



Les Cartes Postales

Do you have eight postcards of Paris? You're ready to go! If not, there are many sites on the Internet where you can purchase cards or copy images. The AATF has produced postcards that are available from the Materials Center (see form below). Try the The Paris Pages/*Les Pages de Paris* [www.paris.org] that invites you to send a message with an electronic post card to anyone! I have sent them to my students (who all have an e-mail account at the school), sometimes with just a greeting or sometimes with trivia questions about Paris:

Qui est la sainte patronne de Paris? (Sainte Geneviève)

Qui a dessiné la pyramide du Louvre? (I.M. Pei)

Combien d'arrondissements est-ce qu'il y a à Paris? (Il y en a 20)

Post cards have multiple possibilities in the classroom for any age language learner. We now have a color printer at school, but if you don't, most copy shops can blow up a color post card to 8 x 11 inches. Laminate the images or slide them into plastic protector pages and they will last for many years of class activities. I use them to determine seating arrangements for the class—even after we have finished the unit on Paris. Put the blown up copies on each desk and hand out the post cards at the door. The students find their seats and are already engaged in language before they sit down, knowing they will have to identify their Paris monument. At first we just familiarize the students with the image. C'est *la Tour Eiffel*. Then add to encourage more response: *Qu'est-ce que tu visites aujourd'hui? Je visite la Tour Eiffel.*

Create a Memory board. With eight postcard scenes, you have the makings of a game. Make copies (or, even more fun, buy pairs of post cards) so that you have eight pairs. On a poster board, tape sixteen envelopes that are wide enough for the postcards. Make four rows of four. Distribute the cards around the board and cover each with an index card.. There should be enough of the index card showing to write numbers on them. That way you can drill numbers as the class is learning them, or choose just to use the most difficult for more practice (61, 71, 81, 91). Play the traditional Memory game where one student chooses a number, and then must identify the image uncovered. The next student guesses another number, trying to find a match. The team or individuals who have collected the most postcards win.

Pairs of postcards or pairs of images make an easy way to choose partners for communication games or activities. It may take a few minutes longer than just assigning students together yourself, but the linguistic rewards are worth the extra minutes. Hand the cards out randomly to all the students. They must find their partners, not by showing the image, but by announcing where they are: *Je suis à la Tour Eiffel.*

We invite FLES* and middle school teachers to share ideas, classroom gimmicks, games for oral interaction, National French Week activities, and successful lessons with other AATF members. Join the teacher network! Send your ideas to Elizabeth Miller, 74 Tuscaloosa Avenue, Atherton, CA 94027; E-mail: [mmemiller@aol.com]; fax: (650) 342-7623.

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