

Museums & Heritage Arts Award

Discover

Museum info form

The Postal Museum

Location

Freeling House
Phoenix Place
London
WC1X 0DL

Website

<http://postalmuseum.org/visit/for-schools/>

Art forms

- Storytelling
- Poetry
- Drawing
- Painting
- Textiles
- Printmaking
- Photography
- Film
- Video
- Curation
- Interpretation

Museum info

Opening in mid-2017, The Postal Museum is London's newest heritage attraction, revealing the surprising and curious history of Britain's earliest social network: the post.

With rich collections, the interactive galleries will reveal extraordinary stories from postal history supported by a programme of learning activities engaging over 10,000 school children a year.

Discover the intrepid postal workers: the horseman who galloped the 217 miles from

London to Plymouth in a week for Elizabeth 1, the heavily armed 18th century mail coach drivers who fought off knaves and highwaymen, or the Scottish postwoman crossing swelling Highland rivers using only a rope during the Second World War.

Visitors can peer into the lives of ordinary people and the outsiders who transformed the ways we communicate, century after century, from Mail Rail to the humble stamp.

Mail Rail at The Postal Museum

Mail Rail is a subterranean network of automated trains stretching from Paddington to Whitechapel which ran for over 75 years. Millions of items of mail were delivered every day, round the clock, deep beneath the streets of London.

We're resurrecting a section of track so visitors can experience the hidden history of Mail Rail in thrilling motion.

Arts Award Discover Programme

Name and theme of programme

Pop It In The Post: How The Penny Black Changed Our World

Duration/timings

1 hour presentation, followed by break out session

Cost

£350

Programme outline

In this interactive and immersive outreach workshop, pupils will enter the Victorian world of Sir Rowland Hill - the social reformer who led the campaign for letters to cost just one penny - and discover how his big idea changed the world.

Pupils will use object handling and role play to explore the importance of letter writing and how communications have changed since Rowland Hill's time. Pupils will find out about the competition to design the world's first stamp and see some of the early designs before researching different stamp artists as inspiration to design their own stamp and share it with their class.

Pop It In The Post draws upon The Postal Museum's large collection of handling objects. Led by an actor in role as Rowland Hill, pupils will discover original Penny Black stamps, Victorian letters, postcards and Christmas cards. They will take part in

drama and role play activities that bring to life the story of the Penny Black and show the importance of this stamp.

This exploration will set the historical context for pupils to design their own stamps. As inspiration they will draw upon a wide selection of stamps both historical and contemporary from The Postal Museum collection. Pupils will find out about the process of making a stamp, and research some of the famous stamp makers, and artists.

When The Postal Museum opens in mid-2017, Pop It In The Post will link to two key Galleries: Mail For Everyone - exploring the growth of the mail in Victorian times, and Designs on Delivery - exploring how the Post Office were real innovators in design, using some of the most famous designers to create their stamps and posters.

Activities

- Pupils will take part in an interactive and immersive drama workshop to discover the story of the Penny Black – the World’s first postage stamp
- Pupils will handle original Penny Black stamps and other Victorian objects to understand the historical context and need for the first stamp
- Pupils will research famous stamp designs and artists and choose their favourite stamp from history.
- Children will design their own stamp learning how to take a life-size drawing and shrink it to the size of a stamp.
- Pupils will present their designs to the rest of their year group, explaining the process of how they created their stamp.
- Pupils will find out about Rowland Hill, the Victorian social reformer who led the campaign for the introduction of the Penny Post.
- Pupils will also learn about Henry Cole, designer of the World’s First Christmas card (on display in The Postal Museum) and more contemporary stamp designers including David Gentleman, responsible for some of the most iconic stamp designs in British history.

Objects to look out for



The Penny Black

Object maker information

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