

create



The First Christmas Card



- In Victorian times, educated people used to write Christmas letters, containing news and greetings and send them to their family and friends.
- In 1843, Sir Henry Cole, came up with the idea that instead of a letter, he would have a card made and copied and send that to each of his friends and family.
- He asked his friend, John Horsely to design the picture.
- He hand coloured each one himself.
- He made 1000 copies of the card and sold them for 1 shilling each (5p).
- In 2008, an original Henry Cole Christmas card was sold at auction for £8,500!





Published at Summerly's Home Treasury Office,
12, Old Bond Street, London.

From _____



- The picture shows a family celebrating Christmas together in the centre of the card
- The two side panels show acts of charity, giving food to the poor and giving clothes to the poor.
- Some people had problems with the picture. Have another look, can you spot some strange behaviour at the family table?





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- The child is being given a drink of wine!



Henry Cole was an interesting man

He worked for the government in different roles:

- helping to keep records
- helping the postal system – creating the penny black stamp
- He wrote children's books under the name Felix Summerly
- In 1851 he helped organise the Great Exhibition
- Queen Victoria recommended him for a knighthood
- No wonder he was too busy to write a Christmas letter!



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- Design your own Christmas card in the style of Henry Cole
- The middle section must show a happy family spending Christmas at home. Think about what you enjoy about Christmas day and draw it on the card.
- The 2 side sections will be about charity or giving to charity. Think about how we as a school raise money for charity or what charities do to help people.

