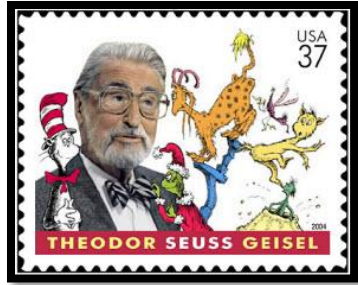


Requirement 1a. Discover the World Through Stamps

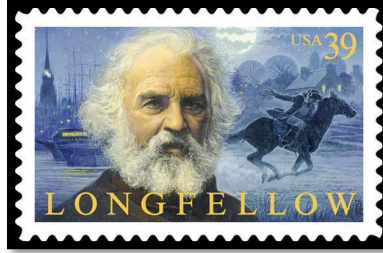


Stamps do more than just pay postage. For most countries, stamps are an expression of

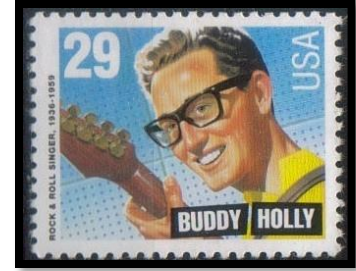
People



Authors



Poets



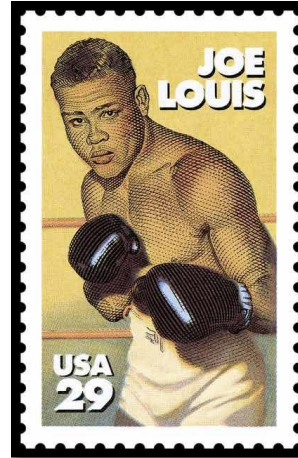
Entertainers



World Leaders



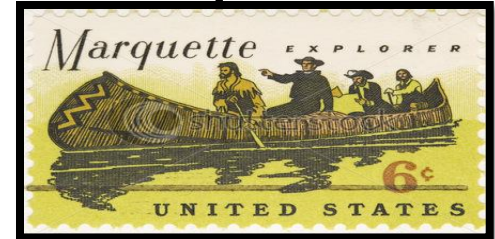
Scientists



Athletes



Composers



Explorers

People on Stamps

Leaders

Founders

Important people of the past

In the U.S., we issue a stamp about a year after a President dies.

Sometimes, important people on the world stage who are from other countries.

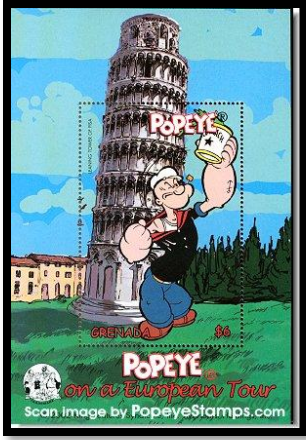
You might see stamps commemorating a visit of a foreign leader

Authors

Entertainers (singers, musicians, actors)

Scientists who made important contributions, Nobel Prize winners

Places



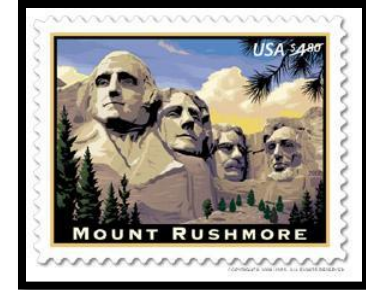
Foreign
countries



Underwater



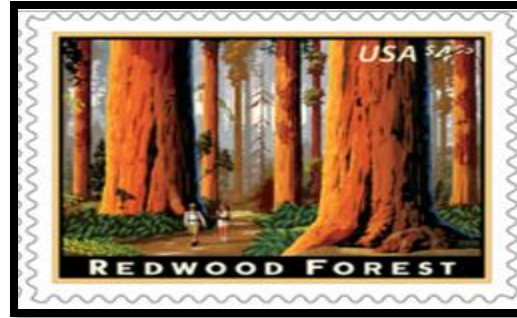
Churches



Monuments



Mountains



Forests



Beaches

Places on Stamps

Natural Landscapes

Monuments

Buildings

Cities

Institutions



Institutions on Stamps

Scouting is common on stamps from around the world

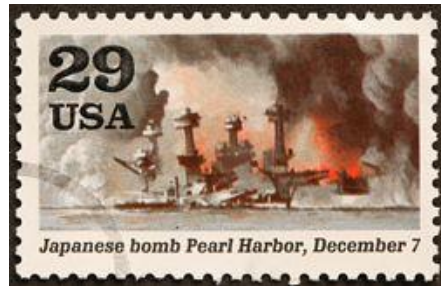
Military

Other government institutions

Red Cross and other organizations that help the poor, the sick, or victims of disasters

United Nations

History



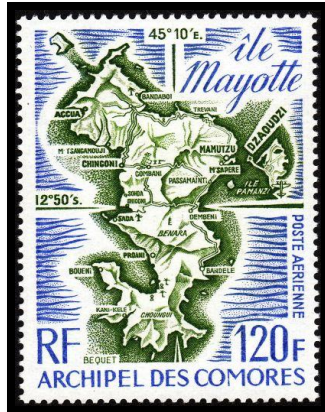
1000 A.D.



History on Stamps

Anniversaries of important events in that nation's history or sometimes of the world

Geography



Geography on Stamps

Can also be considered history – history of the expansion of the nation's borders

New railroads, roads, bridges, communication lines

Sometimes used to bolster claim to disputed territories,

Such as Kashmir that India and Pakistan have been fighting over for decades

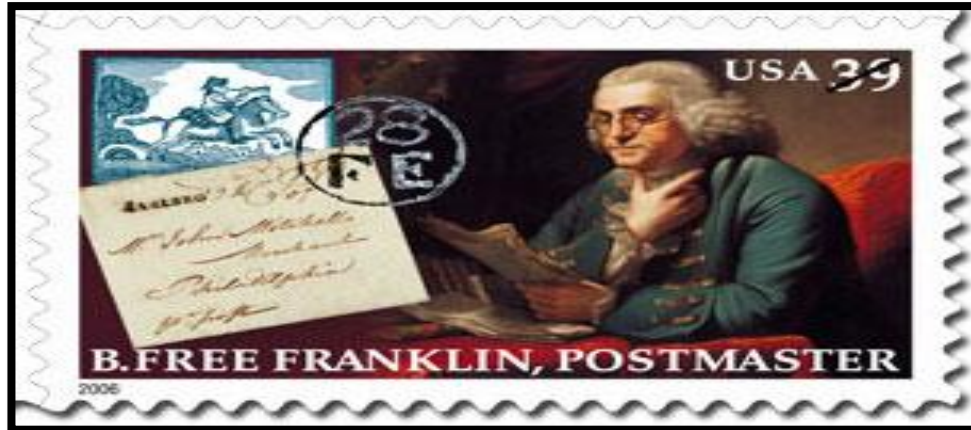
Antarctica

Requirement 1b. History of the U.S.P.S.



- Pre-1639
 - Bags of letters brought by sea captains were left on tables in various taverns and coffee houses.
 - Sometimes, they would put ads in the newspaper stating who had mail.
 - Or, if you were expecting mail, you had to go to the right tavern to find your letter.
 - The recipient paid for the letter.
 - The person carrying the letter was taking a chance that the recipient would refuse to pay.
- 1639 -- First postal service established at Fairbanks Tavern on the Boston waterfront.
- 1673 -- Monthly delivery between New York and Boston began- took 2 weeks
 - Overland – foot or horseback
 - No standard, surveyed routes

- 1737
 - British appoint Benjamin Franklin 1st postmaster of Philadelphia.
 - He made many improvements in the carriage of mail, such as surveying routes and using the same route consistently.
- 1775 -- Franklin was appointed 1st postmaster general of the United States. Our current postal system descended directly from his system.



- 1792 – Congress set postal rates based on how far a letter travelled and the number of sheets.
- 1794 – The first letter carriers didn't earn a salary from the postal department. Instead, they collected 2¢ from the recipient for each piece of mail they delivered.
- 1840 – Great Britain issues the very first stamp
- 1847 – US issues its first stamps

NOTE: Use of stamps to pre-pay postage was optional in the beginning; the sender could still have the recipient pay.



The first stamp known as the "Penny Black"

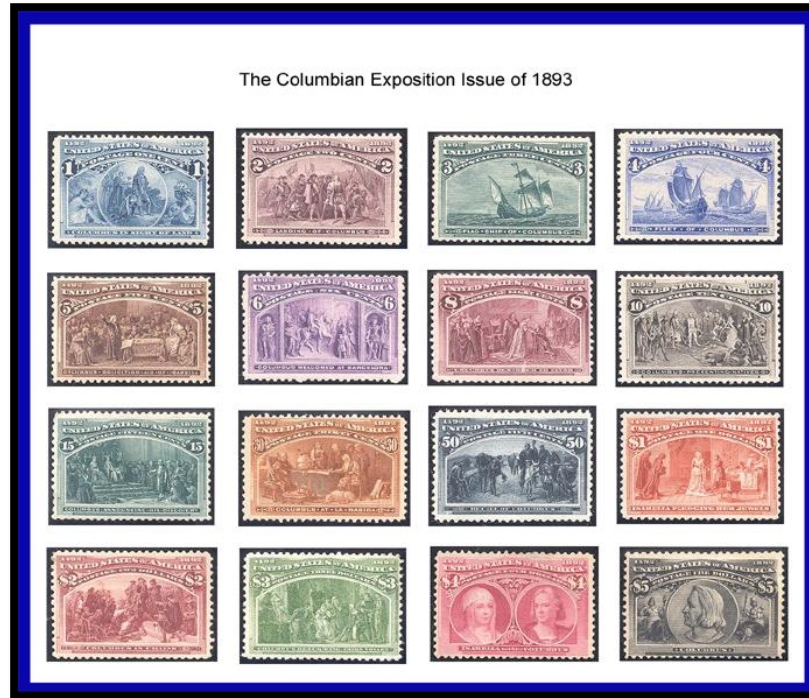


Scott #1
Benjamin Franklin
(for letters going less than 300 miles)



Scott #2
George Washington
(For letters going more than 300 miles)

- 1893 – First commemorative stamps were issued.
The 16 stamps honored the 400th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America.

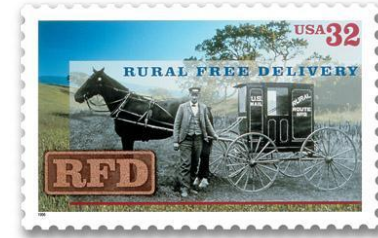


A commemorative stamp honors a particular person, place, or event

- 1896 – Rural Free Delivery (RFD) began.

Mail was brought directly to the homes of farmers and other people living in the country. Before this, it had to be picked up in town.

Postmasters, like the sea captains of years before, placed ads in newspapers stating who had mail waiting.



As time went on, mail began to be brought to every home and business in the U.S.

- 1963 – ZIP Codes were first used.
ZIP stands for **Z**one **I**mprovement **P**lan. These numbers help move mail more efficiently.



- 1974 -- Self-adhesive stamps tested
Before self-adhesive stamps, there was a water-activated gum that attached the stamp to the envelope. Most people licked them. Others would use a damp sponge either directly onto the stamp or first to their finger then to the stamp.



- 1992 – Self adhesive stamps introduced nationwide



- 2007 – “Forever” stamps issued

Prior to “Forever” stamps, stamps had a numerical value on them. That made things complicated when rates changed. People had to scramble to buy make-up stamps of a few cents.

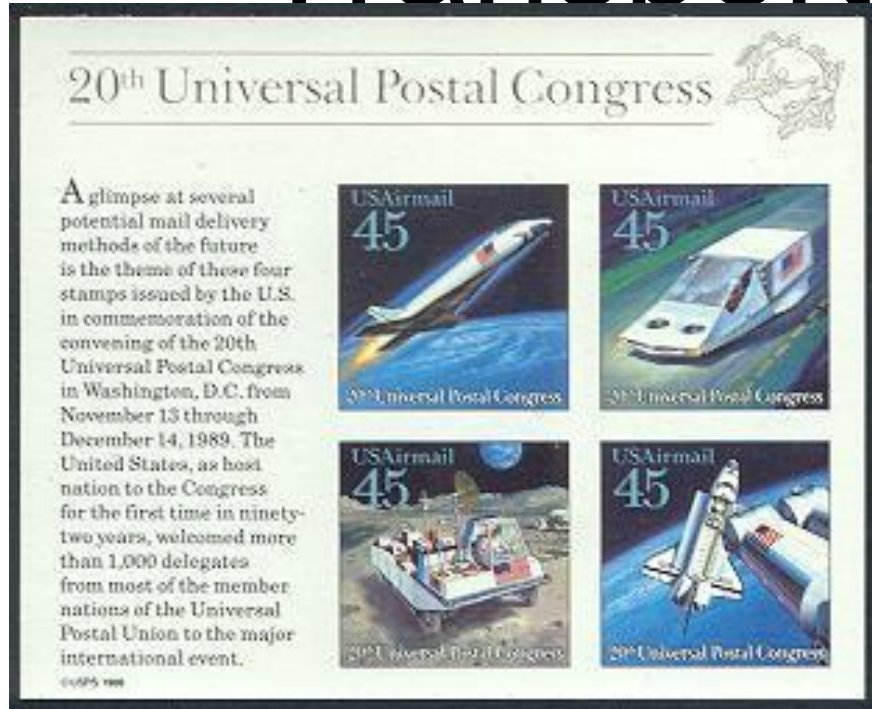
- 2011 – All new stamps issued will be “Forever” stamps
“Forever” stamps pay the first class postage rate in effect at the time of mailing, regardless of the purchase price.



{Foreign countries are doing similar things, showing class of service rather than a numerical value on stamps.}

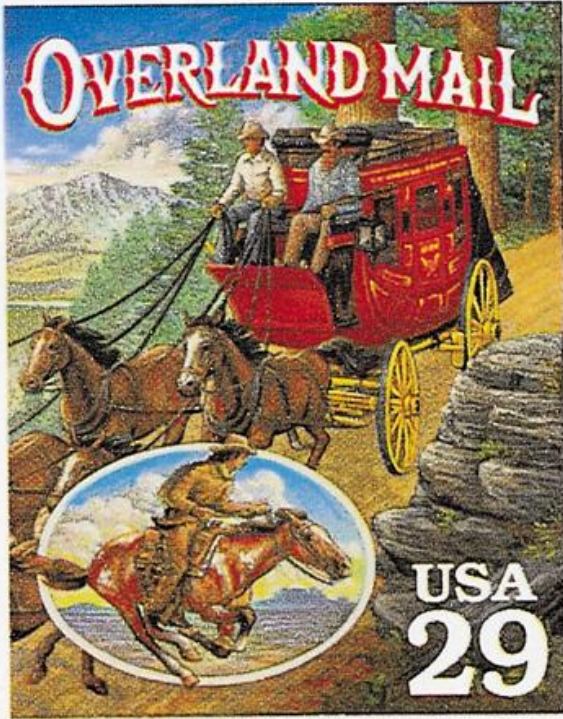
Requirement 1b.

Transporting the Mail

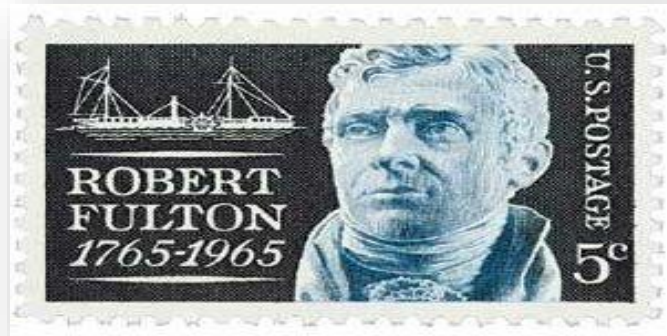
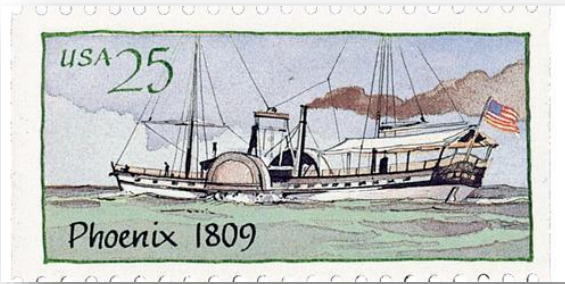


Another way that mail service has evolved is in how the mail has been transported.

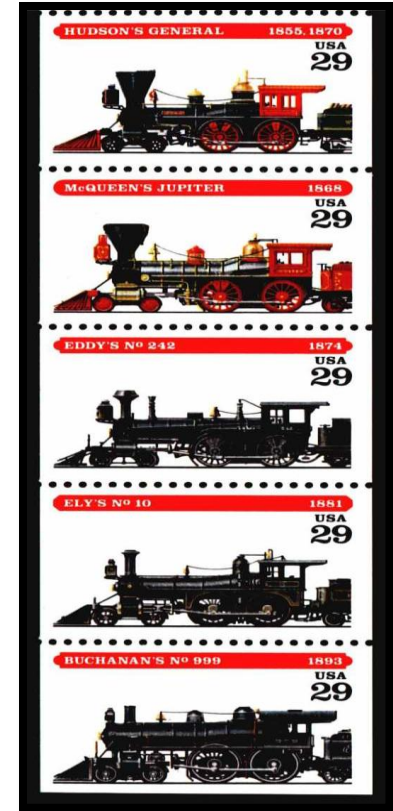
Every method used to transport people has



1799 – Stagecoaches first used to deliver the mail.
This was a natural next step from moving mail by foot or horseback.



Early 1800s – Steamboats began moving the mail along rivers and canals.

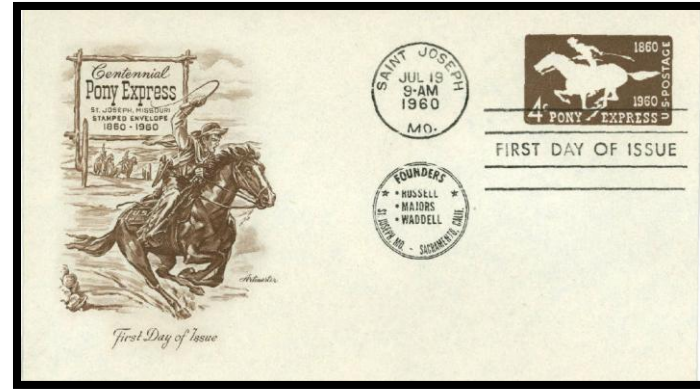
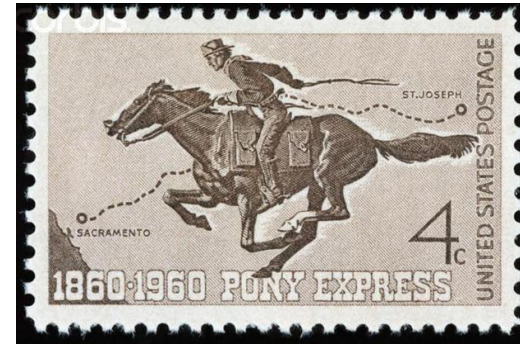


1838 – Trains started carrying the mail.

See the camels?



1855 – Congress appropriated \$30,000 to buy camels for the Army, which were used to carry mail over the southwestern deserts.



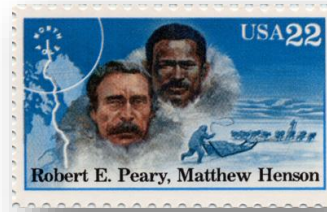
1860 – The Pony Express began delivering mail from Missouri to California.



1911 – First experimental airmail delivery.
Regular air postal service began in 1918.



**By
balloon**

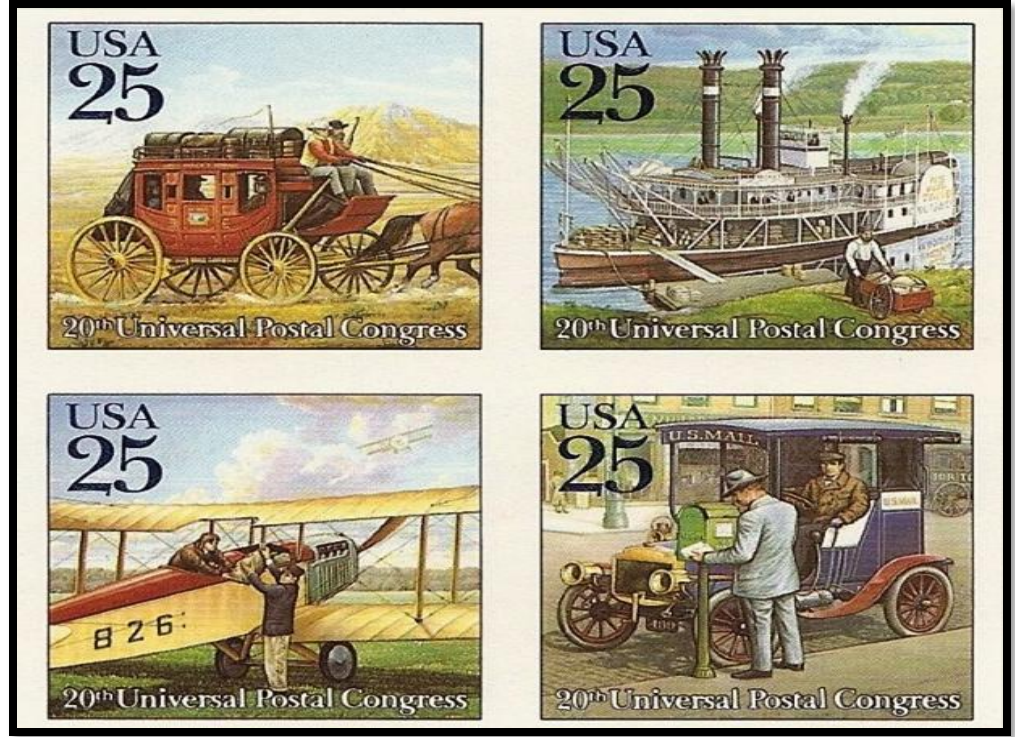


**By
dogsled**



By zeppelin

Over the years, mail has been delivered in some unusual ways.



Each method of transportation increased the potential for moving the mail faster.

Requirement 1b. Differences with Overseas Posts

- Some countries print stamps with any living person on them. In the US, no one may be on a stamp unless he has been dead for at least 5 years (presidents are the exception- first birth anniversary after death).
- Some foreign post offices are used as banks, for collecting taxes, or giving vaccinations.
- Some countries don't deliver mail. It must be picked up at the post office.

