Parallel Fold Pop-Up Card Template

Create Interactive Sliding Pop-Up Cards

📋 Materials Needed

- **Two pieces of cardstock** (different colors work well)
- **Scissors**
- **Ruler**
- **Pencil**
- **Glue stick**
- **Tape**

🎯 Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Prepare the Base

Create a standard folded card as in the V-fold method.

Step 2: Create the Moving Element

Cut a strip of paper 1″ wide by 4″ long.

Step 3: Make Parallel Attachment Points

Measure and mark two points 2 inches apart along the center fold.

Step 4: Cut the Slots

Cut small slits at these points (about ¼″ width and 1″ wide each).

Step 5: Install the Mechanism

Thread the paper strip through both slits so it moves parallel to the card base.

Step 6: Add Your Design Element

- Create a symmetrical design that opens with the card
- Attach your drawing (animal, vehicle, etc.) to the visible part of the strip
- Secure design to the strip with sturdy folded paper strips for stability

Step 7: Create Stops

- Add small tabs at each end to prevent the strip from pulling completely through
- Tape stops down to the back of the card
- Fold the strip to close off the fold

🔧 Reinforcement Tips

Extra Paper Support

- **Folded paper strip**: Glue to the top of the slider paper strip for easy attachment of moving elements
- **Two longer strips**: Place perpendicularly over the strip area at the back of the card
- **Top and bottom strips**: Touch your slider paper strip (folded paper strips) to ensure smooth movement
- **Tab stopper support**: Provides something for the tab stopper to prevent further movement

Back Reinforcement

- Tape the back of the card for reinforcement
- **Important**: Do NOT glue the mechanisms when sealing the card

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🎨 Design Ideas

- **Moving animals**: Birds flying, fish swimming
- **Vehicles**: Cars driving, trains moving
- **Nature elements**: Clouds floating, sun rising
- **Characters**: People walking, dancing

✅ Success Checklist

- ☐ Strip moves smoothly through slots
- ☐ Design element is securely attached
- ☐ Stop tabs prevent over-extension
- ☐ Card closes flat
- ☐ Mechanism doesn't interfere with card closure
- ☐ Back reinforcement is properly secured

Pro Tip: Test the movement frequently during construction to ensure everything works smoothly!