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First Day Covers are envelopes containing a commemorative stamp, appropriate postmark and artwork depicting the topic.

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

Hook Your Students with other lessons highlighting the contributions of women, such as Harriet Tubman Clara Barton Eleanor Roosevelt and Service Women of World War II. Find the lessons at

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FIRST DAY COVER COMMEMORATES SUSAN B. ANTHONY

On March 13, 1906, one hundred and four years ago, Susan B. Anthony died. The woman, who had devoted her adult life to the women's suffrage movement did not live to see its fulfillment. Nor did Anthony's dear friend and fellow suffragette, Elizabeth Cady Stanton who had died 4 years earlier on Oct. 26, 1902, just short of her 85th birthday.



In 1849, Anthony transitioned from teaching school to working in the temperance movement. Though she was the president of the Rochester, NY Daughters of Temperance chapter, Anthony was not allowed to speak at rallies because she was a woman. She did not attend, nor even know of the July, 1848 Women's Rights Convention that had been held in nearby Seneca Falls, NY. In 1852 she was introduced to Mrs. Stanton and a life long friendship-partnership began with a clear focus on obtaining rights for women. The 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote was finally ratified on August 26, 1920. Sixteen years later the US Post Office issued a stamp commemorating Anthony. One wonders why 1936? Was it because President F.D. Roosevelt was an avid stamp collector? (He helped to design the stamp.) Was it because it was a presidential election year, and thus an appeal by the incumbent for women voters? Or was it to remember, during the Depression, that according to Anthony, "Failure was impossible"?



One hundred years after the Seneca Falls Convention, the Post Office issued a stamp honoring the "Progress of Women" which included Stanton, Lucretia Mott & Carrie Chapman Catt. The USPO again honored Susan B. Anthony in 1958, as well as celebrating the fiftieth (1970) and seventy-fifth (1995) anniversaries of the 19th Amendment.

Ask students to design a stamp celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment for Aug. 26, 2010



TO CELEBRATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH,
WATCH *HERSTORY* TIMELINE, A THREE MINUTE MOVIE
AT WWW.FDCLESSONS.COM