



Lesson 2: Field Trip to your Local Post Office

Introduction:

A field trip is a fun and engaging way for your students to learn how to compare and contrast using the history of postal services and the technology used to send mail. Before you head out on your adventure, study the important moments in mail history and create a pictorial timeline.

Lesson:

Step 1: Have the students gather information by reading easy nonfiction books on such topics as mail delivery, postal workers, the post office, and the Pony Express.

Step 2: Each student should choose a significant date in postal history and illustrate it on a piece of 9x12 construction paper.

Step 3: Hang the illustrations sequentially to create a pictorial timeline and discuss why they are important.

Now that the students are familiar with the history of the postal services, arrange a field trip to your local Post Office (the larger the Post Office, the more comprehensive the services will be offered).

During the field trip, compare and contrast the state of the current mail delivery system to the one discussed in the pictorial timeline. Use the *Post Office Scavenger Hunt* worksheet to focus the visit on post office services and practices.

Materials Needed:

- 9x12 white construction paper (or your choice of paper)
- Crayons and markers (colored pencils, water colors)
- Post Office Scavenger Hunt* worksheet
- Field trip permission slip

Resources and Bibliography:

- Post Office Visit Scavenger Hunt* worksheet
- The Post Office*, David and Patricia Armentrout (2009)
- What Does a Mail Carrier Do?*, Lisa Trumbauer (2005)
- Letter Carriers*, Cecelia Minden (2006)
- Sending a Letter*, Alex Stewart (1999)
- Out and About at the Post Office*, Kitty Shea, illus. Becky Shipe (2004)
- They're Off! The Story of the Pony Express*, Cheryl Harness (1996)
- Pony Express*, M.C. Hall (2010)
- Snowshoe Thompson*, Nancy Smiler Levinson, illus. Joan Sandin (1992)

