

Our Birthday Graph Space-Saver Pocket Chart

Congratulations on your purchase of this Really Good Stuff® **Our Birthday Graph Space-Saver Pocket Chart**—a colorful way to record, display, and celebrate student birthdays throughout the year.

This Really Good Stuff® product includes:

- Our Birthday Graph Space-Saver Pocket Chart
- 60 Candle Cards
- 14 Flame Cards
- 1 Header Card
- This Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide

Cleaning and Storing the Our Birthday Graph Space-Saver Pocket Chart

Keep your *Pocket Chart* in good condition by wiping it occasionally with a damp sponge. Fold the *Pocket Chart* along the horizontal stitching lines for easy storage.

Displaying the Our Birthday Graph Space-Saver Pocket Chart

Before displaying the **Our Birthday Graph Space-Saver Pocket Chart**, make copies of this Really Good Stuff® Activity Guide, cut apart the reproducibles, and file the pages for future use. Or, download another copy of it from our Web site at www.reallygoodstuff.com. Hang the *Pocket Chart* where students will be able to see it easily.

Our Birthday Graph Space-Saver Pocket Chart

Well before a student in your class has his or her birthday, develop community within your class as you fill in the *Birthday Graph* together: Gather students around the **Our Birthday Graph Space-Saver Pocket Chart**. Explain how you want to make everyone's birthday special this year. Share how you hope to handle birthdays in the classroom (parties, cupcakes, cards, and so forth). Indicate when you will celebrate any birthdays that fall during weekends and school vacations.

Direct students' attention to the *Pocket Chart*. Discuss how you will be using it as a reminder throughout the year of everyone's birthday and as a way to celebrate each student's birthday on his or her special day.

Birthday Bonanza

Before filling in the graph, allow some time for students to learn each other's birthdays by playing one of the following games. You may want to have a class list of birthdays on hand to double-check dates.

- **Birthday Line Up:** For younger children, ask them to line up by month. For older students, have them line up by month and date. For a challenge, ask students to line up by birthday without speaking.
- **Birthday Red Rover:** (**Note:** You need plenty of room for students to run.) As you divide the class into two lines, remind students how to play the game. Split the class in two and set up two lines: Indicate that when a student hears his or her birth date called, that student is to run from the line he or she is in toward the other line, while a person in the middle tries to tag the runner. Explain that

if a runner is tagged, he or she joins the person in the middle and tries to tag other runners.

Tell students to stand about 20 to 30 feet apart from each other and to face each other; then ask for a volunteer to be in the middle. Stand near the two lines, and call out birth months, saying, "Red Rover, Red Rover, send anyone whose birthday is in _____ on over." The last student who manages to make it safely to the other side without being tagged is the winner.

Light the Candles

Ask students to gather in groups by birth month. Then direct them to get in order by date. Pass out the same *Candle Card* to each student in a birth month. For example, give a yellow-and blue-striped *Card* to each student who is born in January. Have students write their name and birth date on their *Card*. Take turns placing the *Cards* into the *Pocket Chart*. Once all of the students in one month have put their *Card* into the *Pocket Chart*, add the *Flame Card* to light the candle.

Tell students that on their birthday, you will fill in the *Header Card* for the *Pocket Chart* with his or her name and birth date.

Birthday Graph

Use your completed *Pocket Chart* to review your students' graphing skills by asking a few word problems. Here are some to get you started:

- Which month has the most birthdays? How many does it have?
- Which month has the least birthdays? How many does it have?
- How many children were born in the Summer? Fall? Winter? Spring?
- Which season has the most birthdays? How many does it have?
- What is the difference between the number of children born in _____ from those born in _____?

Happy Birthday Desk Candle

Copy the *Stand-Up Happy Birthday Desk Candle Reproducible* on cardstock. Add the birthday child's name, and color the candle. Then cut around the flame so that it will stand up when folded. Fold along the dotted lines, and glue the bottom tabs together so that the candle stands up. Place the candle on the birthday child's desk before he or she comes to class.

Birthday Timeline

Make enough copies of the *Birthday Timeline Reproducible* for your class. Have children take one home to fill out prior to their birthday. Instruct them to fill in the timeline with memorable occasions in their life and to add drawings or bring in pictures to go along with the timeline. On their birthday, urge the birthday child to share his or her timeline with the class. Display the completed timelines near the **Our Birthday Graph Space-Saver Pocket Chart**, or bind them to create a classroom birthday timeline book.

