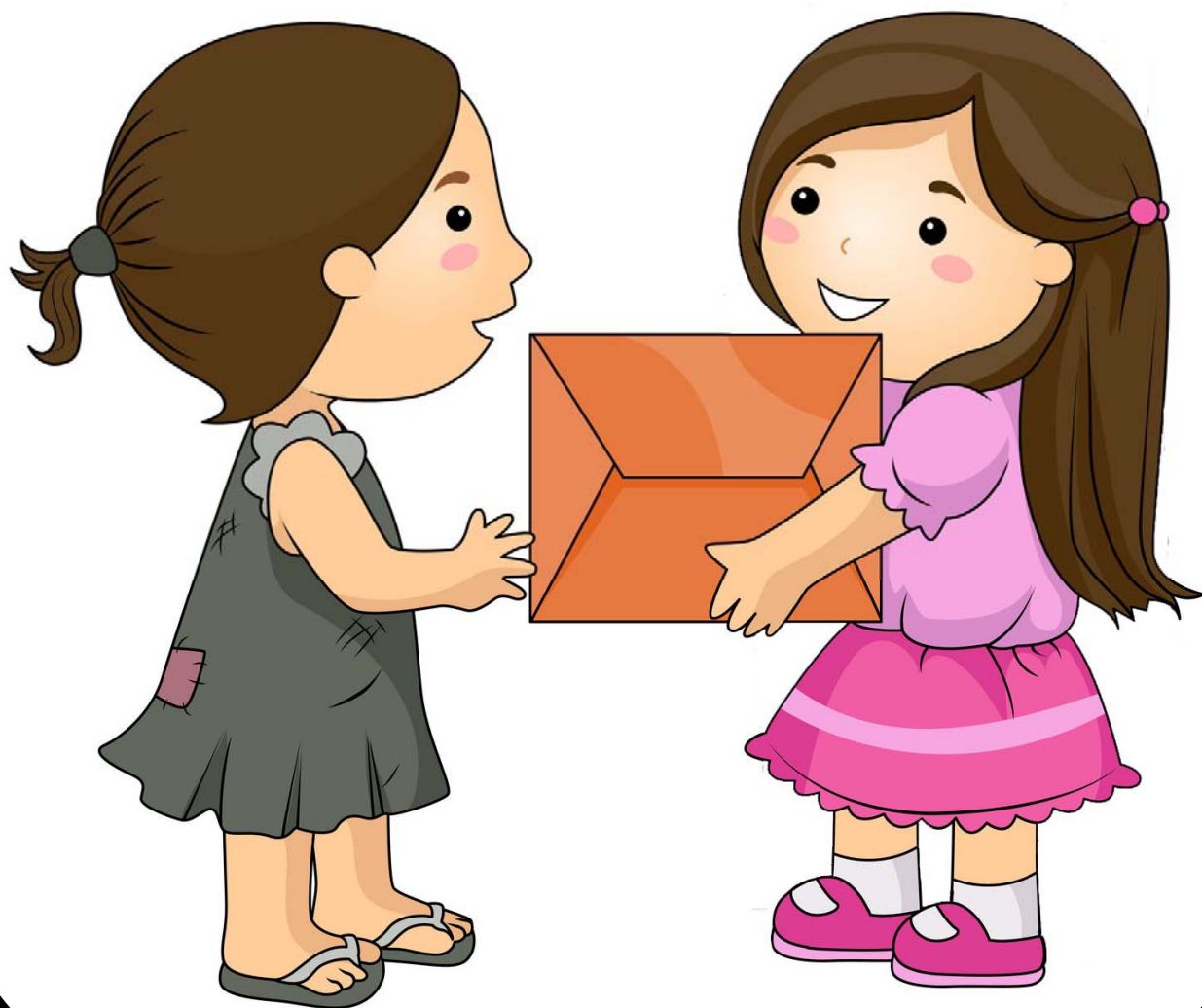


Boxes for Katje



Boxes for Katje

Book by Candace Fleming

Unit study by Ami Brainerd and Celia Hartmann

Geography: Holland (and Indiana)

Mention to your student that Holland is also known as The Netherlands; the people are known as Dutch. To help your student's understanding of this, you can relate it to your own country. For example, if you live in the U.S.--"We live in the United States which is also known as America; the people are known as Americans."

If you want to make a flag of Holland, it would be a simple project for your student. It is similar to other European flags with three horizontal stripes of color (red, white, and blue). You could use construction paper, paint, or another medium to make a replica.

You may want to make two disks (one for Holland and one for Indiana; draw a box of tulips on Holland's disk and a draw a box of sugar on Indiana's disk). Find Holland on a map or globe and place your story disk. Locate Indiana on map and place the other disk; you may want to put yarn between the two countries to symbolize the packages and letters that traveled back and forth.

If you have a laminated map, you can use a dry erase marker to draw a line between the two countries. Tell your student that boxes were sent to Europe from all over the United States in order to help those who needed food and supplies.

→ Lapbook Components:

Symbols of the Netherlands Tab Book

Where in the World Is Holland? Simple Fold Book

Where Is Indiana Simple Fold Book

Social Studies: Occupations (Postal Worker)

Do you know what your student wants to be when she grows up? You can have a conversation about occupations. What occupations are mentioned in this book (doctor, teacher, and especially postal worker). If your child is interested, take a field trip to the post office for an up close look at what postal workers do all day.

You could also discuss the methods of mail delivery. In the story, Postman

Kleinhoote used his bike and sleds. Discuss how mail is brought to your house. Can your student guess other ways mail is delivered? Airplane, boat, and train might be ways he will guess. Does he know that sometimes animals are used? If he's studied the Pony Express in the past, he may think of that method. But other animals have also been used: camels, dogs, pigeons, even reindeer!

→ Lapbook Component: Mail Carrier $\frac{3}{4}$ Book

History: Post-WWII Europe

You may want to read the author's notes "A True Story About Boxes" on the last page of the book. If you have studied war with your student in the past, mention that WWII involved many parts of the world, many countries. This may be too sensitive of a topic to talk to your student about, but if you think they are mature enough, you can discuss the devastation of war. War is never nice, neat, and pretty, but it does lead to liberty. Your student may feel sorry for the people in Holland because of the little that they have, but a little plus freedom equals a lot.

Bible: Character Building - Generosity

Discuss generosity with your student (you may want to say the word together a few times). Being generous is giving, but not just giving...giving LOTS! How were the people in Indiana generous to the people in Holland? How can we be generous?

The Bible tells us that we are to be cheerful givers and to use the gifts God has given us. If we are a person who can give, then we should do so with gladness and graciousness. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8: "...He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." Explain to your student how Katje sowed bountifully. How did she reap bountifully?

→ Lapbook Component: Generosity Matchbook

Language Arts: List Making

After reading the book, let your student try to make a list of everything she can remember that Rosie (and her friends) in Indiana sent to Katje in Holland. Once your student has finished, check the book to see how many items she

remembered. If your student would like, allow her to make her own list of what she would've sent to Holland.

→ Lapbook Component: Items Sent to Holland Simple Fold

Language Arts: Vocabulary

urged-- to move to action; Katje's mother *urged* her to open the box.

luxury-- something expensive or hard to obtain; Smooth soap was a *luxury* for Katje.

savored--to taste or smell with pleasure; The chocolate taste was *savored*.

sparingly--to use with restraint (slowly, carefully); The people in Holland ate *sparingly* from their cupboards.

precious-- of high cost or worth, valuable; Sugar was impossible to find in Holland; it was *precious*.

Use index cards to create vocabulary cards. Store in the pocket provided.

Language Arts: Letter Writing

An older child might enjoy writing (or a younger child might enjoy narrating for you to write) a letter to someone.

There are five main parts to a friendly letter.

1. Heading

The heading gives the date that the letter was written as well as the complete address of the person who is writing the letter.

2. Greeting

The greeting tells to whom the letter is written. The most common greeting is "Dear _____". It is considered impolite to use only the person's name as a greeting.

3. Body

The body is the letter itself.

4. Closing

The closing is a polite way to say goodbye. (Sincerely, Sincerely Yours, etc.)

5. Signature

The signature is the name of the writer.

→ Lapbook Component: Five Parts of a Friendly Letter

Math: Story Problems

1. Katje received four bags of sugar in one of the boxes. One bag went to the post man. Another bag went to the de Land family. How many bags did that leave for Katje and her family?
2. Mr. and Mrs. de Land have five children. How many people are in the de Land family?
3. Katje split the chocolate bar; she ate a piece, Postman Kleinhoonte ate a piece, and her mother ate a piece. How many pieces in all? *You can also use this to introduce thirds in fractions. Take a piece of chocolate and break it into three. Show your child $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, and $\frac{3}{3}$ (which equals 1 whole piece). You can make up more math problems. How much candy did Katje give away? ($\frac{2}{3}$). How much did Katje keep? ($\frac{1}{3}$). Did she keep more for herself or give away more? (gave away more because $\frac{2}{3}$ is larger than $\frac{1}{3}$).

→ Lapbook Component: Chocolate Fractions Accordion

Math/Science: Weight

"So big I could not bring it on my bicycle . . . a big, heavy box from America!"

Discuss with your student that heavy can mean difficult to lift. You can find items around the house that are easy to lift and too heavy to lift. Explain that heavy items weigh more. You can also let your student choose some smaller items from around the house. Pair the items up (by ones that are similar in weight) and have your student try to guess which item is heavier. Weigh them on the appropriate scales (depending on the items you may need to use kitchen, postage, or bathroom scales).

If you decide to go to the post office for a field trip, ask them to weigh some different items (or pre-made boxes) to find out the weight and cost of postage to Holland on each particular box. Explain to your student that usually the heavier the box, the higher the postage (or cost to send it).

Science: Seasons

This book takes the readers through all four seasons in Holland. Make a list with your student of the characteristics of each season as noted in the book. Then, discuss what the four seasons are like where you live. A picture book that may add to your study of seasons is *Four Seasons Makes a Year* by Anne Rockwell.

→ Lapbook Component: Season Sorting Cards and Pocket

Science: Natural Resources and Products

Explain to your student that certain resources and products grow/are found in certain areas. For instance, we know from the story that we would find cabbage growing in Holland. What other natural resource would we find in Holland? (tulips!). Indiana has natural resources, too. Corn grows heartily and happily in the vast fields in Indiana. What grows naturally in your area? You may want to find a children's atlas that depicts natural resources and look at it together and discuss. Where would you find bananas growing? Wheat? Coconuts? (the list could go on and on! Maybe yours will!)

Some helpful books to find out what resources are found all over the world--
Usborne Children's Picture Atlas (shows plants/animals), *The Kingfisher First Picture Atlas* (plants/animals)

→ Lapbook Component: Natural Resources Layer Book

Help your student research to find the answers to what natural resources/products grow in the three areas; younger students may want to simply draw pictures.

Assembly: Cut out pages. Place in order smallest to largest with the smallest on top. Staple at the top of the book.

Science: Tulips

In the final two pages of the story ("And so one sun-bright morning..."), if you look at the bottom of the left page moving right and up, you will see the progression of a tulip bulb. Your student is probably familiar with seeds and how things grow from seeds, but does he know what a bulb is? Explain that tulips grow from bulbs. A bulb is a pre-packaged plant including the food it needs to grow. If you slice a bulb, you can see the parts of a plant.

Tunicate bulbs can have a papery covering (like an onion). Other bulbs, scaly bulbs (like lily bulbs), don't have paper coverings. If you have access to many types of bulbs, let your student sort them into two piles, tunicate and scaly. You could also make a chart by using pictures of bulbs you find online.

Art: Perspective

Perspective creates feelings of depth in a picture. Three basic ways to create depth are line, size, and overlapping; all three give the picture dimensions. The art in *Boxes for Katje* does not show much depth, therefore, it is flat (it is not three

dimensional). Compare the illustrations in *Boxes for Katje* to another book you have (that has three dimensional art).

Even though the pictures Stacy Dressen McQueen has created are flat, she has created a sense of perspective through the use of layering. Overlapping images creates an illusion of depth. Look at the page that says, "Sugar, sugar, sugar" with your student. Which images seem to be closer? Which ones seem to be farther away? Note that the little girl in the pink dress with bare feet appears to be closer than the man holding the baby because she overlaps him-- her arm and her leg are layered on top of him.

Your artist can try this technique in a few different ways. He can cut pictures from old magazines and layer them on top of each other. Then he can draw a picture based on his cut/paste collage. Your student could also draw pictures, then cut them out and overlap (paste) them on a separate sheet of paper. Your younger student may just want to complete the magazine collage mentioned above. Remind your student to vary sizes and shapes.

Art: Artist Study -- Matisse

Stacy Dressen McQueen's uses flattened forms (as discussed in Art: Perspective), bright colors, and fanciful patterns. Look back through *Boxes for Katje* for examples of each. A famous artist who used a similar technique was Henry Matisse. Matisse and McQueen both layer pattern and color. This is noted in every page of *Boxes for Katje* (pattern-- bricks, clothes, walls, floors, etc.; colors are layered-- blue on brown, red on blue, etc.). These traits are also noted in many of Matisse's paintings.

In *Boxes for Katje*, illustrations look like they were cut out and glued to the paper, but they weren't. McQueen achieves this effect by painting a small white outline around the outside of many figures. This is one difference between McQueen and Matisse; Matisse really did cut and paste his artwork.

Find some pictures of Matisse's work. After viewing Matisse's work, let your student try to mock the work of Matisse and McQueen by using flattened forms, bright colors, and whimsical patterns. Your student will need to create (paint, draw, crayon) some patterns on paper (or you will need to get a book of wallpaper samples). Then, let your student draw a picture in pencil. Cut out patterns to match the pencil drawing and paste them in. After your student is finished adding

patterns, let him color or paint the rest of the picture. Encourage your student to use some overlapping for perspective.

Cooking: Dutch Ice Box Cookies

1 cup margarine
2 cups white sugar
1 cup sour cream
4 cups flour
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. nutmeg
1/2 tsp. cloves
1 tsp. baking soda
1/4 cup chopped nuts
1/4 tsp. salt

Cream the margarine and sugar. Stir in the sour cream, flour, spices, baking soda, salt, and nuts. Mix well and put in the refrigerator for 3-4 hours. Preheat oven to 375. Form dough into a ball and roll out flat on lightly floured surface. Cut into shapes with cookie cutters (or use traditional circles). Bake for 10 minutes.

Even More Learning!

History: Children's Aid Society

Founded in 1853, the Children's Aid Society is still alive. You can explore their website.

Rabbit Trails: Tulips, Chocolate, Sugar, Holland, Indiana, Soap-making, Post-office, WWII, Seasons

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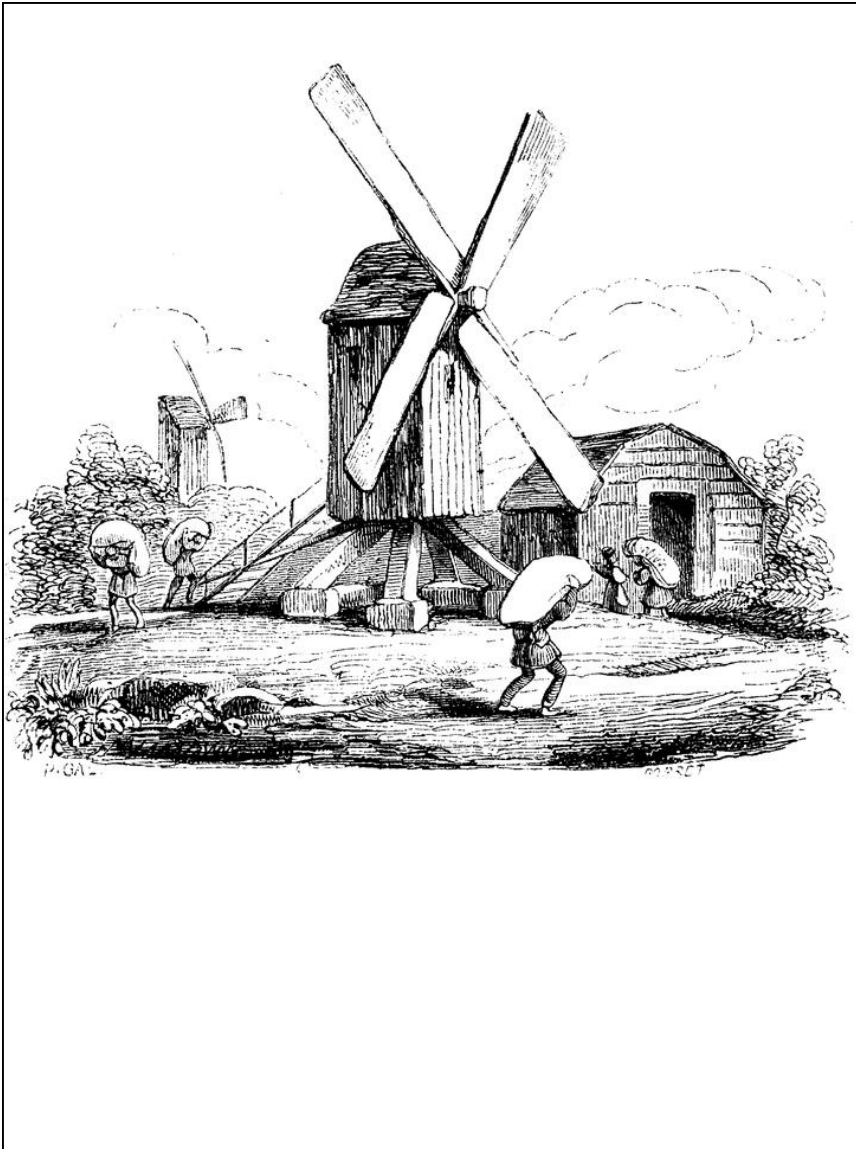
Symbols of the Netherlands



Cut rectangles out. Stack in order and staple on the left side of the front cover.
Let your student write the name of the symbol on each page and color the picture.

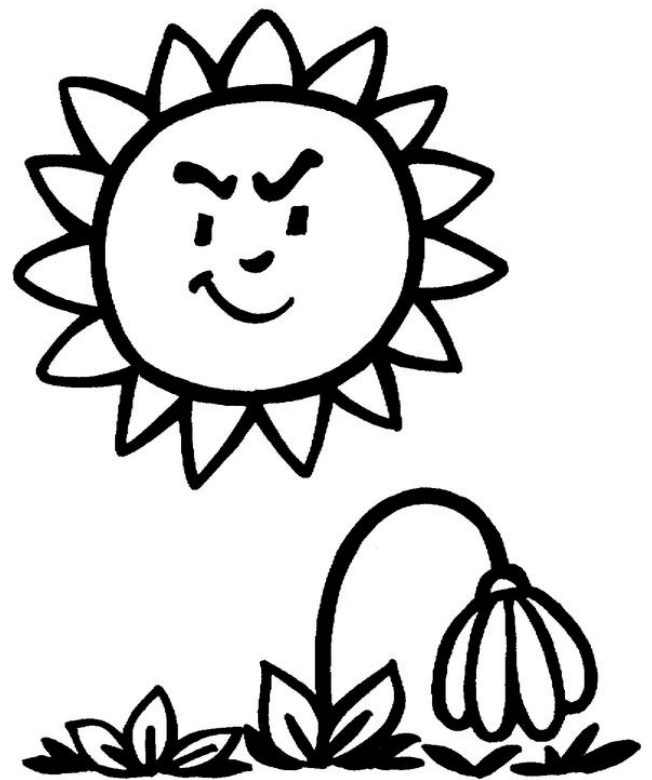
Windmill
Wooden Shoes
Tulip
Flag of The Netherlands

Your older student may want to add some information— especially on the flag page.



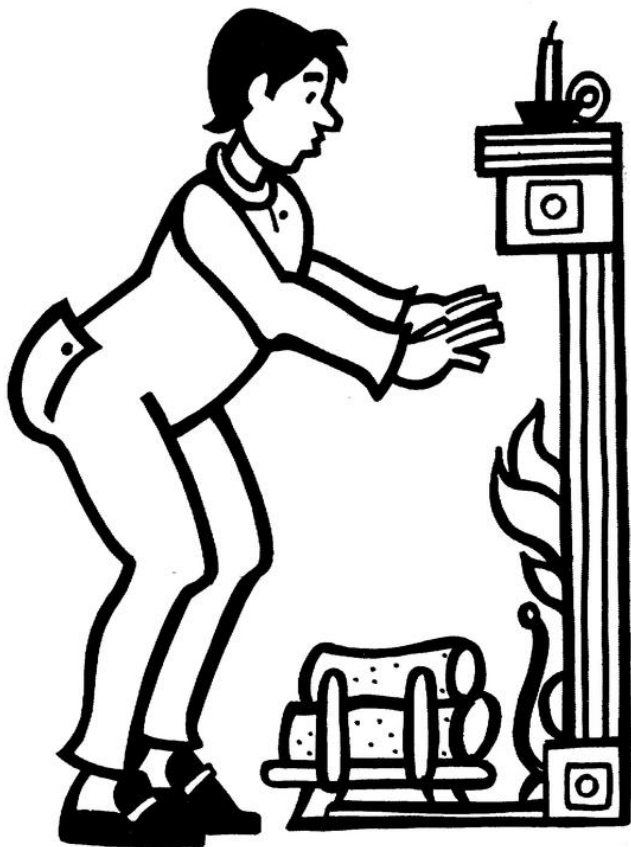














Cut out pocket as one piece. Fold back up behind the front. Fold flaps behind the and glue to the back of the pocket.

Cut cards out. Let your student color them, if desired. Let your student sort the cards by season (some may have more than one answer). Notice the picture of the man planting the bulbs! When are bulbs planted? (Spring bulbs are planted in the fall.)



Items
Sent to



Holland

Fold page in half. Cut around the oval shape, but do not cut the left side.

Where in the
World Is
Holland?

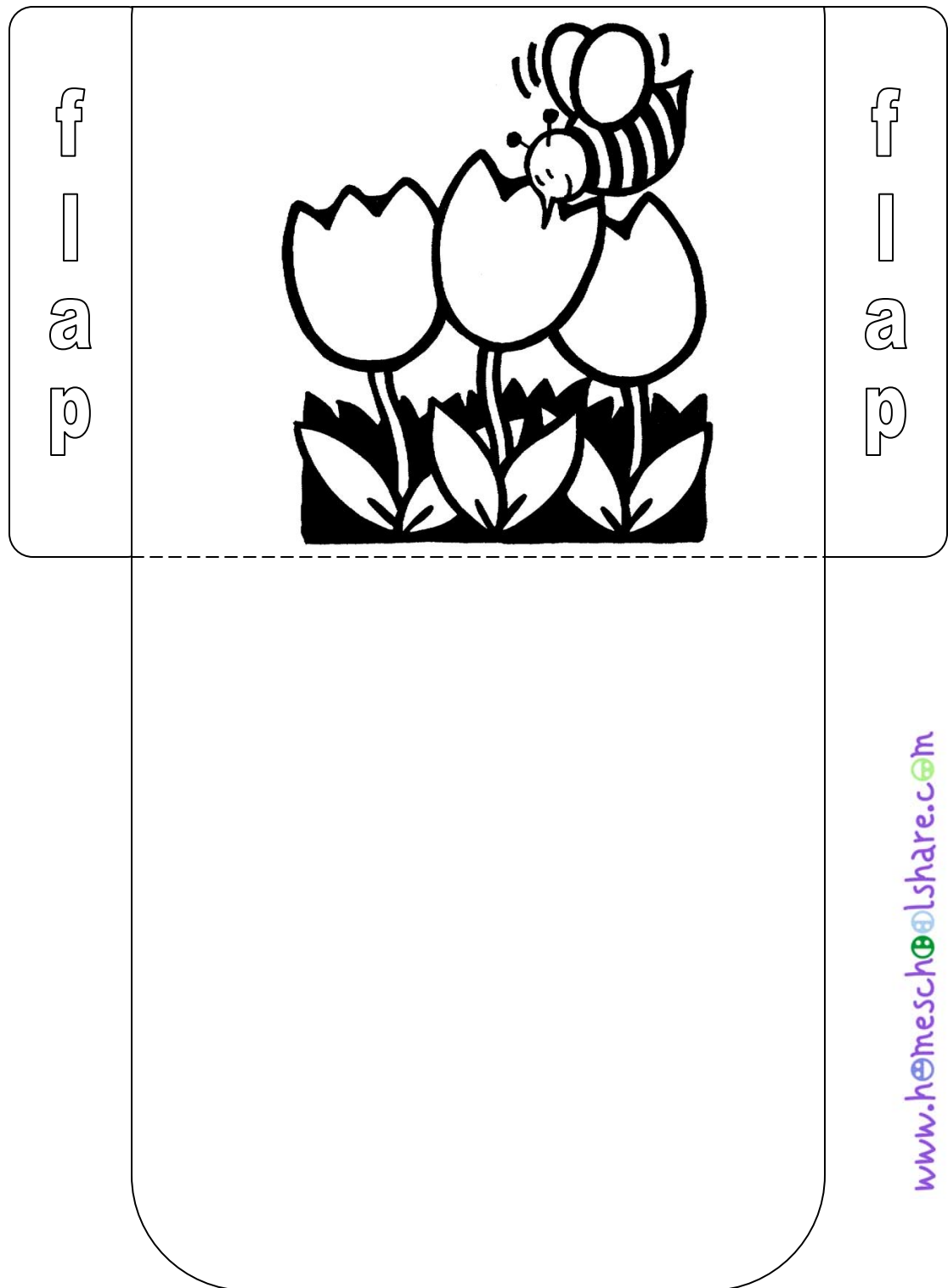


Cut out book on previous page as one piece. Fold in half like a hamburger. Cut out piece on this page. Let your student find Holland/The Netherlands and color it on the map. Glue this piece into the book.





Cut out pocket as one piece. Fold back up behind the front. Fold flaps behind the and glue to the back of the pocket. Store vocabulary cards in the pocket.



1. _____

The heading gives the date that the letter was written as well as the complete address of the person who is writing the letter.

2. _____

The greeting tells to whom the letter is written.

3. _____

The body is the letter itself.

4. _____

The closing is a polite way to say goodbye.
(Sincerely, Sincerely Yours, etc.)

5. _____

The signature is the name of the writer.



For this lapbook component, you will need an envelope.

Cut out the title and paste it on the outer flap of the envelope (the back side).
Glue (front side down) into your lapbook.

Let your student complete the page (writing in the parts of a friendly letter);
cut it out, fold it up, and place it inside the envelope.

You could also add a sample friendly letter (written by your student) in the envelope.

Cut book out as one piece
and fold matchbook style.



Cut out rectangles. Stack in order with cover on top and staple at the top.

Natural Resources
and Products

Where I Live

Holland



Chocolate Fractions

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Glue to the back of the last piece.

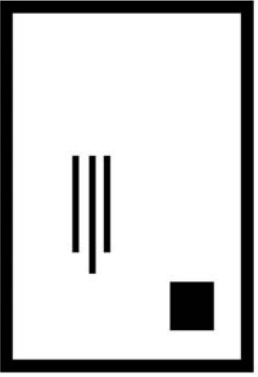
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Cut the two rectangles out (each has three sections). Fold accordion style on the dotted lines. The first fold (between "Chocolate Fractions" and the one chocolate piece) needs to be a mountain fold...the next a valley. Fold the second rectangle in the same fashion (mountain first, valley second). The blank area on the second piece needs to be glued behind the 2 boxes on the first piece. Once it's glued together you should be able to open and close it accordion style. Let your student write the fraction on each piece of chocolate bar ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{2}$; $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, etc.). Then at the bottom of each "page" in the book, he can write = 1 whole.

Cut L-shape out as ONE piece. Fold the top of the L shape down. Fold the right rectangle in over the existing flap. ("What does a mail carrier do?" will be the front of your book.)

How does mail get from here to there?



What does a mail carrier do?

