Postcards from America — Exploring Landmarks, National Parks, and City Skylines

Grades 5–7 • 1–2 class periods

Learning Objectives

• Identify and describe major U.S. landmarks, national parks, and city skylines.

• Compose a creative or informational postcard message from a traveler, ranger, local resident, or historical figure perspective.

• Use digital tools (coloring, typography, export/print) to produce a multimedia product.

• Demonstrate proper grammar, spelling, and sentence structure.

• Appreciate the cultural and natural diversity of the U.S. through visual and written expression.

Lesson Sequence

Introduction (10–15 minutes) — Display images of American landmarks and discuss their meaning. Explain postcards as a way to share experiences.

Demonstration (10 minutes) — Show how to use the Digital Postcard Creator: select an image, color with Brush/Fill tools, write and proofread messages, and save or print.

Guided Practice (15–20 minutes) — Students practice creating short sample postcards using prompts such as a traveler, park ranger, or historical figure.

Independent Creation (20–30 minutes) — Students select one image, color it, and write a 5–7 sentence postcard using vivid details and correct grammar.

Sharing & Reflection (10–15 minutes) — Students print or share postcards digitally and discuss what they learned about their chosen place.

Research Extension

Students can use the interactive maps on LearnAboutAmerica.com to research their postcard subject:
• National Parks Map
• Cities Map
• Landmarks Map

Assessment Rubric

Category	4 — Exceeds	3 — Meets	2 — Developing	1 — Beginning
Content Knowledge	Accurate and in-depth understanding.	Clear and relevant facts.	Somewhat clear significance.	Minimal or inaccurate details.
Writing Quality	Vivid, organized, grammatically strong.	Clear with minor errors.	Some errors affecting clarity.	Frequent errors.
Creativity & Design	Highly creative color/font choices.	Appropriate and appealing visuals.	Limited creative effort.	Minimal engagement.
Technology Use	Skillful use of tools and expert options.	Uses most features successfully.	Needs assistance.	Struggled to use tools.