



Lesson 1: Creating a Visual Experience to Understand Owney and the Concept of Time

Introduction:

How do you represent the concept of time to second grade students? Using Owney and his historical travels, create a tactile timeline with rope marked off in decades to lead children back in time through a series of dates significant to them and others of high interest (including some postal service history).

Lesson:

Step 1: Lay a rope about 20 feet long out on the floor to create a "timeline." You might do this in a hallway, multipurpose room, gym, or on a sidewalk or blacktop surface out of doors.

Step 2: Have students use a 12 inch ruler to mark off one foot segments. At each interval tie on a prepared index card for the decades 1830-2010

Step 3: With another set of differently colored or sized index cards, identify where approximately on the timeline the children were born (2004-2005), what time their parents were born (1970s), grandparents (1940s) to give them a context for time.

Step 3: Place important dates from US history, including a few from the post (first stamp, pony express, etc.) on the timeline.

Step 4: Place some Owney dates on the timeline. For example, 1838-1977 mail was sorted and delivered by Railway Mail Service; 1888 Owney wandered into the post office in Albany, NY; 1895 Owney traveled around the world. Discuss the concept of time and relationship of time to these events.

Materials Needed:

1. Rope, about 20 feet long (clothesline weight)
2. 2 sets of index cards (2 different colors/sizes)
3. Strong glue and holepunch to affix cards to rope

Resources:

1. Historically significant dates from the USPS can be found at <http://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/significant-dates.htm>
2. Dates from Owney's story can be found at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/owney/index.html>
3. *Owney the Mail Pouch Pooch* by Mona Kerby

