



UNITED STATES POSTAL
INSPECTION SERVICE

YOUTH SLEUTHS



PROTECTING OUR MAIL

What was in your mailbox today?
Was there something special for you?

You may not think much about how letters and packages get from one location to another, but the United States Postal Service delivers over 318 million pieces of mail every day! That's A LOT of letters and packages!

With all that mail traveling around every day, **the people who work for the U.S. Postal Inspection Service have a big job:**

- We catch criminals who use the mail to commit a crime.
- We protect everyone who works for the Postal Service.
- And we protect YOU, because you are one of the millions and millions of Americans who get mail.

Postal inspectors protect the U.S. Mail, and all of us.





PROTECTING THE MAIL EVEN **BEFORE** AMERICA'S BIRTH

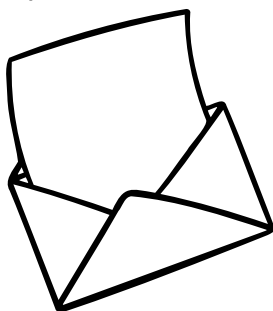
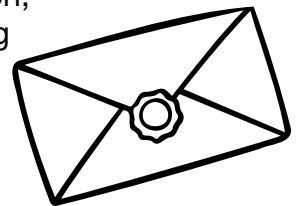
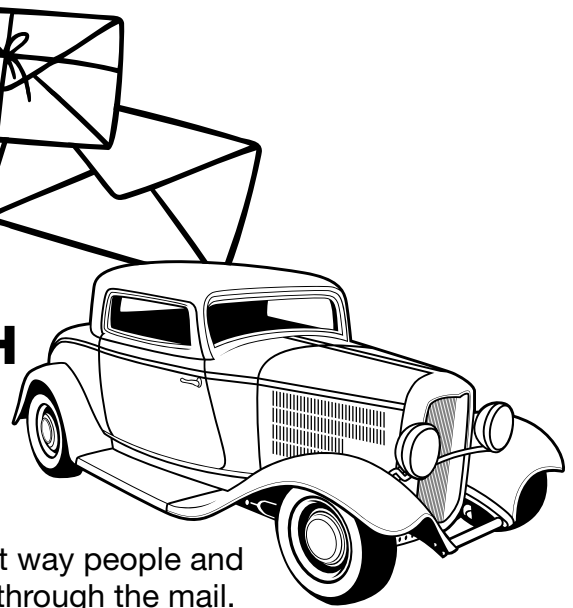
Postal inspectors have protected people and the mail since before the United States even existed!

Long before there were phones, computers, or email, the best way people and businesses could talk to each other over long distances was through the mail. The mail system also delivered newspapers, which — before there was television, radio, or the internet — helped people stay informed about what was happening in the 13 American Colonies and the world. Even the leaders of what would become the United States depended on the mail to make plans about forming our country. For all these reasons, keeping mail routes safe was important.

By 1774, the mail was delivered using horses and stagecoaches. But criminals often attacked the horse riders and stagecoach drivers and stole the mail because a lot of people sent valuable things in the mail, like money or jewelry.

Do you know who was first put in charge of keeping the mail safe? Benjamin Franklin! When the famous inventor, scientist, and politician became the first Postmaster General — the leader of the Postal Service — he hired a man named William Goddard as the first ever “postal surveyor.” Mr. Goddard’s job as a postal surveyor was to protect Post Offices and the horse riders and stagecoach drivers who delivered the mail.

Eventually, postal surveyors would become “postal inspectors” — the people who investigate crimes today to protect you and your community. Postal inspectors are officers of the law, like police officers, who find the people who break the rules about how to safely use the mail. Postal inspectors make sure these criminals face the consequences.



WHAT KINDS OF CRIMES HAPPEN IN THE MAIL TODAY?



Our U.S. Postal Service makes it simple for us to send and receive gifts, information, and notes to or from people we care about. We can easily send a letter, a bill to pay, or a toy or gadget to someone through the U.S. Mail. But sometimes, people use the mail to commit crimes.

Crime in Benjamin Franklin's time looked pretty different from the types of crime postal inspectors investigate today, but the way criminals carry out their illegal actions hasn't changed. There are two basic ways crime happens in the U.S. Mail.

First, a criminal might take something out of the mail that belongs to someone else. When someone commits a crime of theft by stealing mail out of a mailbox or packages from someone's house, postal inspectors will investigate. Criminals who steal mail usually hope the mail they steal has money in it, or important information that could help them steal something even BIGGER, like someone's car or paycheck from their job.

The second way crime happens in the mail is when a criminal puts an illegal item in the mail, like drugs, toxic chemicals that could make you really sick, or even guns. Postal inspectors are there to find the person or people who committed these crimes and make sure they are punished. People from across the Postal Inspection Service teach leaders at big companies and government offices what to do if they see a package that looks dangerous.

Rarely, someone might decide to try and mail poison or a bomb to hurt a lot of people. This is called mail terrorism. If this happens, postal inspectors use high-tech equipment to stop these dangers and then find the person or people responsible.

Postal inspectors also investigate many different fraud crimes, like when someone tries to steal your address to pretend to be you or steal your money. Or, when someone makes fake stamps to trick the Postal Service and send letters for free — which is like printing fake money and using it to buy something.

Postal inspectors take their job very seriously and are proud to help you, your friends, your family, and your community stay safe from crimes committed using the mail.

WORKING AT THE U.S. POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

Do you like science, puzzles, or mysteries?

Do you want to fight crime, protect the mail, and help keep people in your community safer?

If you like any of these, here are some of the jobs you could have at the U.S. Postal Inspection Service:

U.S. POSTAL INSPECTOR

The U.S. government has created more than 200 laws to keep people from using the U.S. Mail to commit a crime. As a U.S. postal inspector, your job would be to make sure that everyone follows these laws. **Postal inspectors** investigate crimes that attack or misuse the U.S. Mail, and then they arrest the criminals. Postal inspectors wear a law enforcement badge that means they protect and serve everyone who gets mail.



GENERAL ANALYST

As a general analyst, you would get to work right alongside postal inspectors solving crimes. General analysts help postal inspectors do the research needed to figure out who committed the crime.

POSTAL POLICE OFFICER

Postal Police officers protect large and important buildings across the country that belong to the U.S. Postal Service. As a **Postal Police officer**, you and your fellow officers could be the first people on the scene during an emergency, like a fire or a bad storm that causes a lot of damage. And if a crime happens at a Post Office, Postal Police officers can help keep the people in and around the building safe.



LABORATORY SPECIALIST

At our national laboratory, we examine thousands of pieces of evidence that help postal inspectors bring criminals to justice. As a laboratory specialist, you could help solve crimes using science and high-tech equipment.

PROTECTING US ALL

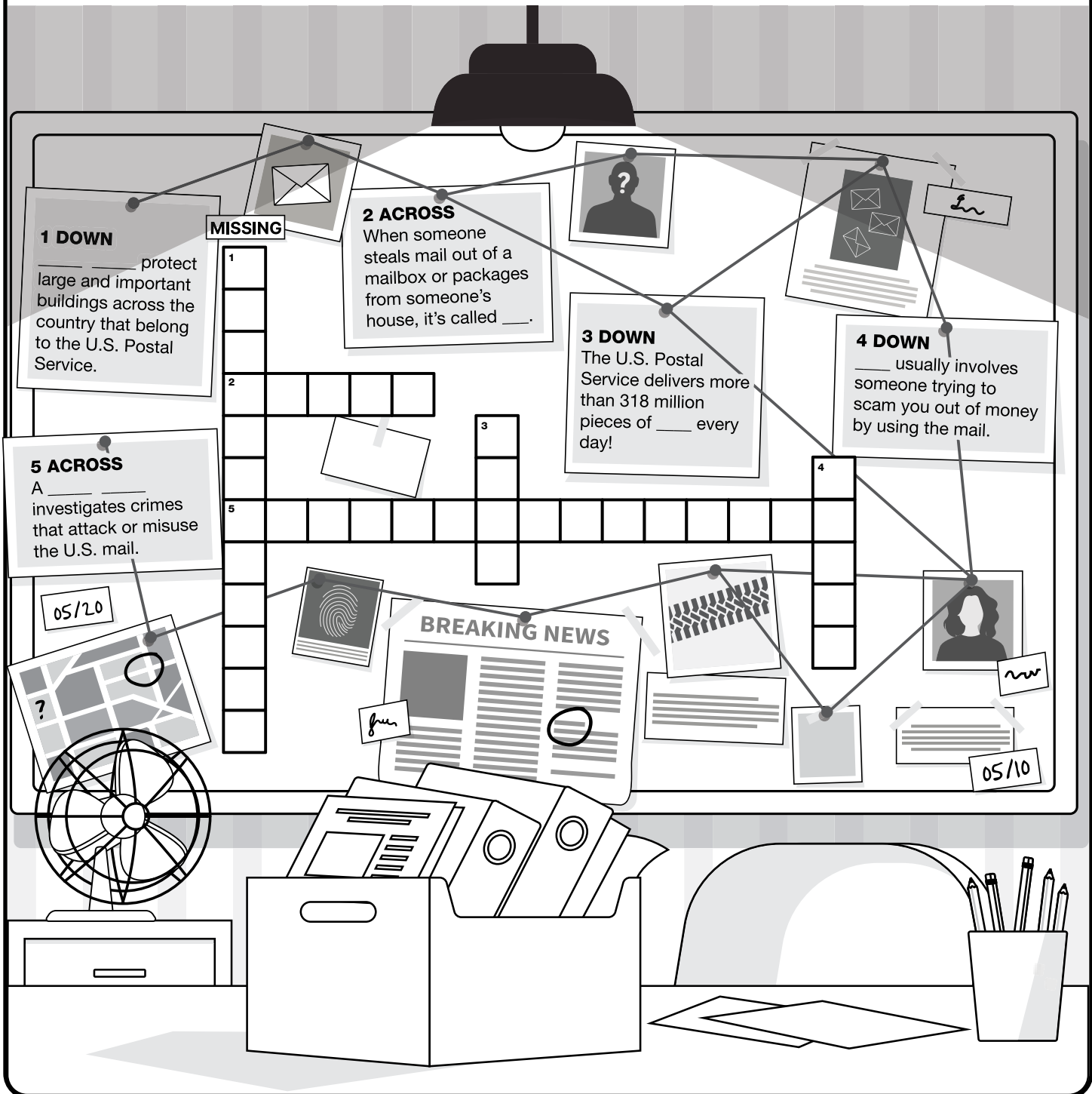
The types of crime we fight have changed a lot in the 250 years the U.S. Postal Inspection Service has protected the mail. Our mission to help keep the U.S. Mail safe for you and your friends, family, and community is the same as it's always been. We promise to keep doing our job to protect you. If the U.S. Mail is used to commit a crime, postal inspectors are on the case!

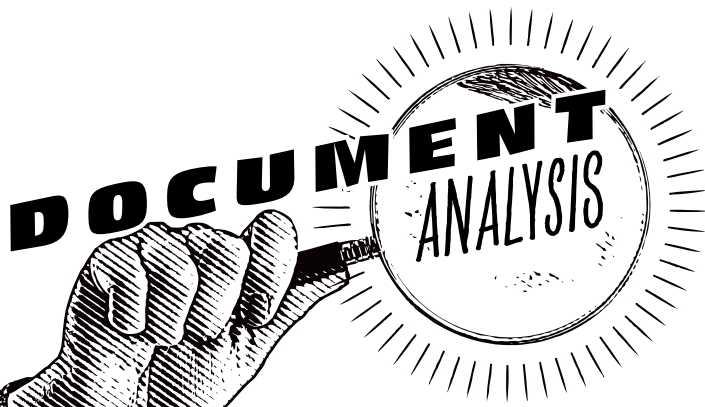
CROSSWORD

Instruction:

Use the reading sections to answer the questions and fill in the crossword puzzle.

PUZZLE





Instruction:

Below is a picture of the credentials a special agent, now called a postal inspector, carried for identification! The title “special agent” changed to “post office inspector” in 1880 and they worked much like today’s postal inspectors. Look at the document and then answer the questions below.

Tasks:

1. CIRCLE the year that the credential carried.
2. UNDERLINE the date that the credential expire.
3. HIGHLIGHT what the credential allowed a special agent to do.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
United States of America,

To whom it may concern, Know ye that **THE BEARER HEREOF**
Inspector Dan

is hereby designated a **SPECIAL AGENT** of the Post Office Department and Travels by my direction on its business. He will be obeyed and respected accordingly by Mail contractors, Postmasters and all others connected with the Postal Service, RAIL-ROADS, STEAM-BOATS, STAGES and other MAIL CONTRACTORS, are required to extend the facilities of **FREE TRAVEL** to the holder of this Commission. **WASHINGTON, 1879.**

1879 _____ POSTMASTER GENERAL.

NOT TRANSFERABLE

This Commission will expire (unless sooner revoked by special order of the Postmaster General) on the **31ST** day of **DECEMBER, 1879**, and must be returned to the Department for renewal on that day.

IF FARE is charged, the Holder of this Commission will take a **RECEIPT** for Amount paid and report the same to the Postmaster General.

1879
(91)

CURSIVE Writing

DECYPHER

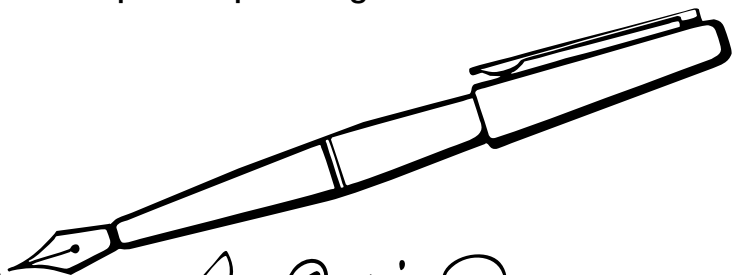
CURSIVE KEY

Aa Bb Cc Dd
 Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii
 Jj Kk Ll Mm
 Nn Oo Pp Qq
 Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv
 Ww Xx Yy Zz
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Instruction:

This is part of a page that came from a postal special agent's order book, a book used to document changes in different post offices, in **1868**! A long time ago, people only wrote in cursive. Can you read or write in cursive?

Use the cursive key and let's see how much you can read about postal special agents in 1868!



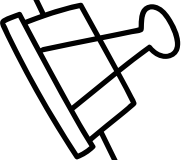
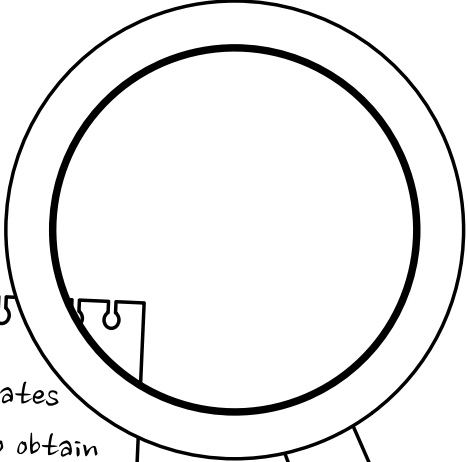
List of Special Agents of Post Office Department

Names	Residence	District
C. H. Presume	St. Louis	Missouri
J. A. Brooks	Portland, Oregon	Oregon, Washington
W. M. Daily	New Orleans	Louisiana, Texas
N. C. Dierting	Waverly, Iowa	Iowa and Minnesota
J. W. Frazier	Nashville	Tennessee and Kent.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline, repeated across the page.



Handwriting COMPARISON



Instruction:

Look at the three handwriting samples. Use your investigation skills to see if you can tell which **TWO** are the same and which **ONE** is different!

The Postal Inspection Service investigates any scheme that uses the U.S. Mail to obtain money or something of value by offering a product, service, or investment that intentionally does not live up to its claim.

Informing and educating consumers about fraud schemes involving the mail is an important element of the Postal Inspection Service mission. We educate people through alert segments for local news programs, print publications, television programs, and social media, and by connecting with community groups.

The safety and well-being of postal service employees is a top priority for the Postal Inspection Service. Postal Inspectors and Postal Police Officers work diligently prevent instances of violence against our employees.

Instruction:

Fingerprints are used by inspectors to help catch criminals.
Look at the fingerprint samples. Use your investigation
skills to find which pairs match. All
fingerprints will have a match!

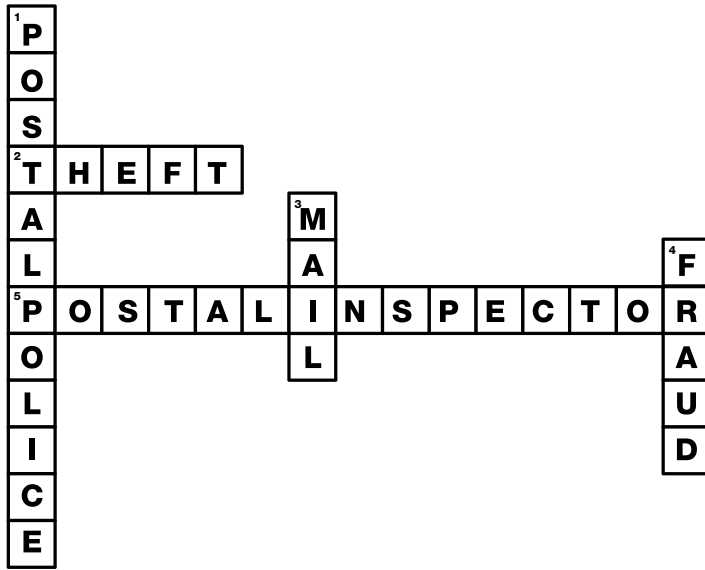
FINGERPRINT MATCHING



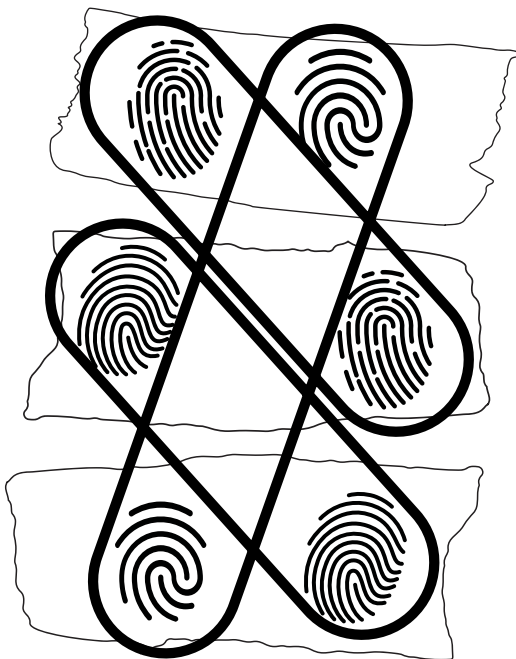
ANSWER KEY



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



FINGERPRINT MATCHING



LET'S COLOR

