WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

February 2022: Valentine's Photo Box
Ages 5–12

CONNECT.

Valentine's Day is an opportunity to show others that you care. Before February 14th is here, choose several special people who you are thankful for.

You could select family members, classmates, friends, a coach, or even your teacher! You could also choose people who you may not know personally, but whom you look up to, like your favorite athlete, musician, artist, or author. Once you have a few people in mind, follow the instructions below to create a message that is sure to make them feel appreciated.

INVESTIGATE.

While it is special to receive a message of any kind, it is even more unforgettable to receive a message written in code. When a message is written in code, it uses a system of letters, words, figures, and/or symbols to make it incomprehensible to everyone *except* the recipient! The recipient can decipher (or decode) the message because they are usually also given the cipher, which is the code's key.

With an adult's supervision, you may use the Internet to research different kinds of secret codes that already exist, or you may create your own. Once you have decided on the code you will use, fill out the cipher below for each letter of the alphabet. A few blank squares have been included for you too, in case there are punctuation marks or anything else you want to encode.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

INNOVATE.

Now, use your cipher and the materials below to create Valentine's Day cards for the people you selected. You will then use your Valentine's Photo Box to keep your cards safe and hidden until you are ready to deliver them!

You'll need:

- Your Valentine's Photo Box
- A variety of paper: Glitter paper, builder's paper, 11 x 14 neon paper poster board, 11 x 14 poster board for crafts
- Pencil or pen
- Markers
- Craft paint and paint brushes
- Ruler
- Scissors

1. First, use your paper, ruler, and scissors to cut out your cards. Measure the inside of your Valentine's Photo Box with the ruler and then use your pencil to outline the cards you will create, making sure that they will fit inside the box. They could fold like a regular card or look like a postcard. Once you are happy with their design, cut them out!

2. Decorate the outside of your cards using the craft supplies. Think about what each recipient likes and decorate your card especially for this person.

3. Then, use your cipher to help you write your coded messages!

4. Once your messages are written, decide how your recipients will decipher what you have said. Will they have to crack the code on their own? Or, will you give them the cipher? If you will be sharing the cipher, be sure to include it somewhere on your cards.

5. Once all of your cards are complete, place them carefully in your Valentine's Photo Box for safekeeping. Then, do not forget to take them out and deliver them in time for Valentine's Day!

Just like the code in your message, a **locksmith** creates a special code when they make a key for your home. A **locksmith** is an expert at installing and fixing locks, as well as making keys!

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