Glue buttons to the stocking





Printed Christmas Card

You will need:

- General materials
- String
- Strong cardboard
- Paint
- Reclaimed beads/ buttons



1. Cut a piece of cardboard to an appropriate size for the desired size of your finished Christmas card.
2. Draw a simple design onto the cut piece of cardboard.
3. Glue pieces of string over the design.
Make sure that the string does not cross over itself.
4. Allow to dry thoroughly & make sure there are no loose ends.
5. Cover the string with paint.
6. Print the design onto a piece of handmade recycled paper.
7. Glue on buttons or beads to add detail to your design.



Variations:

! Try printing the design onto scraps of paper or fabric and then mounting on the handmade recycled paper.

! Experiment with the size of the printing blocks – smaller designs could be printed several times on the same card.

! You could make two or three different printing blocks and combine the designs on one card.

Extra ideas:

- You could experiment with mounting the designs on pieces of fabric or paper off-cuts
- Extra embellishments could be added using reclaimed buttons, beads, sequins or similar
- Smaller versions of the cards could be made and used as gift tags



Remember!



More than one billion cards will be sent by people in the UK this Christmas. After Christmas all your old cards can be taken to Tesco, TK Max or WHSmith to be recycled.