E-NEWSLETTER
MAY 2022

WELCOME!
MAYDAY, MAYDAY! It is finally May! The flowers are blooming and the weather is getting warmer. For this month we will be traveling to a galaxy far, far away to learn about Star Wars, celebrating National Pet Month, and diving in with some sharks!

STARWARS
In a galaxy far, far away...
CONTINUE READING ON PG. 2

NATIONAL PET MONTH
Can my dog Cosmo Pierre be put on a stamp?
CONTINUE READING ON PG. 4

SHARKS
SHARK BAIT OOH HA HA
CONTINUE READING ON PG. 7

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What even is Star Wars?

George Lucas (shown right) was a young filmmaker when he came up with the idea of Star Wars. He wanted to create a science fiction adventure story, similar to comic books like Flash Gordon that he loved as a kid. In 1977, Star Wars (Now known as Star Wars IV: A New Hope) premiered in theatres across the United States. Since then the film has exploded into a media empire, leading to the creation of 3 trilogies, multiple tv shows, video games, toys, and even a theme park. It is one of the most profitable media franchises ever and even almost 50 years later it is insanely popular.

The original story (a poster for the first movie is shown left) follows Luke Skywalker, a farmer on the planet Tatooine, as he gets swept up in a civil war between the Galactic Empire and the Rebel Alliance. Skywalker trains to use the Force (a magical power that some living beings can use) and gets help from Princess Leia Organa and smuggler Han Solo. Together they lead the Rebel Alliance in destroying the Death Star, a planet sized ship created by the Galactic Empire and the evil Darth Vader to destroy planets.

The story of Luke Skywalker and the civil war spans 9 movies and multiple tv shows. It is only recently that the Star Wars franchise is starting to move away from its original story.

Check out some Star Wars stamps from around the world!

Luke Skywalker

Luke Skywalker was one of the main characters of the first 3 Star Wars films. The story is centered around him learning of his ‘Jedi’ past and trying to save the galaxy from Darth Vader and the Galactic Empire.

C-3PO

A droid originally built by Anakin Skywalker to help his mom. C-3PO can speak over 6 million forms of communication. Often he is paired with R2-D2, another droid as they end up on various journeys across the galaxy. The character is one of the most active characters in Star Wars, appearing in 11 of the 12 theatrical films.

Han Solo and Wookie

The most beloved duo in the Star Wars universe, Han Solo and Wookie worked as smugglers and thieves before joining Luke Skywalker and Leia Organa to defeat the Galactic Empire.
Even if you have never watched a Star Wars movie before, you have probably heard some Star Wars quotes. Some of these quotes are so famous that they have been referenced in countless other movies, tv shows, and songs. To receive an Award Packet, you must tell me which character uttered the famous quote! Make sure to send your answers to ysca@stamps.org. If you need any help, feel free to ask me for any hints or look up some more information. Remember, research is always helpful!

1. “Remember… the Force will be with you, always.”

2. “Try not. Do or do not. There is no try.”

3. “No, I am your father.”

4. “Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You’re my only hope.”

5. “Never tell me the odds!”
National Pet month is celebrated in the United States throughout the month of May. In other countries, like the United Kingdom, it is in April instead. The month was created by animal welfare activists to promote proper pet ownership and to highlight the various animals and shelters that need support around the country.

Pets have been a major part of human society for thousands of years. It is believed that one of the first animals to be domesticated was the wolf, the descendant of dogs, about 15,000 years ago! This was then followed by the African Wild cat, the descendant of house cats. Scientists actually believe that cats may have domesticated themselves because of how beneficial it was for cats to live with humans. Nowadays, there are tons of different types of animals that people have as pets! Luckily, I have been surrounded by pets my entire life, and right now I have 2 dogs (who are brothers). If you want to learn a little bit about them, look below and we’ll continue talking about pets on the next few pages!

**Cosmo Pierre**

Birthday: October 14, 2018  
Favorite Toy: Any sort of blanket or his treat puzzles  
Favorite Food: Chicken and Eggs  
Favorite Place to Be: On a hiking trail  
Thing He is Best At: Whining for attention and howling  
Loves: Cats, random people, laying in water, butt scratches  
Hates: Loud children, rabbits, wheels, not being the center of attention

**Detective BeefCake**

Birthday: May 5, 2019  
Favorite Toy: Tug-of-War rope  
Favorite Food: WHIP CREAM  
Favorite Place: Any body of water (besides the bathtub)  
Thing He is Best At: Making a mess and somehow smearing peanut butter on himself as he eats it  
Loves: Swimming, trying to tear your arm off while playing Tug-of-War, hiding himself under blankets, eating clothing  
Hates: Fruit and Vegetables, the veterinarian, squirrels, loud noises
**Famous Dogs on Stamps**

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### Lassie, Television and Film Star

Lassie was one of the most popular TV shows within the United States. The original Lassie story was published in 1938 by Eric Knight. In that story, Lassie, a Rough Collie would trek across England to be reunited with its original owner after they had to sell her due to a lack of money. Following the short story, there would be a book, then multiple movies, and then finally a television show. The TV show was a bit different than the original story, now having Lassie live on a farm and interact with a variety of animals and humans. This show would run for 17 seasons (for reference, that's a lot). Lassie was one of the first dogs to get famous through film and television. However, with just the TV show alone, there would be 6 separate dogs which would play Lassie.

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### Owney, Postal Delivery Star

Owney was a dog who in 1888 started travelling across the United States as the unofficial mascot of the Post Office. Originally, he was known for sleeping on the mail bags in the Albany, New York Post Office. He would travel by train, with the mail, from town to town across the United States and was considered a symbol of luck. While going across the country he was given lots of dog tags. So many, that a special jacket was made for him to which the tags were attached. Eventually, he was even taken overseas and traveled through Asia and Europe. At the end of his travelling days, it is believed that Owney had amassed around 1,000 dog tags and medals. 130 years later, Owney and his tags are on display in the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.

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### Laika, Space Explorer

During the 1950s, the Soviet Union and the United States were locked in a battle of space programs known as the ‘Space Race’. After the success of Sputnik 1 (the first satellite sent to space by man), the Soviet Union wanted to test if an animal would be able to survive being launched into orbit. Laika was a stray dog living in Moscow, Russia when she was picked up by scientists and trained to be the first animal to go into space. Unfortunately, Laika would die after orbiting the Earth 4-times. Laika’s death caused protests around the world and forced many scientists to be more ethical towards the animals they use for research. In Russia there are multiple statues dedicated to Laika, and she is featured on stamps across the world.

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### Balto, Sled Dog

In the winter of 1925, Nome, Alaska had an outbreak of diphtheria (a bacterial infection that targets the neck and face) among children. However, they had no treatment for the disease and the closest place with medicine was Anchorage, Alaska, hundreds of miles away. It was so cold, that planes couldn’t get their engines started and the harbor around Nome was frozen. A committee put together to figure out how to transport the medicine decided that the quickest way was by sled dogs. Balto was the lead dog on the final relay of the delivery which covered 53 miles. After the medicine was delivered, Balto became famous across the United States. Although Balto is the most famous, another dog named Togo is known to have done most of the work during the relays, covering 260 miles in 3 days across mountains and frozen rivers.
PETS ON STAMPS

Besides dogs, there are various other pets that have been featured on stamps. Check some of them out below!

**Cats**

Cats are one of the most popular pets around the world! African Wildcats became domesticated around 10,000 years ago. Domestic cats remain very similar to the African Wildcat and domestic cats can still live in the wild if need be. In Ancient Egypt, cats were even worshipped! Right now, my cat Toast lives with my dad (she’s too old to live the rowdy life of a stamp newsletter creator!).

**Rabbits/Bunnies**

Rabbits were not really thought of as pets until the 1800s. For most of history they were just hunted for food or fur. Most people keep their rabbits in pens outdoors, but since the 1980s, more and more people have been training their rabbits to live indoors with them. Unfortunately, many people underestimate how much care rabbits need, leading to health issues or abandonment by the owner.

**Fish**

Often times, people don’t think of fish as pets. Unlike other pets, you can’t really hold or pet a fish. Fish are also often given as a starter pet to young kids due to the fact that some species, like the goldfish on the stamp, can be quite easy to take care of. For many people, creating a beautiful space for the fish to live is 99% of owning and caring for fish. Think of it as an aquarium right in your home!

*Would your pet look good on a stamp?*

The good thing about pets is that they are all so adorable! Any of them would look AMAZING on a stamp, but what type of stamp would they look best on? Of course, there are thousands of different styles of stamps and designs, so the choices are limitless. If you have a pet, what stamp do you think your pet would look best on? I’ll give a few examples so you can decide!

*Did you decide?*

There’s even more options than just the ones I showed you! So, if you have a pet, how would you show them on a stamp? And if you don’t have a pet, how would you show any animal on a stamp? Send in your answers to ysca@stamps.org to receive an Awards Packet!
Fish are friends, not food!

Sharks are some of the coolest animals to ever exist on Earth! They have been around for millions of years and are all over the globe. Take a look at some sharks that have been featured on stamps below!

**Great White Shark** *(Carcharodon carcharias)*
- Length: 11—21 feet
- Weight: 1,200—2,400 pounds
- Where they live: In any ocean or sea besides the Arctic Ocean and around Antarctica

The Great White Shark is the most famous of the currently existing sharks. Known for its powerful jaws, the Great White is an apex predator, meaning that no other animal naturally hunts it for food (although there have some reported cases of Killer Whales attacking and killing Great Whites for food). They hunt and eat various animals including birds, seals, whales, and fish. Due to their immense range and aggressive hunting, they end up biting humans the most out of any other sharks.

**Whale Shark** *(Rhincodon typus)*
- Length: It is believed they can be anywhere between 26—72 feet, but more Whale Sharks need to be observed
- Weight: 41,000 pounds (big boy)
- Where they live: Around the equator across the globe

Whale Sharks are the largest fish to currently exist, and are known as ‘gentle giants’. They are quite unique looking for a shark, and are covered in white spots and its teeth are so small that they can only eat shrimp and other small sea creatures. Do to their gentle nature, photographers and scuba divers can get real close without being in danger!

**Bigeye Thresher** *(Alopias superciliosus)*
- Length: 10.8—13.1 feet
- Weight: 350 pounds
- Where they live: Tropical areas near all of the continents besides Antarctica

Known for their large eyes, the Bigeye Thresher can have eyes up to 4 inches wide! The way their eyes are positioned on its head allow them to look up, a rare feature in sharks. The upper part of its tail fin can be almost half of its body length. Often they get accidentally caught by boats using nets to fish, and are sought after by deep-sea fishers. There is concern that overfishing could lead to them becoming endangered.

**Whitetip Reef Shark** *(Triaenodon obesus)*
- Length: 4—5 feet
- Weight: 25—40 pounds
- Where they live: Around coral reefs of the Indian and Pacific Oceans

Living along coral reefs, the Whitetip Reef Shark will spend most of its day lying still on the ocean floor. They prefer being about 26—131 feet deep, in clear water. However, there was one found at a depth of 1,080 feet! They rarely get close to the surface and will often hunt for food in the cracks and crevices of their local coral reef. Due to this, they rarely come into contact with humans, unless people are scuba diving near coral reefs.
NEW STAMPS OF MAY

**Eugenie Clark**  
**Issue Date:** May 4, 2022  
**Place of Issue:** Sarasota, FL  
Eugenie Clark was a ichthyologists (fish biologist) who lived from 1922—2015. She was known as the ‘Shark Lady’ for her work in studying and teaching the public about sharks. She pushed for ocean conservation and worked to end the hunting of sharks for sport and food. Even as she grew older and her health diminished, Clark was still performing ocean dives and conducting studies.

**Mighty Mississippi**  
**Issue Date:** May 23, 2022  
**Place of Issue:** Memphis, TN  
The Mississippi River is the 4th largest river in the world and the largest river in the United States. It runs from Minnesota, in the northern part of the U.S.A, to Louisiana where it drains into the Gulf of Mexico. This stamp issue features all 10 of the states that the Mississippi River passes through.

**Women’s Rowing**  
**Issue Date:** May 13, 2022  
**Place of Issue:** Philadelphia, PA  
Rowing is one of the oldest team sports in the world, but in the United States it was not until the 1900s that women’s rowing would grow popular, especially as a collegiate sport. Now the United States national Women’s Rowing team is one of the best in the world.
Where is Stamp Man?

Stamp Man is a friendly YSCA member who appears in every issue of the Newsletter. However, he is shy and likes to hide. Find where Stamp Man is hiding!

Email ysca@stamps.org with the location of our friend. Include your mailing address in your e-mail and you will receive some stamps for your collection!

Last Month’s Answers:

- Stamp Man was on the golden egg on the Turks & Caicos Island stamp on page 7!
- The winner of the oldest stamp tournament would be the Penny Black. The Penny Black was issued in 1840 and is the first stamp ever issued.

Mother’s Day Bonanza!

This may be surprising to all of you, but Moms (for all animals) have been around for quite a long time! Celebrating mothers has also existed for thousands of years by many cultures all across the globe. The modern day celebration of Mother’s Day in the United States was started in 1907 by Anna Jarvis. When creating the holiday, Jarvis said that it would be celebrated on the second Sunday of May (For this year it’s May 8). In 1914, it was made an official U.S. holiday by President Woodrow Wilson. Many countries around the world adopted this date as their official Mother’s Day, but there are still multiple countries which have their own holiday based on their cultural tradition. To showcase some of these celebrations around the world, let’s look at some stamps that countries have issued for Mother’s Day!

Kuwait 192, Issued in 1963

As a small country on the coast of the Persian Gulf, Kuwait celebrates Mother’s Day on March 21 every year. March 21 is also the first day of Spring. The reason Mother’s Day is celebrated on March 21 in Arabic countries is due to Ancient Egypt. Ancient Egyptians used to celebrate mothers with boats full of flowers, which was usually done at the start of spring.

Brazil 1048, Issued in 1967

A few years after Anna Jarvis started Mother’s Day in the United States, Brazil held its first Mother’s Day in 1918. Although it is not an official holiday, in 1947 it was added to the official calendar for the Catholic Church.

Turkey 3158, Issued in 2009

There is nothing quite like a mother’s love for their child. So there was no better way for Turkey to showcase that unique love than with a unique heart-shaped stamp.

Senegal 1645, Issued in 2009

Highlighting one of the most important aspects of modern Mother’s Day, children will often gift their mothers, grandmothers, and other motherly figures with flowers, food, and crafts.