

# Friendship Day

**Actual Holiday:** First Sunday in August

**First Celebrated:** 1930



## Introduction

Friendship Day began in 1930 when Joyce Hall, the founder of Hallmark Cards, created it as a day for friends to send cards to one another. Over the years, Friendship Day has been celebrated in many different countries around the world and sending cards has been a primary way to celebrate. Celebrate this day with your class by discussing what friendship is and isn't and creating posters that honor friendship.

## Materials

- *All About Friendship* activity sheet (page 49)
- art supplies

## The Activity

- Tell students that today you will be celebrating Friendship Day. This is a day in which we honor and appreciate the friendships we have in our lives.
- Ask students what they like best about their friends. Are their friends always people they have a lot in common with? Are they neighbors or family members? How did they meet their friends?
- Talk about what good friends do for each other. Point out that good friends listen to each other and help when they are feeling sad. They show up when they say they are going to. They like to be together and have fun. It feels good to be around a good friend. Friends stand up for each other. Friends fight sometimes, but they talk and make up again.
- Bring up the idea that sometimes friendships and people change. Sometimes, they don't last forever. There are ways to tell when it's time to end a friendship and start making new friends. If a friend says mean things about you to others, that is often a sign that they cannot be trusted and are not a true friend. Friends should not be bossy or mean all of—or even most of—the time. Friends don't exclude friends and show up when they say they are going to. Feeling bad every time you are together is a sign that something is not right in the friendship. Sometimes, you can talk to your friends and work out your issues. But if you can't, there is nothing wrong with ending a friendship that does not work.
- Ask students to come up with words that describe good friends or friendship. Write these words on the board as students say them. Some possible words are *kind, loveable, loyal, thoughtful, protective, dependable, fun, hilarious, wonderful, caring, sweet, unique, attentive, smiling, respectful, careful, warm, compatible, considerate, loving, forgiving, and generous*.
- Distribute the *All About Friendship* activity sheet to students. Have them write words about friends or friendship inside the hands border. These can be words listed on the board or other words that they come up with. They can write the names of their friends as well.
- Have them decorate the rest of the activity sheet to make a poster that they can keep as a reminder of friendship and what it means to them.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# All About Friendship

