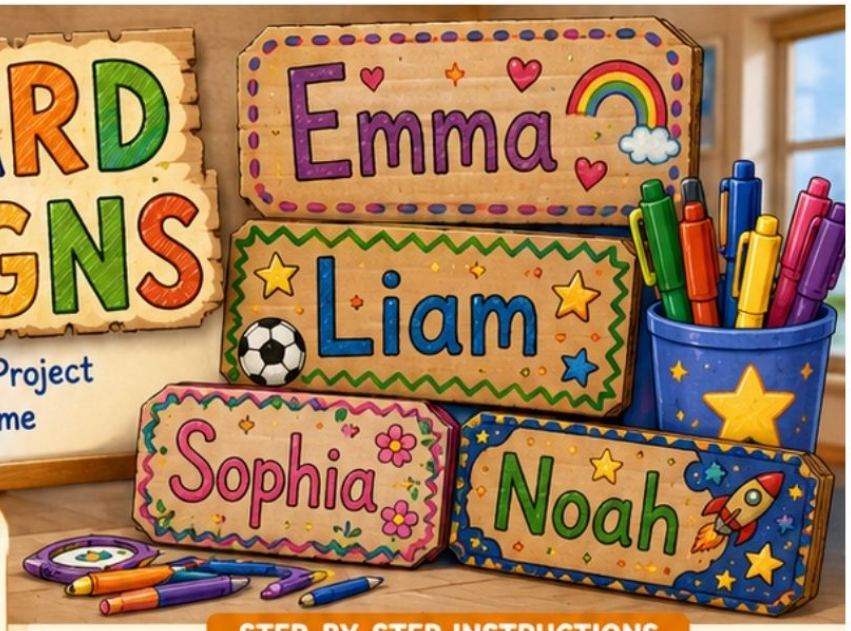
CARDBOARD NAME SIGNS

A Creative Recycled Classroom Project That Helps Students Feel Welcome



Cardboard Name Signs are a fun and practical classroom craft that allows students to personalize their learning space while giving new life to recycled cardboard. Students decorate sturdy name tags for desks, cubbies, lockers, classroom jobs, or bulletin boards using simple art supplies and their own creativity. This project is especially popular during the first weeks of school because it helps students learn classmates' names while creating a welcoming classroom environment.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Practice handwriting and letter formation.
- Strengthen fine motor skills through coloring, cutting, and decorating.
- Express creativity through personalized designs.
- Learn how recycled materials can be reused instead of discarded.
- Build classroom ownership and pride.



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Clean recycled cardboard (cereal boxes, shipping boxes, or packaging)
- Child-safe scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Colored pencils (optional)
- Glue sticks
- Decorative borders or washi tape
- Stickers, foam shapes, or stamps (optional)
- Label holders or laminating sheets (optional)
- Hole punch and yarn (optional for hanging signs)



STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1 PREPARE THE CARDBOARD

Cut the recycled cardboard into rectangles approximately 4–6 inches wide. Round the corners if desired.



2 WRITE STUDENT NAMES

Write names clearly in the center. Try different letter styles!



3 DECORATE THE BORDER

Decorate around the name using markers, crayons, borders, stickers, foam shapes, stamps, or washi tape.



4 ADD PERSONAL TOUCHES

Include small illustrations that reflect your interests!



5 PROTECT THE FINISHED SIGN

Laminate, slide into label holders, or cover with clear contact paper for extra durability.



6 DISPLAY THE NAME SIGNS

Place signs on desks, cubbies, lockers, bulletin boards, job charts, hallway displays, reading centers, and more!



EXAMPLES OF FINISHED SIGNS



CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

After completing the project, ask students questions such as:

- Why is recycling cardboard important?
- What other classroom materials could be reused?
- What does your artwork say about you?
- How do personalized classrooms help everyone feel included?



EXTENSION IDEAS

Create matching locker labels, table group signs, cubby tags, or classroom job cards. Redesign seasonal signs for holidays or classroom themes. Older students can create welcome signs for new classmates or labels for classroom storage areas. Keep creating, keep recycling, and keep our classroom beautiful all year long!



HELPFUL SUPPLIES



TEACHER TIP

Prepare several sample name signs using different artistic styles before introducing the project. There is no "right" design—encourage creativity and individuality while emphasizing neat lettering so names remain easy to read all year. The finished signs organize the classroom and help students feel valued and connected from the very first day!



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