Kentucky
The first recorded exploration of the area now known as the Commonwealth of Kentucky began in 1750 when Dr. Thomas Walker led a surveying team into this wilderness. Daniel Boone visited the area in 1767, but it was not until 1774 that James Harrod constructed the first permanent settlement at the site of present-day Harrodsburg.

Kentucky was originally part of Virginia, becoming its own county in 1776. In 1792 Kentucky was made a state, becoming the fifteenth state to be admitted to the Union.

First Kentucky Settlement:
Ft. Harrod
1974 • Scott 1542
In 1774, James Harrod led an expedition down the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers into the western Appalachian Mountains. There they established the first European settlement in Kentucky, Harrod’s Town (also known as Fort Harrod or Harrodstown.) Soon after completing the first structures, the men were called back to fight in Lord Dunmore’s War. In 1775, Harrod, along with men from the original expedition and their wives and children, returned to Fort Harrod, making this their new home.

Pennsylvania Rifle, Powder Horn, Tomahawk, Pipe and Knife:
Daniel Boone
1968 • Scott 1357
An American pioneer and frontiersman — Daniel Boone (1734–1820) explored what is now Kentucky (then it was part of Virginia.) He founded Boonesborough, Kentucky, which was one of the first settlements west of the Appalachians. As a militia officer during the Revolutionary War he was captured by Shawnee warriors who adopted him into their tribe. Following the war, Boone worked as a surveyor and merchant. In 1799 he immigrated to eastern Missouri where he spent the rest of his life.

Kentucky Statehood Bicentennial
1992 • Scott 2636
In December 1784, the first of ten constitutional conventions was held to pave the way for Kentucky County (the area of Virginia west of the Appalachian Mountains) to be separated from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Eventually, Virginia’s terms of separation were accepted by the Kentucky delegates, and at the tenth and final convention held in 1792, a state constitution was drafted. On June 1, 1792, the Commonwealth of Kentucky became the fifteenth state to be admitted to the union.

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Kentucky — Settlement to Statehood

First Kentucky Settlement:  
Ft. Harrod  
1974 • Scott 1542

Pennsylvania Rifle, Powder Horn, Tomahawk,  
Pipe and Knife: Daniel Boone  
1968 • Scott 1357

Kentucky Statehood  
1942 • Scott 904

Kentucky Statehood Bicentennial  
1992 • Scott 2636
Kentuckians — Some Explored, Some went to War

Classic Collections: Legends of the West
Kit Carson
1994 • Scott 2869n
Christopher Carson, known as “Kit Carson” (1809–1868), was an explorer, scout, trapper, Indian agent, rancher and a soldier. In 1826 he joined a wagon train heading west on the Santa Fe Trail. At the age of 19 he was hired for a fur trapping expedition to California where he proved himself able and courageous. He became integrated into the Indian world, traveling and living extensively among Indians. He served in the Mexican-American War playing an important part in the conquest of California. Carson was born in Madison County, Kentucky.

Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial
William Clark
2004 • Scott 3854
Kentucky, known as the “Cradle of the Corps of Discovery,” played an important role in the 1803–1806 Lewis and Clark Expedition. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark met in Louisville, Kentucky, forming one of the most infamous duos in United States history. As many as one-half of the members of the Corps were from Kentucky (including Clark’s enslaved African-American, York.) William Clark was raised near Louisville, Kentucky.

American Revolution Sesquitennial
George Rogers Clark
1929 • Scott 651
George Rogers Clark (1752–1818) a Kentucky frontier military leader, held the highest ranking of any American military officer on the northwestern frontier during the American Revolutionary War. As the Revolutionary War intensified, the British encouraged the Native Americans to raid the Kentucky settlements and reclaim their hunting grounds. Clark, leading his Kentucky (then a county of Virginia) militia, seized the British outposts, thereby quashing the persuasion of the British and ending the Indian raids into Kentucky.

Classic Collections: Civil War
Jefferson Davis
1995 • Scott 2975f
An American statesman and advocate for slavery, Jefferson F. Davis (1808–1889) was born in Christian County, Kentucky. He was the only president of the Confederate States of America. From 1861–1865 he led the rebelling Southern slave states to defeat during the American Civil War. He was captured in 1865 and held for two years in federal prison, then released, with no charges being brought against him. His birthplace is now the Jefferson Davis State Historic Site.

General George S. Patton, Jr.
1953 • Scott 1026
George S. Patton (1885–1945) nicknamed “Old Blood and Guts” was one of the most successful and colorful generals of World War II. In 1917, he was the first officer assigned to the new U.S. Tank Corps. To this day, Patton is considered one of the most successful field commanders in U.S. history. The Gen. George Patton Museum of Leadership is located in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Win the War: Iwo Jima (Marines)
1945 • Scott 929
World War II, 1945: Victory at Last
1995 • Scott 2981a
Born at the Fleming County hamlet of Hilltop, Kentucky, Franklin Runyon Sousley (1925–1945), a Private First Class, was one of the six marines that helped raise the Stars and Stripes on Iwo Jima. An Associated Press (AP) photographer took the picture, sent his film to Guam for developing where a photo editor saw the picture and transmitted it to AP headquarters in New York. That took two days and on February 25 the photograph appeared on the first page of nearly every American newspaper. Sousley was shot by a Japanese sniper on March 21 and was buried in a make-shift cemetery on Iwo Jima. On March 22, 1948, at the insistence of his mother, his body was transported to Kentucky and re-interred in the cemetery at Elizaville (Fleming County). Today a monument depicting the flag-raising marks his final resting place.
Kentuckians — Some Explored, Some went to War

Classic Collections: Legends of the West
Kit Carson
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1945 • Scott 929

World War II, 1945: Victory at Last
1995 • Scott 2981a
Famous Kentuckians

Presidential Series: Zachary Taylor
1938 • Scott 817

Although Zachary Taylor (1784–1850) was born in Virginia, his family joined the westward migration and settled near what developed into Louisville, Kentucky. He was an American military leader, becoming the 12th President of the United States. Under his administration the United States Department of the Interior was organized. Taylor was the last President to own slaves while in office. He died 16 months after his inauguration and was buried at the old Taylor homestead plantation known as ‘Springfield’ in Louisville, Kentucky. By the 1920s the family initiated efforts to turn the Taylor burial grounds into a national cemetery and in 1926 the remains of Taylor and his wife were moved to a newly constructed Taylor mausoleum nearby. The cemetery property has been designated as the Zachary Taylor National Cemetery.

Great Americans Series

Henry Clay
1983 • Scott 1846

Henry Clay (1777–1852) was born in Virginia, but established his home in Lexington, Kentucky. He was an American statesman for nearly 50 years, having served in Kentucky’s state legislature, as a U.S. congressman and senator, and as the U.S. Secretary of State. Clay authored the “Missouri Compromise” which permitted slavery in Missouri, but prohibited it in most of the Louisiana Territory. Henry Clay was the Whig Party candidate for President in 1844.

Montgomery Blair
1963 • Scott C66

Montgomery Blair (1813–1883) was born in Franklin County, Kentucky. He served as United States district attorney, was a judge of the court of common pleas, and finally devoted himself to law practice principally in the United States Supreme Court. After Abraham Lincoln’s election, Blair was invited to be part of the president’s cabinet as Postmaster General. He served in this position from 1861 until September 1864. Under Blair’s administration such reforms and improvements of free city delivery, the adoption of a money order system, and the use of railway mail cars were instituted.

U.S. Supreme Court Justices: Louis D. Brandeis
2009 • Scott 4422c

Louis Brandeis (1856–1941) was born in Louisville, Kentucky. He graduated from Harvard Law School, at the age of 21 with the highest grade average in the college’s history. He was an advisor to President Woodrow Wilson and served as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States, from 1916 to 1939. Brandeis University in Massachusetts is named after Louis Brandeis.

Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial
1965 • Scott 1275

In 1885 Adlai Ewing Stevenson I (1835–1914) was appointed as the First Assistant Postmaster General of the United States. During his tenure in office, he fired more than 40,000 Republican workers and replaced them with Southern Democrats — consequently he was defeated for confirmation for a federal judgeship by the Republican-controlled Congress. Later he became Grover Cleveland’s running mate, and became the 23rd Vice President of the United States. Stevenson was born in Christian County, Kentucky.
Famous Kentuckians

Presidential Series: Zachary Taylor
1938 • Scott 817

Great Americans Series
Henry Clay
1983 • Scott 1846

U.S. Supreme Court Justices:
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2009 • Scott 4422c

Montgomery Blair
1963 • Scott C66

Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial
1965 • Scott 1275
More Famous Kentuckians

Black Heritage Series: Whitney Moore Young, Jr.
1981 • Scott 1875
Whitney Moore Young Jr. (1921–1971) was born in Lincoln Ridge, Kentucky. A Civil Rights Activist, he served as head of the National Urban League from 1961 until his death in 1971. He helped thousands of black Americans get jobs, started on-the-job training programs, and established Head Start and tutoring centers. President Lyndon Johnson honored Young with the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the highest award to be presented to a civilian in the United States.

American Treasures: John James Audubon
2002 • Scott 3650
John James Audubon (1785–1851) attempted to paint and describe all the birds of America. Born in Saint Domingue (now Haiti,) at the age of 18 he moved to near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he hunted, studied, and drew birds. There he conducted what is known as the first bird-branding experiment in North America by tying strings around the legs of Eastern Phoebes. He eventually traveled down the Ohio River and settled in Henderson, Kentucky, where he continued to draw birds as a hobby. His book Birds of America, a collection of 435 life-size prints, was last printed in 1838. It is still a standard against which 20th and 21st century bird artists are measured. Today, the name "Audubon" remains synonymous with birds and bird conservation the world over.

Literary Arts Series: Robert Penn Warren
2005 • Scott 3904
Robert Penn Warren (1905–1989), a poet, critic, novelist and teacher, was born in Guthrie, Todd County, Kentucky. In 1986, as a poet, he was appointed the nation's first Poet Laureate. Two of his novels, All the King's Men and Band of Angels were made into movies. He won the Pulitzer Prize for both his poetry and novels — the only author to have won the Pulitzer for both fiction and poetry.

Railroad Engineers: Casey Jones
1950 • Scott 993
Jonathan Luther “Casey” Jones (1863–1900) grew up near Cayce, Kentucky. He worked for the Mobile & Ohio Railroad, was soon promoted to brakeman, and then to fireman. In 1891 he attained his lifelong ambition, and was hired as a locomotive engineer for the Illinois Central Railroad. On April 30, 1900, Jones was the engineer on the “Cannonball Express,” a passenger train traveling from Memphis, Tennessee to Canton, Mississippi. Having nearly reached his destination, his train collided with a freight train. Because of his valor, Casey Jones, with his hands still on the brakes, was the only person killed in this tragic accident.

Dr. Ephraim McDowell
1959 • Scott 1138
Dr. Ephraim McDowell (1771–1830) was born in Virginia but at the age of twelve the family moved to Kentucky where he was raised. He was an American physician who never received a degree. He was the first to remove a specific abdominal tumor and have the patient live. “Doctor” McDowell's most famous patient was President James K. Polk, from whom he removed a urinary stone and repaired a hernia. In 1825, the University of Maryland conferred on him an honorary M.D. degree.
More Famous Kentuckians

Black Heritage Series:
Whitney Moore Young, Jr.
1981 • Scott 1875

Literary Arts Series:
Robert Penn Warren
2005 • Scott 3904

American Treasures:
John James Audubon
2002 • Scott 3650

Railroad Engineers:
Casey Jones
1950 • Scott 993

Dr. Ephraim McDowell
1959 • Scott 1138
Famous Americans series:
Stephen Collins Foster
1940 • Scott 879
Stephen Collins Foster (1826–1864) wrote more than 200 songs, becoming known as the father of American music. Among his songs is “My Old Kentucky Home,” the official state song of Kentucky. This is also the official song of the Kentucky Derby, is played at school sports activities, and has been heard in films including The Story of Seabiscuit and Gone With The Wind.

Photography
1978 • Scott 1758
Moneta Sleet Jr. (1926–1996), born in Owensboro, Kentucky, won the 1969 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography. It was for a photograph of Coretta Scott King, the widow of Martin Luther King, Jr., taken at his funeral. Sleet was the first African American man to win the Pulitzer and the first African American to win an award for journalism.

D.W. Griffith and Motion-Picture Camera
1975 • Scott 1555
David Llewelyn Wark “D.W.” Griffith (1875–1948), born in Crestwood, Kentucky, was an American film director who is credited with developing or improving many of the basic techniques of filmmaking, including close-up fade-outs, and cross-cutting. Its popularity set the stage for the dominance of the feature-length film in the United States. He is best remembered for the film The Birth of a Nation (1915).

Comic Strip Classics: Blondie
1995 • Scott 3000l
Dagwood Bumstead is one of the main characters in the long-running “Blondie” comic strip. Arthur (aka Lake) Silverlake (1905–1987) played the part of Dagwood in twenty eight Blondie films produced from 1938 to 1950. His character displays a love for his family, for long naps on the sofa, and for multi-layered sandwiches. Another attribute are his constant collisions with the mailman as he is running late for his carpool or an appointment. Arthur Lake was born in Corbin, Kentucky.

Comic Strip Classics: Toonerville Folks
1995 • Scott 3000g
Fontaine Fox (1884–1964) an American cartoonist and illustrator was born near Louisville, Kentucky. He is best known for writing and illustrating his “Toonerville Folks” comic. It ran from 1913 to 1955 in 250 to 300 newspapers across North America. The cartoons are set in a small town of Toonerville, which appears to operate in its own little universe. It was the most popular comic during the World War I era.

Classic Collections: American Illustrators
Dean Cornwell
2001 • Scott 3502j
Dean Cornwell (1892–1960), born in Louisville, Kentucky, was an American illustrator and muralist. He began his professional career as a cartoonist for the Louisville Herald. He studied at the Art Institute in Chicago and at the Art Students League of New York in New York City, where he eventually taught and lectured. His paintings graced the pages of several magazines, he illustrated artwork for authors, and painted murals in buildings such as Los Angeles Public Library, U.S. Post Office in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and the Warwick New York Hotel.

Famous Kentuckians in the Arts
Famous Kentuckians in the Arts

Famous Americans series:
Stephen Collins Foster
1940 • Scott 879

Classic Collections:
American Illustrators
Dean Cornwell
2001 • Scott 3502j

Photography
1978 • Scott 1758

D.W. Griffith
Motion-Picture Camera
1975 • Scott 1555

Comic Strip Classics: Blondie
1995 • Scott 3000l

Comic Strip Classics: Toonerville Folks
1995 • Scott 3000g
Horse Racing
1974 • Scott 1528

Annually, on the first Saturday in May, three-year-old Thoroughbred horses line up at Churchill Downs for the running of the Kentucky Derby. The race is sometimes referred to as the “Fastest Two Minutes in Sports,” as it takes the horses approximately two minutes to run the one and a quarter mile track. The Derby is also referred to as the “Run for the Roses” because the winner is awarded a blanket of 554 red roses. This stamp was issued to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the running of the Kentucky Derby.

American Horses
1985 • Scott 2155-2158

In the early 1800s, horse breeders recognized the highly nourishing qualities of the bluegrass pasturelands within the state of Kentucky. Settlers soon began breeding and racing their horses. Today, Kentucky horse farms produce some of the world's finest horses.

The Saddlebred, also known as the American Saddle Horse, is an impressive horse with a long, graceful neck, a well-formed body, and nimble legs. It is a show horse, displaying a high gait and a ”show-off” strut needed in an exhibition ring.

The Appaloosa, known for their large spots of white, scattered and intermixed with dark colors. Introduced into Mexico in the 1500s, the horses soon spread across the western United States, and into the Northwest. The Nez Perce bred the horses, giving them the mobility needed for hunting and trading, and helped the Nez Perce keep their homelands safe from intruders for many years. Today the appaloosa is shown in endurance riding competitions.

The Morgan is an “easy to love and affordable to own” all-around horse. With its strong muscles and stamina, it can be used in single or in multiple hitches, or ridden for a full day of ranch work. The Morgan excels in formal riding disciplines, whether wearing western tack or ridden in English style.

The Quarter Horse is a heavy muscled, compact horse that can run a straight, short distance faster than any other horse. They are a good all-around family horse that competes well at horse shows, in short races, and in rodeo events.
Kentucky Horses

Horse Racing
1974 • Scott 1528

American Horses
1985 • Scott 2155-2158
Symbols of Kentucky

American Bicentennial: State Flags: Kentucky
1976 • Scott 1647

Flags of our Nation: Kentucky
2009 • Scott 4293

Kentucky’s state flag was adopted in March, 1918. It shows the Commonwealth’s seal on a field of navy blue. The top of the seal is circled by the words “Commonwealth of Kentucky,” while sprigs of goldenrod, the state flower, encircles the lower portion of the seal. The seal itself shows two friends shaking hands, one a buckskin-clad pioneer and the other a statesman dressed in a suit. The men represent all frontiersmen and statesmen who are acting out the state’s motto, which is written within the seal: “United We Stand, Divided We Fall.”

Greetings from America: Kentucky
2002 • Scott 3577 and Scott 3712

The “Greetings from America” stamp series features retro designs that mimic the popular tourist postcards of the 1930s and ‘40s. This stamp shows three thoroughbred horses racing side by side at Churchill Downs in Louisville, site of the annual Kentucky Derby. In the background is a cabin near Carlisle, Kentucky.

Wonders of America: Appalachians, oldest mountains
2006 • Scott 4045

The Appalachian Mountains were formed roughly 480 million years ago. This mountain range extends from southeastern Canada into central Alabama. Some of the most scenic mountains and lakes can be found in the Appalachians of eastern Kentucky, including Broke Leg Falls, a 60-foot natural waterfall.

Wonders of America: Mammoth Cave, longest cave
2006 • Scott 4068

Mammoth Cave, located in south central Kentucky, is the world’s longest known cave with more than 348 miles of connected passages explored and mapped. It earned its name from the vast chambers and complex labyrinths (constructed of intricate passageways.) The Cave is a designated World Heritage Site and an International Biosphere Reserve. Mammoth Cave National Park preserves the cave system.
Symbols of Kentucky

American Bicentennial
State Flags: Kentucky
1976 • Scott 1647

Flags of our Nation: Kentucky
2009 • Scott 4293

Greetings from America: Kentucky
2002 • Scott 3577

Greetings from America: Kentucky
2002 • Scott 3712

Wonders of America:
Appalachians, oldest mountains
2006 • Scott 4045

Wonders of America:
Mammoth Cave, longest cave
2006 • Scott 4068
More Symbols of Kentucky

State Birds and Flowers: Kentucky:
Cardinal and Goldenrod
1982 • Scott 1969
The cardinal, known for its bright plumage and cheerful song, is most noticeable during the winter when it is the only red bird present. The male is red all over, except for an area of its throat and around its beak; the female is duller in color, but has red on its crest, wings, and tail. In 1926 the Kentucky approved this red bird as its official state bird.

Goldenrod was included as an element on the Kentucky state flag when it was adopted in 1918. In 1921 the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs began to endorse it as the state flower. The United States War Department argued that the trumpet vine should be the state flower, as it was the official symbol of the Kentucky militia. In March 1926, the Kentucky Senate adopted a resolution naming goldenrod as the official state flower.

Honeybee
1988 • Scott 2281
The honeybee plays an important role in agriculture, as it is a natural pollinator of fruits, vegetables, and legumes. (It takes one colony of honey bees — approximately 30,000 bees — to pollinate an acre of fruit trees.) In 2010 the honeybee was designated as the official state agricultural insect of Kentucky.

Transportation Coils: Milk Wagon 1900s
1987 • Scott 2253
With more than 1,500 dairy farms in Kentucky, milk production and the manufacture of dairy products are major contributors to the state's economy. In 1985 the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky named and designated milk as the official state drink of Kentucky.

North American Wildlife:
Gray Squirrel
1987 • Scott 2295
The gray squirrel, with its bushy tail, entertains many visitors to city parks. This member of the rodent family is found in forests across the country, where it is a popular game animal for hunters. In 1968, the gray squirrel was designated as the official state wild game animal of Kentucky.

Fruit Berries: Blackberry
1999 • 3305
Blackberry is the official state fruit of Kentucky. The flowers are produced in late spring and early summer, and each one has five white or pale pink petals. The soft fruit is popular for use in desserts, jams, seedless jelly and sometimes wine.

Transportation Coils: Coal Car 1970s
1988 • Scott 2259
Kentucky produces more than 150 million tons of coal annually, making it one of the top three states to produce coal in the United States. Most of the coal mined in Kentucky is burned to produce electricity at the state's power plants. In 1998 coal was named as the official mineral of Kentucky.

America on the More: 50s Sporty Cars
1953 Chevrolet Corvette
2006 • Scott 3933
The Chevrolet Corvette, a sports car that has been produced for six generations, is currently manufactured in Bowling Green, Kentucky. The National Corvette Museum which documents the car's history, is located at the manufacturing plant. The Corvette is the official sports car of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
More Symbols of Kentucky

State Birds and Flowers: Kentucky:
Cardinal and Goldenrod
1982 • Scott 1969

North American Wildlife:
Gray Squirrel
1987 • Scott 2295

Honeybee
1988 • Scott 2281

Fruit Berries: Blackberry
1999 • 3305

Transportation Coils:
Milk Wagon 1900s
1987 • Scott 2253

America on the More: 50s Sporty Cars
1953 Chevrolet Corvette
2006 • Scott 3933

Transportation Coils:
Coal Car 1970s
1988 • Scott 2259
Happy Birthday
1987 • Scott 2272
1988 • Scott 2395
2002 • Scott 3558
2002 • Scott 3695
2006 • Scott 4079

The four-line rhyme “Happy Birthday to You” was written by sisters Mildred and Patty Hill. First sung as “Good Morning to All,” Patty (1868–1946) wrote the lyrics when she was the principal at the Louisville Experimental Kindergarten School. Mildred (1859–1916) wrote the tune while a teacher in the same school. The Hill sisters were born in Louisville, Kentucky.
Happy Birthday

1987 • Scott 2272

1988 • Scott 2395

2002 • Scott 3558

2002 • Scott 3695

2006 • Scott 4079
Kentucky
The American Philatelic Society

This album does not include every issue related to the topic. Use the blank pages at the end of this album to add stamps related to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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