

## Key Stage 1-2

# POSTCARD POEMS

Write a short poem from a holiday destination, real or imagined, to send to a friend, family member or stranger.



THEPOETRYSOCIETY

An activity by The Poetry  
Society for National Poetry Day.

[www.poetrysociety.org.uk](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk)



### Gap Year Letter from a Five-Toed Sloth

Hi, Mum, I'm sorry that I missed the plane.  
How far is Heathrow, then, from John O'Groats?  
When next you come to meet me, take a train.

I came here to observe the two-toed sloths.  
I gave that up. The species is extinct.  
(Since sloths could not be bothered using both,

they've all evolved to one-toed sloths, I think).  
I should have told you this, but never wrote.  
I had no stamps. My pen ran out of ink.

Planes don't pick up our mail, just leaky boats.  
I've a bottle ready for this letter.  
I'll toss it in the sea. I hope it floats.

If I wait till spring, the current's better.  
I mention 'spring'. I need to make this clear:  
(don't tell Dad while he's driving. Wait till later).

I can't face coming home. I'm staying here.  
My Gap Year's for a lifetime, not a year!

by *Diana Brodie*



### Discuss

Why do people send postcards when they are on holiday?

What do people write home about?

### Wish you were here

If you could go on holiday anywhere in the universe where would it be?

Blackpool? The Moon? A rainforest? The end of a rainbow?

What's the strangest place you could send a postcard from?

Who would be the strangest person to receive a postcard from?

If it wasn't from a person, who or what else might have sent you a postcard?

### Writing home

Imagine the strangest postcard you might send or receive.

Who's writing it? Where are they writing from?

What details would they include?

Think about what they might have done on holiday.

Think about the tastes, smells and sounds they might have come across.

What do they/you want to tell the recipient?

### Think of as many ideas as possible for your postcard.

Write a sentence for each idea.

Now begin to arrange your sentences into a poem.

### Tips

Start your poem with "Dear" or "Hello".

Keep it short enough to fit on a postcard.

Remember: it doesn't have to rhyme.