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# HISTORY LESSONS USING FIRST DAY COVERS

**FDC LESSONS / WWW.FDCLESSONS.COM**

## First Day Covers

are envelopes containing commemorative stamps, appropriate postmarks and artwork depicting the topic.

## Hook Your Students

with lessons on  
*Black History*  
such as

Harriet Tubman  
Henry O. Flipper  
W.E.B. DuBois

Executive Order 9981

Find them at

[www.fdclessons.com](http://www.fdclessons.com)

**An envelope  
may be small,  
but it is a huge  
primary source.**



## FIRST DAY COVER COMMEMORATES DR. KING, JR.

On January 13, 1979, Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. was honored on the second stamp in the Black Heritage Series. The issuance coincided with what would have been Dr. King's 50th birthday.

This cover is unusual because it has two cancellations: the original in Atlanta and a second in Birmingham. The artwork depicts Dr. King speaking at the Lincoln memorial, during the March on Washington in 1963.



For a free download of this lesson on Dr. King, go to [www.fdclessons.com](http://www.fdclessons.com) and click on Additional Lessons

## AIRMAIL COVER HONORS AMELIA EARHART

On May 20, 1932, Amelia Earhart Putnam was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean from Newfoundland to Ireland. The original destination had been Paris, France, but strong headwinds, icy conditions and mechanical problems forced her to land after 14 hours and 56 minutes in Culmore, North Ireland. The artwork is what makes this Cover useful for a lesson. It contains a map showing the flight, and telling who Amelia Earhart Putnam was: "America's First Lady of the Air." The first woman to fly the Atlantic alone, Earhart's flight was five years to the day after Charles Lindbergh's crossing of the Atlantic. Upon her return to New York City on June 20, (postmark) Mayor Walker congratulated her for making "solo Atlantic flying co-ed."

When asked why she landed in Ireland, she said, "I thought I was south of my course, and rather than trust my compass I turned north. The next time I will trust more

completely to the compass which was right when I was wrong."

The 1928 airmail stamp depicts the use of beacons across the U.S. for nighttime navigation. The original photograph of the beacon on Sherman Hill in Wyoming was overlaid with a modern airplane for publicity purposes to encourage more people to use airmail.

To conclude the discussion, ask students to design an airmail stamp honoring Amelia Earhart.



Cover image available at [www.fdclessons.com](http://www.fdclessons.com)

**THE FIRST 7 PEOPLE WHO RESPOND TO THIS NEWSLETTER  
WILL EACH RECEIVE A FREE LESSON OF THEIR CHOICE FROM:**

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