

World Post Day (October 9, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? World Post Day—a day to celebrate postal services that deliver our letters and packages all over the world. 🌐

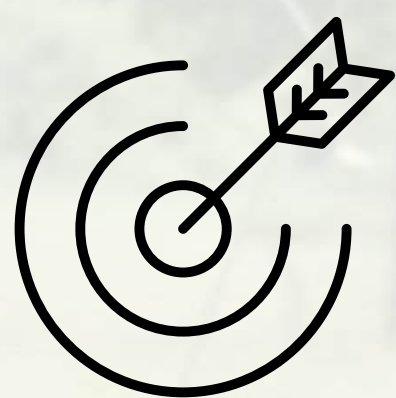
Who? Postal services from more than 150 countries and the Universal Postal Union, the organization that enables mail to travel from one country to another. ✉️

Where? All over the world, but it all started in Bern, Switzerland, where the Universal Postal Union was founded. 🌍

When? It takes place every October 9th—the anniversary of the Universal Postal Union’s creation in 1874—and has been celebrated since 1969. 🕒

Why is it important? To remind us that, even in the age of email, the postal service still plays a major role in connecting people and businesses.

🎯 **For this activity, your goal is to learn a little more about the postal service.** 📖



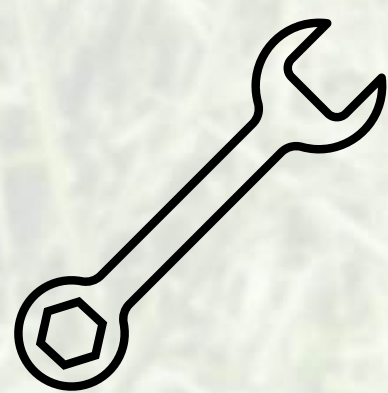
OBJECTIVES

- Discover World Post Day and the role of the Universal Postal Union
- Compare how postal items per person changed in six countries from 2020 to 2024
- Calculate a difference, an average, and a ratio using a graph
- Spot the post horn hidden in the logos of postal services
- Match five postal services with their country through an online search
- Trace the history of mail, from Persian messengers to the first airmail flight



SUBJECTS

- **Mathematics**
 - Reading a line graph
 - Arithmetic mean
 - Comparing numbers
- **Social World / Culture**
 - European countries and postal services
 - History of communications
 - International organizations
- **English**
 - Reading an informational text
 - Finding information
 - Writing a justified answer



COMPETENCIES

- Read and interpret a graph
- Perform simple calculations (difference, average, ratio)
- Search for information online
- Read and understand an informational text
- Formulate and justify a hypothesis



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students when they last received a letter or a package
- Ask them whether they think people send more or less mail today than in the past
- Ask them how a letter can travel from one country to another
- Gather their hypotheses: how did people send news before the postal service was invented?

World Post Day (October 9, 2026)



TEACHING GUIDE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — Is Mail Still In? Reading of a graph comparing postal items per person in six countries from 2020 to 2024, followed by five questions combining calculation and reflection.

Q1 — 64 items per person ($390 - 326 = 64$).

Q2 — France (from 87 to 89 items per person).

Q3 — $(326 + 159 + 152 + 145 + 101 + 89) \div 6 = 972 \div 6 = 162$ items per person.

Q4 — About 3.7 times more ($326 \div 89 \approx 3.66$), almost 4 times.

Q5 — Variable answer. E.g.: emails, text messages, and social media are replacing letters, and bills now arrive online.

STEP 2 — The Horn and the Postal Service. Observation of five postal service logos in which the post horn is hidden, followed by an online search to find each one's country.

Q6 — Germany.

Q7 — Hungary.

Q8 — Belgium.

Q9 — Croatia.

Q10 — Poland.

STEP 3 — A Story Spanning Millennia! Reading of an informational text on the history of mail, followed by four multiple-choice questions.

Q11 — Ten times. (9 days on horseback, compared with 90 days on foot.)

Q12 — The person who received the letter. (With the postage stamp, invented in the United Kingdom in 1840, the sender pays.)

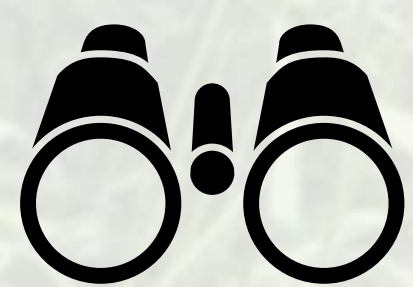
Q13 — Bern, Switzerland, in 1874.

Q14 — In India, in 1911.



WRAPPING UP

- Review what the students have learned as a group
- Discuss what surprised them the most (almost 4 times more mail in the United States than in France, the horn hidden in the logos, messengers 10 times faster on horseback)
- Ask: does the postal service still have a future in the age of email? What can't be sent over the Internet?
- Suggest that the students write a postcard to someone



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Margaret Uphall. *The U.S. Postal Service: The History of America's Mail System*. PowerKids Press

