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WELCOME TO TEACHING WITH STAMPS!

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Dear Educator,

No one knows better than the United States Postal Service that meaningful stories have the power to connect with all of us. For more than 160 years, the US Postal Service has been collecting and developing the stories of our country, illustrating them on postage stamps, and building an immense archive of our collective experiences.

That's why TIME FOR KIDS has teamed up with the US Postal Service to bring the power of those stories to the classroom. As portraits of American history and heritage—and barometers of current trends—stamps make ideal educational tools.

Among the best of these teaching tools is *School Days & American Ways*, the cornerstone of the US Postal Service's Community Connection program. This classroom calendar and its companion teacher's guide are filled with the history and imagery of America. Each calendar page is crafted around a rich, cross-curricular monthly theme, its content addresses early-elementary curriculum standards.

The materials you've received as part of "Teaching with Stamps" are based on these concepts and include. . .

- An actual tear sheet from the *School Days & American Ways* calendar (reduced in size) for your classroom wall to keep students engaged with the program.
- Suggestions on "Teaching with Stamps," lesson plan ideas and important background information on the back of the calendar.
- And, of course, the activities on the fun classroom reproducible on the next page.

We encourage you to use these materials to show students that stamps can send not only letters—but also our minds to far-off places with their stories, illustrations and history.

Sincerely,

The Editors of TIME FOR KIDS

P.S. Don't forget that April is National Poetry Month. As you'll see on the special calendar, there are stamps dedicated to poets and their works. Point out to students that when these stamps are put on letters and mailed—they truly become "poetry in motion"!



USING THE REPRODUCIBLE ON THE NEXT PAGE

With this activity sheet, your students can tell their own stories through stamps.

STEP ONE Have students complete the top portion of the activity sheet to become acquainted with the different features of stamps. (The secret word in the matching activity is STAMPS.)

STEP TWO Ask students to design and illustrate their own stamps in the space provided.

STEP THREE Be sure to have students write a one- or two-sentence description or story background of their subjects.

STEP FOUR (OPTIONAL) To celebrate National Poetry Month, consider making extra copies and asking students to focus their stamps on poetry or poets.

STEP FIVE Display the students' stamps on a special Wall of Stamps in the classroom.

Visit USPSConnection.com for more lesson ideas and information.



