

# THE JOLLY POSTMAN

## or *Other People's Letters*



**LEARNING RESOURCE**  
Early years foundation stage,  
Key Stage 1 & Key Stage 2







Teachers' notes and  
activity templates  
for pupils can be  
photocopied.







This learning resource is endorsed by the National Literacy Trust  
and funded by John Lyon's Charity.

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# THE JOLLY POSTMAN




## or *Other People's Letters*

This learning resource takes inspiration from the three award-winning *Jolly Postman* picture books written and illustrated by Janet and Allan Ahlberg.



The first book, *The Jolly Postman*, was first published in 1986 and all three books went on to inspire millions of young readers all over the world. This learning resource uses Allan Ahlberg's wonderful words, Janet Ahlberg's delightful illustrations and The Postal Museum collections to bring the story to life in your classroom.

**There are five themes. Each includes:**

-  Background notes for teachers
-  Activity templates
-  Editable PowerPoints

[www.postalmuseum.org](http://www.postalmuseum.org)



# TEACHERS' NOTES

## ABOUT THE JOLLY POSTMAN BOOKS



### The postal service in fairyland

Janet and Allan Ahlberg wrote and illustrated three *Jolly Postman* books.

They feature a postman who delivers the mail to characters in fairyland.

*The Jolly Postman delivers a birthday card for Goldilocks.*



### Best sellers!

There are three *Jolly Postman* books:

*The Jolly Postman*,  
*The Jolly Christmas Postman* and  
*The Jolly Pocket Postman*.

Together, they have sold over 11 million copies.

### The charm of *The Jolly Postman*

*The Jolly Postman* series draws on well-known traditional fairy tales and nursery rhymes. Children are familiar with them, and understand the visual jokes and wordplay.



*Children understand that the dish and spoon are part of 'Hey, diddle, diddle' without the need for explanation.*

Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

## Picture books

The *Jolly Postman* series are picture books where text, illustrations and design are interwoven. The books have won many awards and are much loved by children, writers and illustrators alike.

## Where do ideas come from?

The Ahlbergs said that the idea for the first book came to them when they saw their young daughter playing with envelopes like toys.

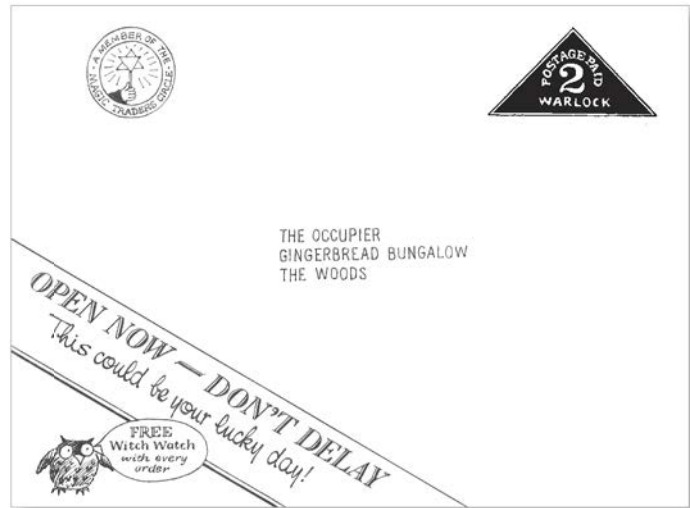
Writers often use objects, animals and everyday events to inspire wonderful stories. For example, Beatrix Potter used her pet rabbit as a starting point for *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*.

*'The best ideas I get just pop into my head'*  
Allan Ahlberg

*'I love the way you can peep into other worlds'*  
Michael Rosen,  
former Children's  
Laureate (2007-2009)

*'The books are full of joyful, innocent wide-eyed humour'*  
Colin MacNaughton,  
children's illustrator

*Three snowmen race downhill on a sleigh.*



## Slogans and adverts

The Ahlbergs noticed how much additional information there is on envelopes such as stamps, postmarks, logos and addresses. They took inspiration from this to create playful letters, adverts, birthday cards and letters for children to pull out and read.



## The power of words

Allan Ahlberg loves to play on words in jokey ways. The Post Office also uses wordplay and visual jokes on posters and leaflets because it helps to make messages memorable.

*This insert from The Jolly Postman is a play on the word 'circular'.*



*This poster uses a rhyming couplet.*



© Royal Mail Group Ltd. Courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 110/2655

*This poster plays on the word 'trunk'.*

**POWERPOINT:**  
The Post Office  
use of words



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Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

# ACTIVITIES

## THE ART OF ILLUSTRATION



### MAIN LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM


**Early years foundation stage:** Literacy, Communication and Language


**Key Stage 1/2:** Art & Design (illustration, materials, methods and styles)


**You will need:** a variety of tools and media, e.g. pencils, crayons, felt-tips, paint and brushes.




### Suggestions for activity ideas:


 Ask children to choose their favourite characters from the school library, e.g. the Twits, Horrid Henry, Charlie and Lola.

 Ask children to say why they like them. What are these characters good at? Would they like to be their favourite character? Why or why not?


 Discuss the difference between illustration used to show facts, such as how things work, and that used in fiction ('made-up' events and people).


 Talk about how authors and illustrators sometimes work together – e.g. Janet and Allan Ahlberg or Roald Dahl and Quentin Blake – and how some illustrators, e.g. Lauren Child, write the stories too.

### TEMPLATE 1: Hey, diddle, diddle (p.6)

 This activity asks children to illustrate a popular nursery rhyme.

### Suggestions for follow-up activities:

 Ask children to find the nursery rhymes illustrated in *The Jolly Postman* series in other books.

 Lead a class discussion to compare the different ways these nursery rhymes are illustrated.



# ACTIVITIES



## WORDS, RHYMES AND FAIRY TALES

The *Jolly Postman* books present wonderful opportunities to introduce pupils to the rich variety of language through wordplay, nursery rhymes and traditional fairy tales.

### Nursery rhymes

For most children, their first encounter with poetry is through nursery rhymes. Some are nonsense, while others are about unlikely events, but all are rhythmical and memorable. Hearing nursery rhymes is one of the ways babies learn to speak.

### Goodies and baddies





All fairy/folk tales feature good and evil. Different countries have their own stories, but most share global themes such as love and hate, kindness and cruelty, and make-believe characters such as fairies, witches and giants.

## MAIN LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM


**Early years foundation stage:** Literacy, Communication and Language

**Key Stage 1:** Literacy (rhymes, poetry, phonics, fiction and non fiction, vocabulary)

### Suggestions for activity ideas:

-  Ask children to use alliteration (words that have the same sound at the beginning) to introduce themselves, e.g. 'Super Sally'.
-  Encourage children to choose a character from *The Jolly Postman* books and write their own rhyme about him/her.
-  Ask children to choose a character and imitate sounds they might make, e.g. a cackling witch, gagged grandma, pulling a Christmas cracker.
-  Discuss a well-known fairy tale such as *Cinderella*, and the good and bad characters in it.


### TEMPLATE 2: My best book (p.7)

 This activity tasks children with choosing a favourite fairy tale from the school library and writing a review of it.

#### Differentiation activities:

 Children choose their favourite character and draw it.

#### Extension activities:

 Children discuss 'what if ... the book had a different ending', e.g. if *Cinderella* hadn't married the prince or the wolf had eaten the grandmother.

# HEY, DIDDLE, DIDDLE

Draw pictures of this nursery rhyme in the boxes.

1 Hey, diddle, diddle,  
The cat and the fiddle

2 The cow jumped over the moon

3 The little dog laughed,  
To see such sport

4 While the dish ran away  
With the spoon.



Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

# MY BEST BOOK

1 The book I have chosen is ...

It was written by ...

It was illustrated by ...

2 The book is about ...

3 I like it because ...

I never  
knew that  
.....



Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

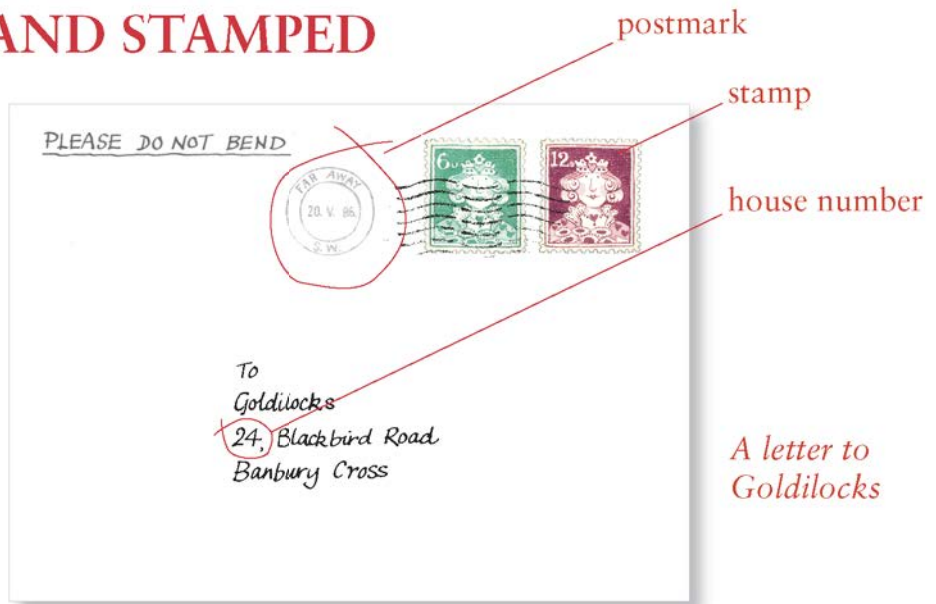


# TEACHERS' NOTES

## ADDRESSED AND STAMPED

### The post is here!

The Jolly Postman books contain different items, such as official letters, letters of apology, circulars, invitations, cards and leaflets. All the letters are correctly addressed with postcodes, stamps and postmarks.



Please use the **HOUSE NUMBER** in your address



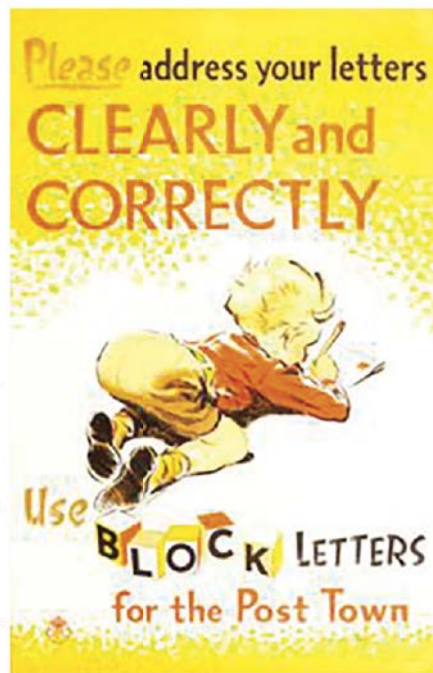
These posters encouraged people to address their letters correctly.

POWERPOINT:  
Sending letters

## Postcodes

Postcodes were introduced in London in Victorian times, and in other parts of Britain in the twentieth century. Postcodes help 'posties' find locations more easily, so the Post Office designed posters and leaflets to encourage people to use them.

© Royal Mail Group Ltd, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 110/2511



## Postmarks

Postmarks show where letters were posted, and the date and time of posting.



Illustrations from The Jolly Postman titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

© Royal Mail Group Ltd, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 110/0014

## Stamps

Since the world's first postage stamp (the Penny Black) was approved by Queen Victoria in 1840, all letters and parcels must have a stamp.

## Kings and queens

Like real stamps, *The Jolly Postman* includes some stamps with the head of the king or queen (called definitives). Other stamps have a design that marks an important event or achievement (called commemoratives).

### *The Penny Black*



© Royal Mail Group Ltd, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 141/07



*This stamp in The Jolly Postman features Old King Cole.*



*This stamp in The Jolly Postman commemorates a very important event!*



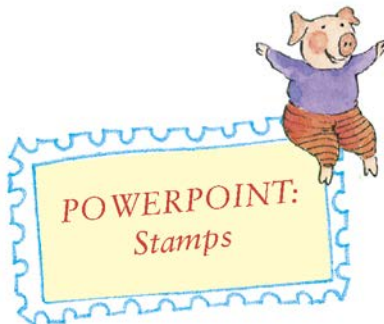
## Small works of art

British commemorative stamps are often illustrated by well-known artists.

*This stamp, designed by Quentin Blake, shows a scene from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.*



© Royal Mail Group, courtesy of The Postal Museum



*7-year-old Molly Robson won a competition to design a Christmas stamp.*



© Royal Mail Group, courtesy of The Postal Museum

Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

# ACTIVITIES

## WRITING AND SENDING A LETTER

*The Jolly Postman* includes different types of mail: a letter of apology (Mr and Mrs Bear), a postcard (Mr V Bigg), an official letter (B. B. Wolf Esq.) and a birthday card (Goldilocks). These activities introduce the idea that the purpose of a letter, and who it is being sent to, make a difference to the way we write.




### MAIN LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM


**Early years foundation stage:** Literacy, Communication and Language


**Key Stage 1/2:** Literacy (writing different types of letters, cards, invitations etc., addressing envelopes, writing in character, using different types of language, e.g. persuasive, empathetic)

**You will need:** a variety of letters, circulars, postcards, and invitations, including some from abroad.

### Suggestions for activity ideas:

 Ask children to bring in examples of different letters from home and look at addresses, postmarks, postcodes, adverts and stamps. Encourage children to compare them with letters and other items in *The Jolly Postman* books.

 Using letters from other countries, ask children to list/talk about the differences in the way letters are marked, addressed and stamped.


 Compare the language of two letters in *The Jolly Postman*. For example, in the letter to Mr Wolf, talk about 'official' words and phrases that mean that if he doesn't mend his ways there will be trouble! In the letter to Mr and Mrs Bear, ask children to count the ways Goldilocks says 'sorry' for her behaviour and point out that her letter is not so formal.

### TEMPLATE 3: My emojis (p.12)

#### Differentiation activities:

 Children design emojis to illustrate 'happy', 'surprised', 'cross' and 'sad'.

#### Extension activities:

 Children choose a character in *The Jolly Postman* books, or a parent, friend or teacher, and write a letter to them. They decide on the purpose of the letter, e.g. an invitation to a birthday party, a letter to say 'thank you' for a present, or an apology note for something, each using appropriate words.



# ACTIVITIES



## PARCEL POST

In this activity, children wrap a parcel, address it correctly and find out the cost of posting it.

### MAIN LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM




**Early years foundation stage:** Mathematics (counting, numbers, shapes, measures)

**Key Stage 1/2:** Maths, D&T (measures, shapes, stamps, coinage, notes, materials, heavier, lighter than, capacity, time, measurement)


#### You will need:


1. materials for parcels e.g. different sized boxes, paper of different thicknesses, thin card, bubble wrap, polythene, string, sticky tape and labels
2. rulers to measure parcels
3. downloaded copies of the Post Office parcel price list (see template, p.13).

#### Suggestions for activity ideas:

-  Ask children to bring in a toy and choose the best materials to wrap it up.
-  Ask children if they could have wrapped it in a different way? Does the parcel need a special label (see template)?
-  Set up a Post Office in the school to inspire role play about the journey of a parcel from Post Office, to the sorting office and then delivery.

#### TEMPLATE 4: Parcel post (p.13)


 Ask children to measure their parcels using rulers and use the price list to find out the cost of sending it. They colour in the stamps and stick the correct amount on their parcel.

 Ask children to consider if they want to send it as soon as possible by first class (e.g. because it's a best friend's birthday) or more slowly and cheaply by second class (because it's not urgent).

#### Differentiation activities:

 Children decide where to send a parcel and illustrate the address.

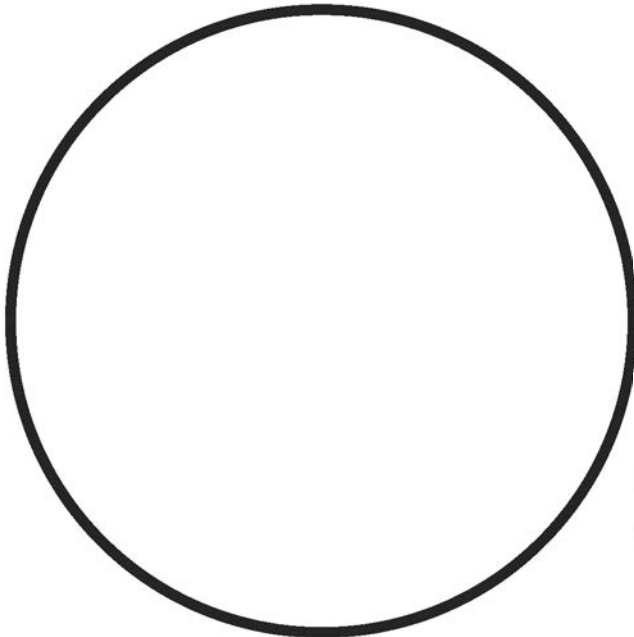
#### Extension activities:

 Children address the parcel to the school or themselves using block capitals and the postcode.

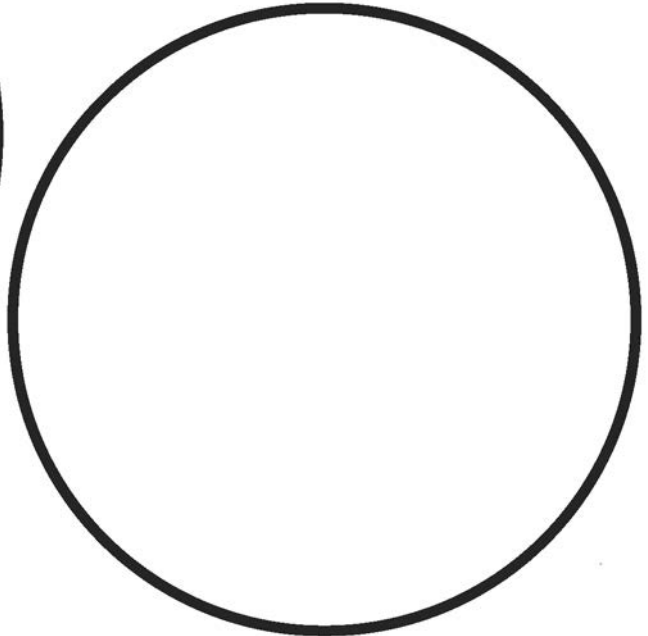
**POWERPOINT:**  
*Sending a parcel*

# MY EMOJIS

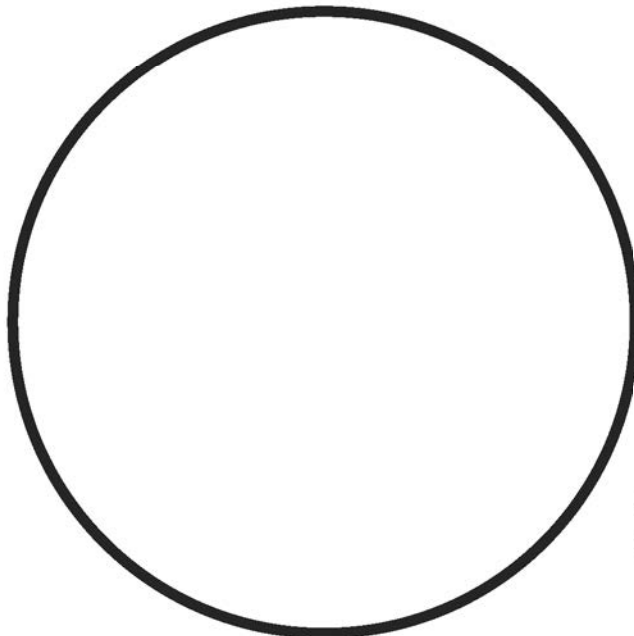
Draw your own emojis in the circles.



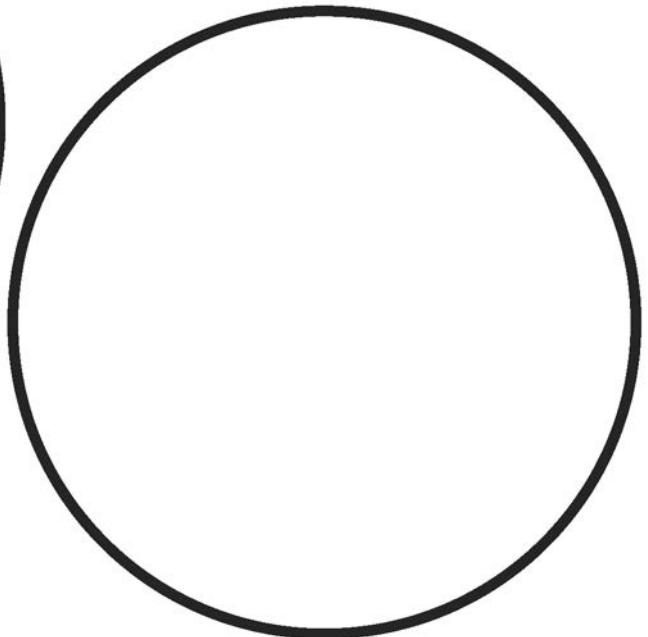
happy



surprised



CROSS



sad

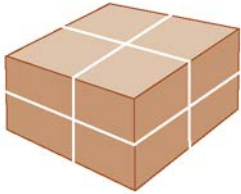
Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

# PARCEL POST

Small parcel

1st class £1.50

2nd class 75p

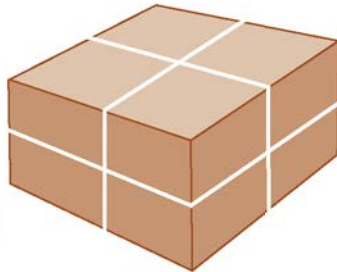


10cm long x 10cm wide

Medium parcel

1st class £2.50

2nd class £1.25

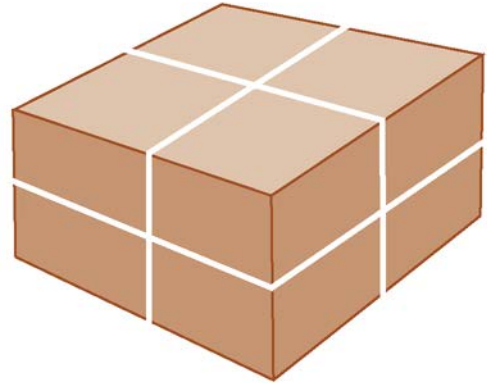


20cm long x 20cm wide

Large parcel

1st class £3.75

2nd class £1.75



30cm long x 30cm wide

## First class stamps



50p



50p



50p



50p



50p



50p



50p



50p

## Second class stamps



25p



25p



25p



25p



25p



25p



25p



25p



CUT OUT AND  
STICK ON YOUR  
PARCEL















# TEACHERS' NOTES

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A POSTIE



### DIARY

#### The Jolly Postman's busy day

-  Sets off on his bike to deliver a letter to the Three Bears
-  Has a cup of tea and pumps up his tyres
-  Delivers a leaflet to the Wicked Witch
-  Reads the paper while she reads the leaflet
-  Delivers a postcard to the Giant
-  Drinks more tea and shelters from the rain
-  Delivers a little book to Cinderella
-  Drinks some champagne to celebrate her wedding
-  Cycles to B. B. Wolf with an official letter
-  Has another cup of tea
-  Delivers a birthday card to Goldilocks and goes to the party
-  Cycles home.

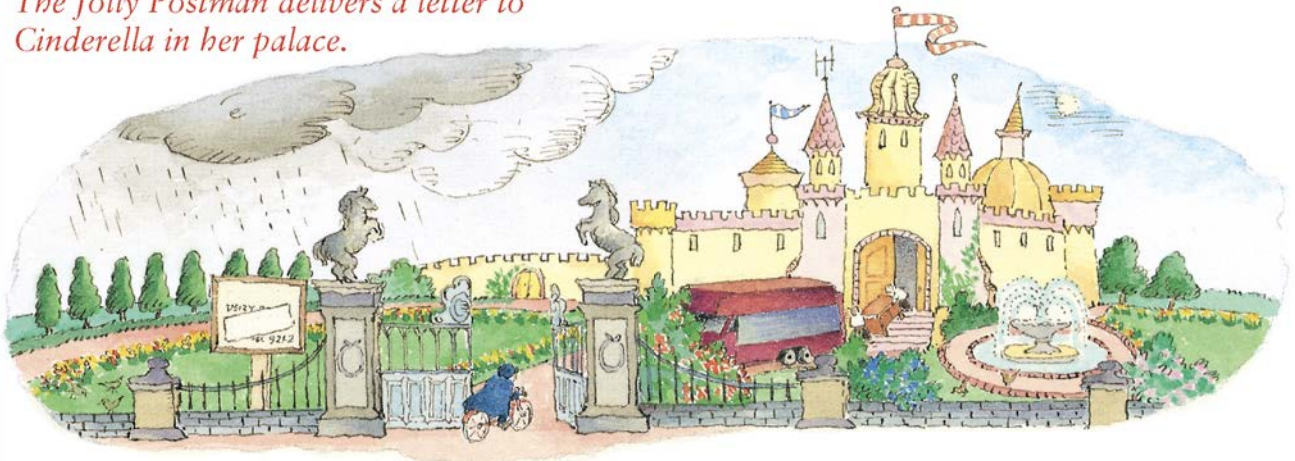
OFFICIAL  
POST OFFICE  
ISSUE



*The Jolly Postman  
has a rest when he  
gets home.*

Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

*The Jolly Postman delivers a letter to Cinderella in her palace.*



### Fairy-tale addresses

The Jolly Postman delivers letters to a great variety of 'homes' from cottages to castles. He takes many different routes to make his deliveries: up and down hills, through dark woods and along winding roads.

*'Ken rides his bike over whatever the weather...he expects no thanks for the many little jobs he does.'*



*Postie Ken Chaplin stops for a chat when he delivers the post to Osea Island, Essex.*

### Real-life addresses

Some real-life posties deliver the mail to fantastic places too.



*A Royal Postie with his special badge delivers the mail to Buckingham Palace.*

### Time for tea

Like the Jolly Postman, real-life posties sometimes stop for a cup of tea and a chat.



**POWERPOINT:**  
*Unusual addresses*



## Difficult deliveries

Many real-life posties walk or drive several miles a day to deliver to all sorts of places in towns, cities and the countryside.

## Lots of steps

In big cities, posties might have to climb lots of steps in a block of flats – especially if the lift is broken!



*Postie Jamie Long sorts out his delivery to high-rise flats in Battersea, London.*



*Postie John Rooney rows his boat to the islands in Northern Ireland.*

## Remote islands

Postie John Rooney must row across Lough Eme to reach the people who live on the islands of Inniscorkkish and Trannish in Northern Ireland.



© Royal Mail Group, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 118/791

*This postie had to get past a flock of sheep to deliver the mail.*

## The countryside

Deliveries in the countryside can often be tricky. Postie Gladys Hillier's route around farmland included jumping over a wide stream!

# ACTIVITIES

## DELIVERING THE POST

Real-life posties get up early to deliver the mail to all sort of addresses in towns, cities and the countryside.



### MAIN LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM

#### Early years foundation stage:


Understanding the world; Literacy, Communication and Language


**Key stage 1/2:** Geography (places, maps, atlases, signage, compass points and co-ordinates); Literacy (writing in character); PHSE (personal risks and safety)


**You will need:** a stopwatch.

Rearrange the classroom furniture to make 'routes'. Discuss directional language e.g. left, right, turn. Divide the class into small teams and shout out directions to get teams through the route. The team that finishes in the shortest time wins.


#### Suggestions for activity ideas:

 Talk about the route to school (getting there, traffic jams, buildings); compare different routes to school within the class.


 Discuss the route of the school postie (e.g. hills, long driveways); compare it with the Jolly Postman's day.

 Look at maps and globes and talk about the differences i.e. local and world viewpoints; talk about compass points and co-ordinates; explain how to find directions using a compass.

#### TEMPLATE 5: My delivery route (p.18)


 Ask children to imagine it's their first day as a postie. They should draw things, e.g. postboxes, trees, brightly coloured front doors, to help them find their way to the sorting office.


#### TEMPLATE 6: Fairyland addresses (p.19)

 Ask children to find and write down the co-ordinates for the addresses listed.

#### TEMPLATE 7: I want to be a postie! (p.20)

 This activity invites children to interview each other about becoming a postie.

 With your class walk around your local area and ask children to look for postboxes, wall letter boxes, a Post Office.

 Encourage children to think about how early a postie has to get up, how long it takes to deliver the post, how long it takes to collect the post from postboxes.



# FAIRYLAND ADDRESSES

Help the Jolly Postman find these addresses.

**HOW**  
 Find the house on the map grid (e.g. The Windmill).  
 Go up the column to find the letter (F).  
 Go along the row to find the number (1).  
 This will give you the co-ordinates for The Windmill (F1).  
 Find the co-ordinates for the Jolly Postman's other addresses and fill them in.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2						
3						
4						

Name	Address	Co-ordinates	Name	Address	Co-ordinates
Mr Miller	The Windmill	.....	Mr Giant	Beanstalk Heights	.....
Mr & Mrs Mouse	Cosy Cottage	.....	Mr Butcher,		
Mr Pussy Cat	Basket House	.....	Mr Baker and		
Mr & Mrs Owl-Cat	Rub-a-dub Boat	.....	Mr Candlestick Maker	River Dee Cottage	.....
Miss Rapunzel	The Tower	.....	Mr Crooked	Crooked House	.....

# I WANT TO BE A POSTIE!

An interview with

.....

By .....



**1** Why do you want to be a postie?

**2** Where would you like to deliver the post?  
Near your home?  
  
In another country?

**3** What would you like best about being a postie?

**4** What things wouldn't you like to do?

Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg



# TEACHERS' NOTES

## TRICKY SITUATIONS

### Look out!

Although the Jolly Postman likes to stop for a chat, he is always on the lookout for tricky characters!



*The Jolly Postman spots a strange-looking grandma.*



*Posties must stay alert and think about each house and garden on their route.*

### Beware of the dog!

Dogs are the biggest menace to real-life posties. Most posties are attacked at the front door, or in gardens or in the street. Some have their fingers attacked as they push letters through letterboxes. Ouch!

### Top tip

Some dogs love attacking the post as it comes through the door! The Post Office advises people to put up a small metal cage to protect it.



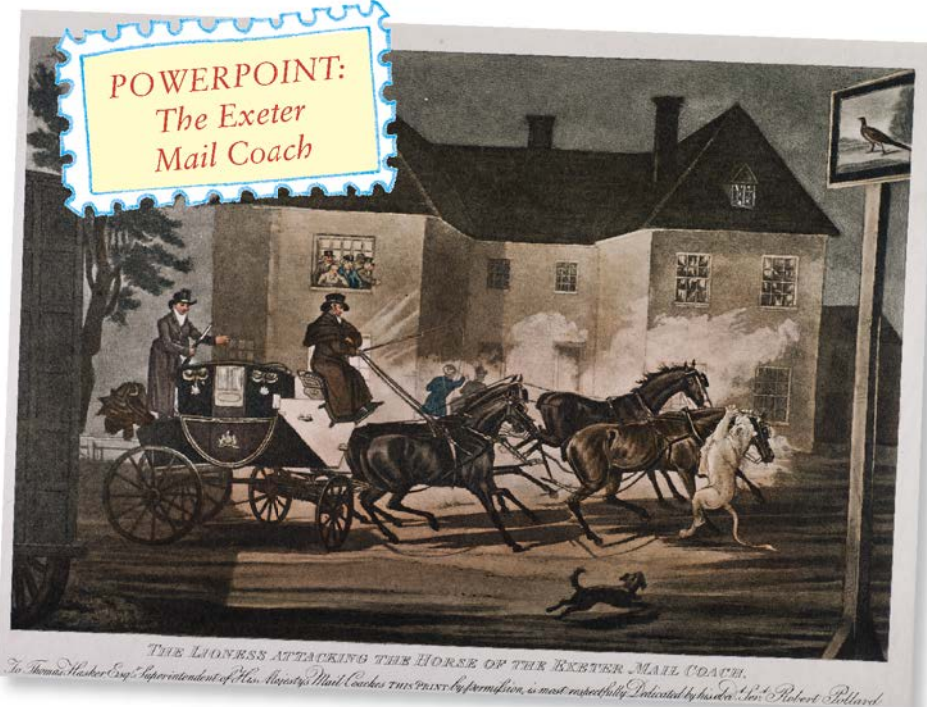
### Wild animals!

In remote areas of South Africa, letters were once carried by 'runners' who often came across wild animals!

## An escaped lioness!

200 years ago, a lioness attacked one of the horses pulling the Royal Mail coach on its way from Exeter to London. The animal had escaped from a travelling menagerie which had stopped for the night nearby.

The lioness attacking the horse of The Exeter Mail Coach by James Pollard, 1817



THE LIONESS ATTACKING THE HORSE OF THE EXETER MAIL COACH.  
By Thomas Hooker Esq. Superintendent of His Majesty's Mail Coaches this print by permission is most respectfully Dedicated by his Majesty's Servant Robert Pollard.

News of the attack spread all over the country.

## What happened next?

Two passengers fled into the nearby inn and locked the door behind them, so no other passengers could get in! The mail guard tried to shoot the lioness, but failed. Next, a large dog was set on the lioness, but she killed it.

## And then...

The owner of the menagerie and his keepers managed to trap the lion, tie it up and take it back to the menagerie. Despite this, the mail coach was only 45 minutes late.



**JUST ARRIVED,**  
And to be SEEN in a **COMMODIOUS BOOTH,**  
During the Fair,  
**BALLARD'S**  
GRAND COLLECTION OF  
**Wild Beasts,**  
Among which are, **THE NOBLE**  
**LIONESS,**  
FROM AFRICA,  
**Which attacked the Horse**  
In the Mail Coach, at Winterloo Hut, near Salisbury, in October last,  
But was diverted from its Prey, by a large  
**MASTIFF DOG.**  
These Three Animals may now be seen together,  
IN PERFECT AMITY!  
For this unprecedented Accident, the Proprietor paid Mr. WELLS the Value of the Horse; and Surgeons also were appointed to examine his Carriage, who pronounced them perfectly secure; nor would it ever have been possible for the Animal to have broken out, but by the daring Attempt of some Person to plunder, who thereby lost the Life.

**THE ROYAL**  
**Bengal Tiger**  
An Animal next in size and strength to the Lion, with whom it frequently contends, and the most savage and blood-thirsty of the brute Creation. When grown to maturity, it is able to run as full speed with a Buffalo or Horse on its back; and so daring, that it will attack, when hungry, the Camp itself. It was one of these Animals that attacked the unfortunate Captain MICKLE, and bore him away in his Mouth, in the Face of his Companions, whilst out with a shooting Party, a few Years ago, in the Neighbourhood of Nepal!

**THE REAL RENEGAL**  
**LEOPARD,**  
The Beauty of which surpasses all Description.—It is  
**Laughing Hyæna,**  
The same Kind of Animal that is described by BRUCE, in his Travels through the Deserts of Abyssinia, and are said to be as voracious, that they dwell in Caves, and Corners of the Earth, and are blood-thirsty that they frequently rise up the Sides of the Hill, but they will prove the contrary of each Representation, in being perfectly tame.

Also one of these scarce Animals, the  
**PORCUPINE,**  
A Native of the Eastern Part of Africa, but seen as early as 1600, it is even there seldom to be met with, and is the ONLY REAL PORCUPINE that has been exhibited for many Years. It has several Quills on its Back, its fur long and soft, and is much more gentle, and more tame than is to be imagined, so that a country Gentleman against all the Opinions of the World, has not only seen them, but has even taken a young one in his Arms, which are as strong as those of a Horse, and that nothing can injure them, as every Quill carries a sharp-toothed Point.

One of the most beautiful in Appearance, and found in many parts of Africa. It grows like the Deer, and its Skin is extremely good.

**OURANG OUTANG,**  
**The Black Bear,**  
OR POLAR MONSTER, JUST IMPORTED.  
THE  
**Coatimundi or Ant Eater.**

# ACTIVITIES

## A SCARY JOURNEY

**POWERPOINT:**  
*Posties' uniforms for  
different climates*







The Jolly Postman delivers his post by bike and encounters various dangers on the way. These activities asks children to think about the possible dangers when delivering the post by bike.

### MAIN LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM


**Early years foundation stage:** Literacy, Communication and Language, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design

**Key Stage 1/2:** Literacy (real and imagined events, role play, drama); Geography (locational knowledge, geographical skills and fieldwork); PHSE (personal risks and safety)


### Suggestions for activity ideas:

-  Ask children how their postie delivers the post, e.g. on foot, or by bike or van.
-  Talk about other ways of delivering the mail, e.g. plane or ship.
-  Use PowerPoint to show how the post is delivered in other countries e.g. horse and cart, bike or boat.
-  Role-play different methods of transport using simple props such as a bicycle bell on a cardboard tube to represent handlebars.
-  Ask children to imagine what safety hazards posties might meet on their journeys, e.g. pot holes, flat tyres, breakdowns and traffic accidents.
-  Encourage children to look for hazards in *The Jolly Postman* books, e.g. flat tyres, bad weather and the Jolly Postman falling off his bike.


### TEMPLATES 8, 9, 10: My Postal Museum (p.25, 26, 27)

 As transport changed over time, the mail was delivered in different ways. This activity asks children to make their own Postal Museum.

#### Differentiation activities:

 Children colour in the vehicles, cut them out and stick them onto an A3 sheet of paper.

#### Extension activities:

 Children choose which vehicles to display in their museum, colour them in, cut them out and stick on an A3 sheet of paper in chronological order. They write a label for each 'exhibit', write their name in the Director's panel and use the arrow to point the way to Shop, Cafe and/or Toilets.

# ACTIVITIES

## THE EXETER MAIL COACH

Prints of the lioness attacking the Royal Mail coach helped to spread the story all over the country.


POWERPOINT:  
*The Exeter  
Mail Coach*


### MAIN LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM


**Early years foundation stage:** Literacy, Communication and Language


**Key Stage 1/2:** Literacy (sequencing and predicting events, retelling stories)

#### Suggestions for activity ideas:


 Ask children to look at the painting of the Exeter Mail Coach and describe what they see. Things to look for: the weather, the time of day and season, people on the coach (guards and passengers), number of horses, which horse the lioness is attacking, the building in the background and clues as to what type of building it is, the people looking out of the window (local people, the innkeeper and passengers who have prevented others getting in), the breed of dog.


 Compare this story with what children consider to be the scariest episode in *The Jolly Postman*, e.g. the Wolf or the Witch.

 Discuss together what might have happened if all the passengers had been trapped in the mail coach.


 Encourage children to role-play the scene from the point of view of the mail guard, the horse, the passengers, the onlookers or the innkeeper.

### TEMPLATES 11: *The Lioness and the Exeter Mail Coach* (p.28)


 This activity tasks children to rewrite the story of the Exeter Mail Coach using boxes to encourage understanding of writing a story with a beginning, middle and conclusion.

 Discuss writing a story and how writers develop the plot sequentially, i.e. with an introduction, development of the story line, action, resolution and conclusion.

#### Differentiation activities:

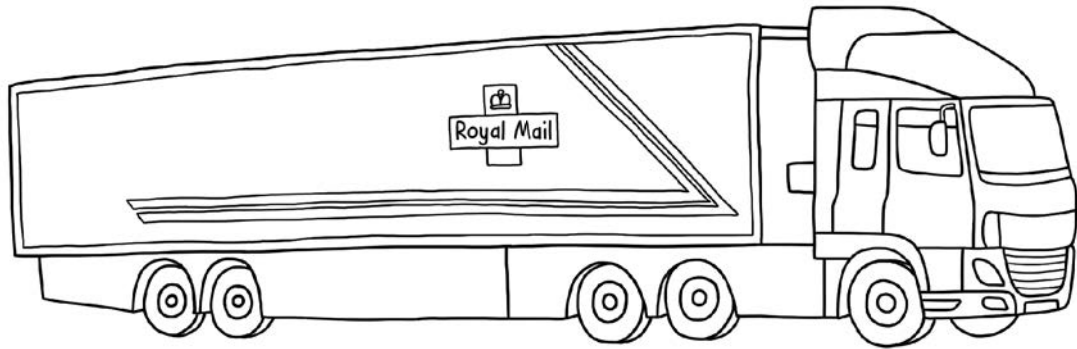
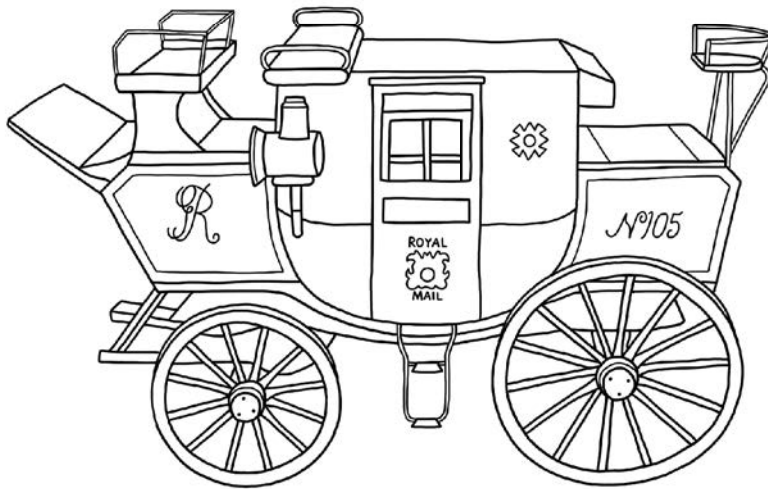
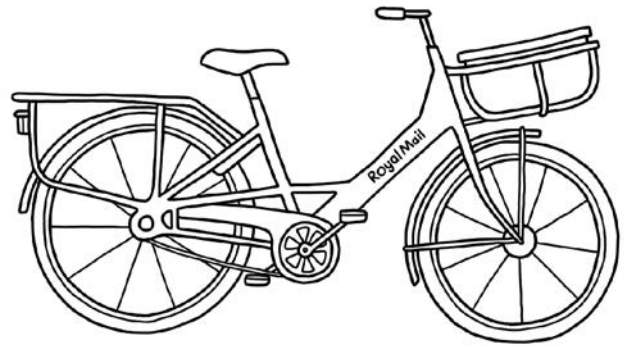
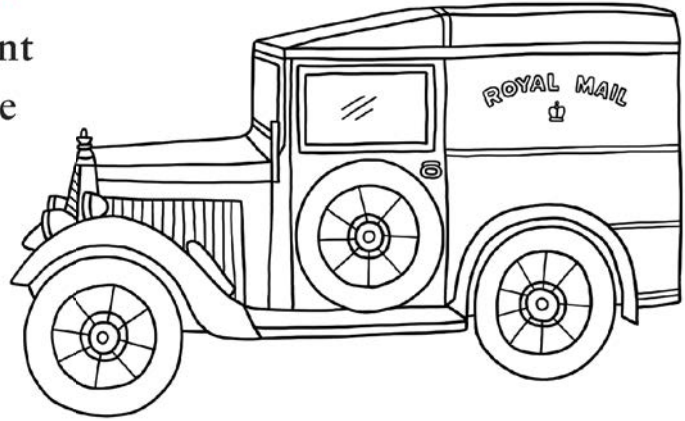
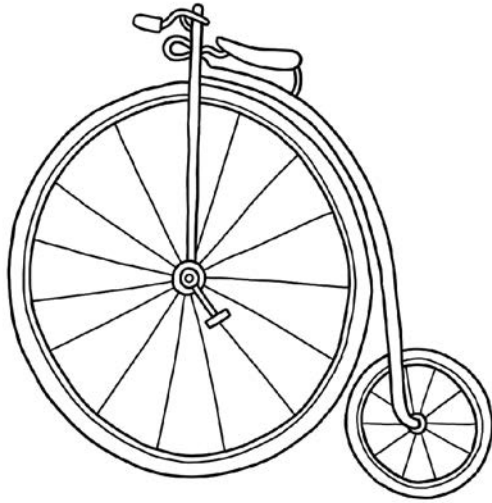
 Children draw pictures and add speech bubbles to make a cartoon of the story.

#### Extension activities:

 Ask children to choose a favourite story from the school library and to pick out the key events in the plot and talk about the sequence.

# MY POSTAL MUSEUM

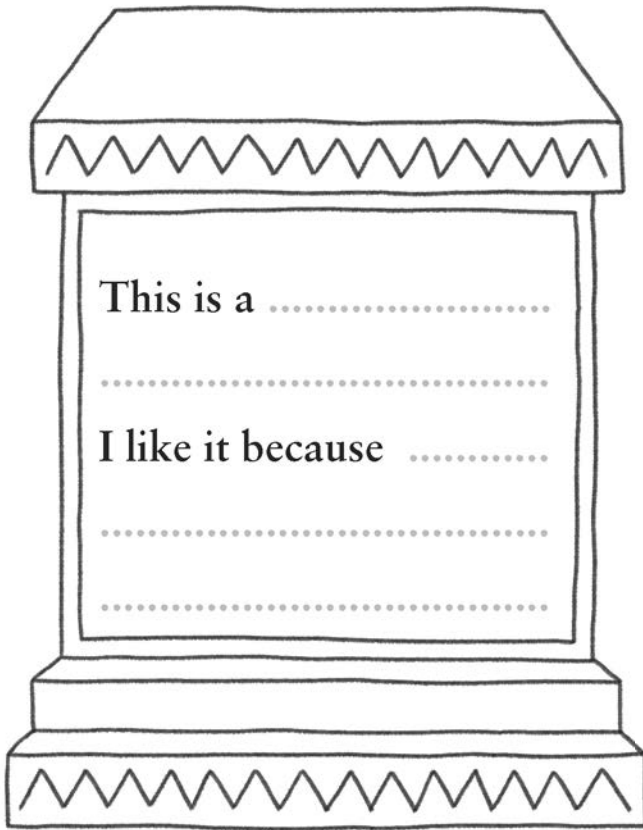
Over time, posties used different types of transport to deliver the mail. Colour them in.



Template illustrations Sophie Foster

Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

# MY POSTAL MUSEUM



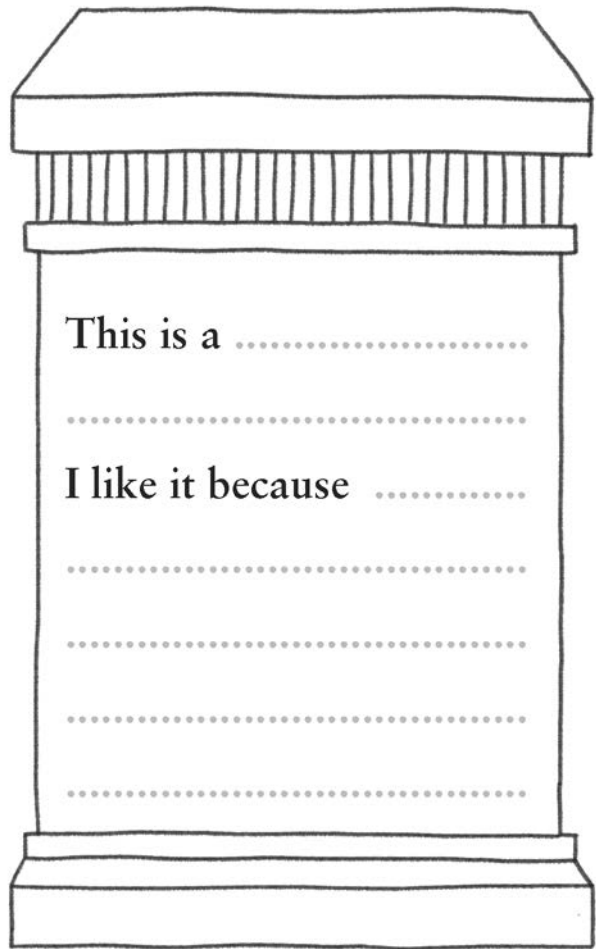
This is a .....

.....

I like it because .....

.....

.....



This is a .....

.....

I like it because .....

.....

.....

.....




This is a .....

.....

I like it because .....

.....

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This is a .....

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I like it because .....

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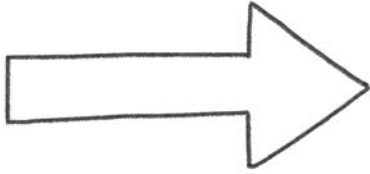
.....

Template illustrations Sophie Foster

Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

# MY POSTAL MUSEUM

THIS WAY TO



.....

THE  
DIRECTOR  
OF THE  
POSTAL  
MUSEUM IS

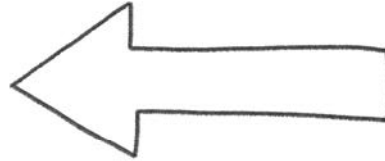
.....

.....

OPENING  
TIMES

.....

THIS WAY TO



.....

This is a .....

I like it because .....

.....

.....

# The Amazing Story of the Lioness, the Exeter Mail Coach and ME



My name is .....

I am the .....

(write the name of your character in the story here)

**1** It was a dark and stormy night when ...

**2** Then ...

**3** Suddenly ...

**4** Finally ...

THE END



# TEACHERS' NOTES

## CLOTHES FOR THE JOB

### Terrible weather

The Jolly Postman usually wears a blue jacket, trousers and a peaked cap. In bad weather, he wears clothes designed to keep him warm and dry.



*The Jolly Postman wears a cape to protect him from rain.*

**POWERPOINT:**  
*Clothes for the job*



*This postie wears a thick jacket to keep her warm.*

### It's snowing!

Snowy weather can sometimes make delivering the mail difficult. Postie Catherine Roberts once had to be dug out of a snowdrift in the Welsh mountains.

*A postie pushes her motorcycle in snow in Yorkshire.*



### It's raining cats and dogs

When the town of Keswick was badly flooded, postie Nim Lockwood used his vehicle to move people to safety.

*Nim's vehicle is fitted with a special snorkel so it can travel through water!*



©Royal Mail Group Ltd

## It's Christmas!

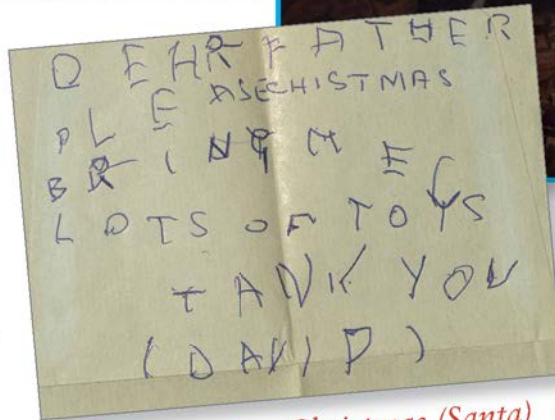
Christmas is the busiest time of year for posties. Every year, thousands of extra workers help to deliver millions of parcels and Christmas cards.



*The Jolly Postman and B.B. Wolf pull a cracker.*

## Letters to Santa

Every year, hundreds of children write to Santa telling him what they'd like for Christmas. His address is Santa's Grotto, Reindeerland, XM4 5HQ. Children often send Santa gifts such as mince pies, sweets, coins and even stamps.



*A letter to Father Christmas (Santa)*



*Santa replies to all letters he receives.*

**POWERPOINT:**  
Christmas

*This truck has been specially 'wrapped' to deliver the Christmas mail.*



## Very hot and cold

In some countries, posties' uniforms are adapted for a different climate.



**POWERPOINT:**  
Posties' uniforms for different climates



*This postie wears an all-in-one snow suit to deliver the post in snowy Finland.*



*These posties wear flip flops to help keep cool in Sri Lanka.*



*This postie still wears his traditional headgear to sort the post in Pakistan.*



*This poster from the 1930s shows a postie using a parasol to shelter from the sun in Barbados.*

© Photoshot/age fotostock



# ACTIVITIES

## WORK CLOTHES

These activities ask children to think about which clothes and equipment are suitable for weather conditions such as rain, snow and hot sun.

**WARNING**  
NEVER look directly at the sun.  
These goggles will NOT  
protect your eyes!





### MAIN LINKS TO THE CURRICULUM


**Early years foundation stage:** Understanding the physical world


**Key Stage 1/2:** Science (Scientific methods, processes and skills; Everyday materials, Seasonal changes); D&T (Understanding contexts, users and purposes); PHSE (Personal risks and safety)

#### Suggestions for activity ideas:


 Talk about the weather through the seasons: (snow, rain, floods, storms and sun, and when these conditions are likely to occur).

 Ask children what clothes they wear in summer and winter, and what materials they are made from.

 Ask children how people protect themselves from hot sun and bright white snow, and what might happen if they don't.


 Using the PowerPoint of posties in different climates, talk about how uniforms are adapted to different climates, e.g. flip flops rather than shoes in Sri Lanka, all-in-one snow suits in Finland.

#### TEMPLATE 12: A new rain jacket (p.33)


 This activity asks children to design the Jolly Postman a rain jacket. It asks them to select materials and test their ability to resist water, and to evaluate their design.

**You will need:** different types of materials, e.g. cotton, thick polythene, card, tin foil, bowls of water.

#### TEMPLATE 13: Snow goggles (p.34)

 This activity tasks children to make a pair of snow goggles.

**You will need:** the template printed out onto thin A4 card, scissors, string, a hole punch, felt tips, coloured film, sticky tape.

 Children can decorate the goggles with felt tips.

# A NEW RAIN JACKET

The Jolly Postman needs a new jacket to keep him dry in the rain.  
Jackets can be made of different materials. Which one keeps the rain out best?

**Design the new jacket here.**

The material I have chosen  
is .....

How did you test it?

I .....  
.....  
.....

Would it keep the rain out?

I think .....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Would it make a good jacket?

I think .....  
.....  
.....  
.....

What I could do to improve  
the design .....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Illustrations from *The Jolly Postman* titles © Janet & Allan Ahlberg

# SNOW GOGGLES

## Help! A big snow storm is coming!

The Jolly Postman knows that on a sunny day, the sun can reflect off bright white snow and damage his eyes. Follow the instructions to make a pair of snow goggles for him.

### How to make snow goggles

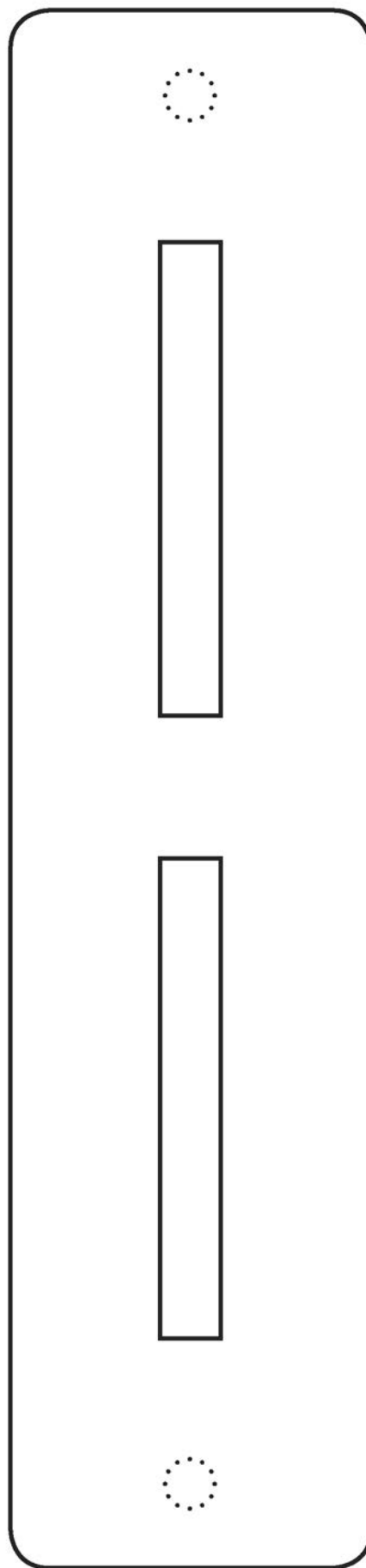
1. Carefully cut out the goggles with scissors.
2. Punch a hole on either side of your goggles.
3. Cut two lengths of string. Together, they should be long enough to go around your head.
4. Tie one length of string through each hole.



## WARNING

**NEVER** look directly at the sun.

**These goggles will NOT protect your eyes!**



## THE POSTAL MUSEUM

London's newest heritage attraction reveals the surprising and curious story of Britain's earliest social network – the post. Through interactive exhibition galleries, visitors journey through five centuries of innovation and ingenuity that changed the way we communicate forever.

**Mail Rail at The Postal Museum** offers an immersive subterranean ride through the century-old tunnels of the hidden Post Office Underground Railway. Revealed for the first time since it shut its doors, it played a vital, hidden role in keeping us all in touch, transporting millions of letters and parcels across a congested capital.

To find out more, or book a visit for your school, visit  
[www.postalmuseum.org](http://www.postalmuseum.org)

### *The Jolly Postman books*

The Jolly Postman books have been delivering fun for over 30 years, with their playful twist on familiar fairy tales and irresistible interactive elements. These three books by Janet and Allan Ahlberg have sold more than seven million copies worldwide and been awarded the Kate Greenaway Medal, the Emil/Kurt Maschler Award and the Children's Book Award.

To find out more visit [www.penguin.co.uk](http://www.penguin.co.uk)

### About the National Literacy Trust

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