

**Honoree:** Senator Ralph Anderson

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

**Subject:** English Language Arts

**Standard(s) Addressed:**

6-8-RI-1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

6-8-RI-3 Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).

**Steps/Strategies:**

1. Students will research information about Senator Ralph Anderson through an online search.
2. Students will be able to gain biographical information through <http://www.scafricanamerican.com/calendar2013.pdf>.
3. We will look at several information text articles about the post office and how it is run.
4. Students will be given a chart to fill in with information from the article, as we are reading and connecting to the text.
5. As a class we will create Carousel Posters with a different topic on each. Students will receive sticky notes and they will respond to each question/statement.
6. After students have had the opportunity to respond to each question/statement, we will discuss each one and students will copy down remaining comments on their chart.
7. Through student's knowledge of the foundation of the post office and their biographical knowledge on Senator Ralph Anderson, students will construct a letter about the United States Postal Service.
8. Students will be paired up and given a job to complete. One student will write a letter from the United States Postal Service to Senator Ralph Anderson. The letter will consist of congratulations for his hard work and will honor him with a reward of some kind. The second student will write a letter from Senator Ralph Anderson to the United States Postal Service. This letter will consist of why Senator Ralph Anderson loved his job and ways that he felt he made a difference.
9. Once the letters are constructed, students will receive a stamp template. Students will use their prior knowledge from an informational article about stamps, to create a stamp that honors Senator Ralph Anderson.

**Additional Comments:**

Students will read several articles on Senator Ralph Anderson, The United States Postal Service, and how stamps were created and what they were used for. Students will have multiple opportunities to show their comprehension of the material through differentiated activities and assessments. Some of those activities are included.

### Carousel Walk Questions/Statements

- There are many different reasons for writing letters. List one.
- How does the post office know where to deliver the letters?
- What information do you need to give the post office?
- Using the envelope provided for you, address it to yourself using the information needed by the post office.
- The National Postal Museum takes care of 14 million stamps.
- The Pony Express lasted only one and a half years.
- How efficient do you think it was for city mail to travel through tubes underground?
- Why do you think they used camels, birds, dogs and reindeer to help deliver the mail?
- How is American history preserved in letters?
- What do you think about the following picture:



### Stamp Museum

Creating a stamp museum will let students develop a wide range of skills.

1. Students will need to gather stamps from their home, parents, neighbors, etc. Students can write to local post offices and businesses to see if they will donate stamps, past and present.
2. Have students research the subject on their stamp. On a index card or sticky note, students will write down their information and become an expert on it to share orally with the class.
3. Divide the class in 4 groups. Each group will represent jobs performed by people in a museum.
  - a. Group 1- After students have selected the stamp they would like to use, this team will remove it from the envelope and prepare it for exhibition.
  - b. Group 2- Students will organize stamps into group and related themes. They will write an introductory paragraph that explains each theme.

- c. Group 3- Students will be the designers of the process and will decide how to set up the exhibition. They will determine how to display each group of stamps and how to incorporate the themes of the stamps.
  - d. Group 4- This group of students will conduct all of the promotional advertisement for the exhibit. Students will be responsible for showcasing each theme of stamps and creating posters for the exhibition. They will create invitations for different classes to come and observe the Stamp Museum.
4. Once the museum has been opened and classes have come to observe, each student should vote on their favorite category of stamps and their favorite individual stamp.

### **What Is A Stamp Made Of?**

Stamps may look very thin,  
But they are made up of four layers!  
The top layer is the ink for  
Printing the picture.  
A special coating that glows is  
The second layer.  
The third layer is paper.  
We've all tasted the bottom layer-  
It's the glue!

### **WHAT DOES A STAMP DO?**

Little postage stamps have many big jobs.  
A stamp is a receipt -  
it shows that someone has paid for a  
letter to be delivered.  
Some stamps have a special coating that  
helps machines process the mail.  
Under special lights the coating appears to  
glow, which helps the machine find the  
stamp to cancel it.  
Many people collect stamps  
for their beauty.  
Stamps also preserve history by honoring  
special events, places, or people.

### **HOW ARE STAMP DESIGNS CHOSEN?**

Americans throughout the country suggest ideas for new stamp designs. They send their suggestions to the U. S. Postal Service's Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee made up of artists, historians, business people and stamp collectors. The committee selects the subjects they think most Americans would really enjoy. The Postmaster General makes the final decision. If you were going to design a stamp, what subject would you

choose? You might write a letter to the committee explaining why your subject should be chosen. You can send your suggestions to:

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee Stamp Development Branch, U. S. Postal Service  
Washington, DC 20260

Some special stamps celebrate or honor:

These stamps are called commemorative stamps. Only a limited number are printed.

People:



Places:



Special Events:



Important Issues:



### Early History of the U.S. Postal Service

The United States Postal Service first began moving the mail on July 26, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress named Benjamin Franklin as the nation's first Postmaster General. In accepting the position, Franklin dedicated his efforts to fulfilling George Washington's vision. Washington, who championed a free flow of information between citizens and their government as a cornerstone of freedom, often spoke of a nation bound together by a system of postal roads and post offices.

Publisher William Goddard (1740-1817) first suggested the idea of an organized U.S. postal service in 1774, as a way to pass the latest news past the prying eyes of colonial British postal inspectors.

Goddard formally proposed a postal service to Congress nearly two years before adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Congress took no action on Goddard's plan until after the battles of Lexington and Concord in the spring of 1775. On July 16, 1775, with revolution brewing, Congress enacted the "Constitutional Post" as a way to ensure communication between the general populace and the patriots preparing to fight for America's independence. Goddard was reported to have been deeply disappointed when Congress chose Franklin as Postmaster General.

The Postal Act of 1792 further defined the role of the Postal Service. Under the act, newspapers were allowed in the mails at low rates to promote the spread of information across the states. To ensure the sanctity and privacy of the mails, postal officials were forbidden to open any letters in their charge unless they were undeliverable.

### **The Modern Postal Service: Agency or Business?**

Until adoption of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970, the U.S. Postal Service functioned as a regular, tax-supported, agency of the federal government.

According to the laws under which it now operates, the U.S. Postal Service is a semi-independent federal agency, mandated to be revenue-neutral. That is, it is supposed to break even, not make a profit.

In 1982, U.S. postage stamps became "postal products," rather than a form of taxation. Since then, The bulk of the cost of operating the postal system has been paid for by customers through the sale of "postal products" and services rather than taxes.

Each class of mail is also expected to cover its share of the costs, a requirement that causes the percentage rate adjustments to vary in different classes of mail, according to the costs associated with the processing and delivery characteristics of each class.

According to the costs of operations, U.S. Postal Service rates are set by the Postal Regulatory Commission according to the recommendations of the Postal Board of Governors.

### **Look, the USPS is an Agency!**

The USPS is created as a government agency under Title 39, Section 101.1 of the United States Code which states, in part:

(a) The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities. The costs of establishing and maintaining the Postal Service shall not be apportioned to impair the overall value of such service to the people.

Under paragraph (d) of Title 39, Section 101.1, "Postal rates shall be established to apportion the costs of all postal operations to all users of the mail on a fair and equitable basis."

### **No, the USPS is a Business!**

The Postal Service takes on some several very non-governmental attributes via the powers granted to it under Title 39, Section 401, which include:

- power to sue (and be sued) under its own name;
- power to adopt, amend and repeal its own regulations;
- power to "enter into and perform contracts, execute instruments, and determine the character of, and necessity for, its expenditures";
- power to buy, sell and lease private property; and,
- power to build, operate, lease and maintain buildings and facilities.

All of which are typical functions and powers of a private business. However, unlike other private businesses, the Postal Service is exempt from paying federal taxes. USPS can borrow money at discounted rates, and can condemn and acquire private property under governmental rights of eminent domain.

The USPS does get some taxpayer support. Around \$96 million is budgeted annually by Congress for the "Postal Service Fund." These funds are used to compensate USPS for postage-free mailing for all legally blind persons and for mail-in election ballots sent from US citizens living overseas. A portion of the funds also pays USPS for providing address information to state and local child support enforcement agencies.

Under federal law, only the Postal Service can handle or charge postage for handling letters. Despite this virtual monopoly worth some \$45 billion a year, the law does not require that the Postal Service make a profit -- only break even. Still, the US Postal Service has averaged a profit of over \$1 billion per year in each of the last five years. Yet, Postal Service officials argue that they must continue to raise postage at regular intervals in order make up for the increased use of email.

**DESIGN A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP OF YOUR OWN**

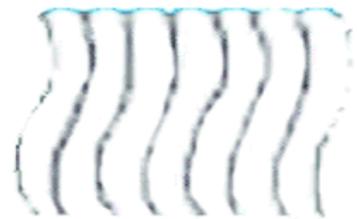
YOU MAY CHOOSE TO HONOR...

**A PERSON**, such as your favorite person or a character from the past.

**A PLACE**, such as your school or a beautiful place you have visited or imagined.

**A SPECIAL EVENT**, such as the anniversary of an important invention, a special event in your community, or your birthday.

**AN IMPORTANT ISSUE**, something that is important to you or to our world.



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