

Kid Scoop®

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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The Story of Christmas Seals

One stormy December night in 1903, a mail carrier named Elinar Holboell was working late in a small post office just outside of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Glancing out the window, he noticed two children dressed in rags. As he went back to his work sorting the happy holiday cards, he was troubled by the hungry and cold children.

Suddenly he had an idea. Suppose that every letter carried an extra stamp, and the money from these stamps helped unfortunate children.

In 1904, Elinar and his fellow postal workers created a special stamp to help children. It had a picture of the queen of Denmark, Queen Louise.

The Danes bought four million seals that first year. The funds were used to build hospitals for children with tuberculosis (TB). At that time, TB was the leading cause of death.

How Christmas Seals Came to America

Denmark's neighbors, Norway and Sweden, saw what a great power the people could be, and in 1905 they started selling Christmas Seals.

But when an American woman wanted to use Christmas Seals to save a small hospital in Pennsylvania, she ran into problems. The post office would not let its workers sell the seals.

When a young newspaper writer saw the seals, he told his boss, "Just look—a penny apiece—within everyone's reach—think how they'll carry the news of what people can do for themselves—what a slogan, **STAMP OUT TUBERCULOSIS!**"

The newspaper told the story and sold the seals at their front counter. The first day the stamps went on sale, a little newsboy who was too small to see over the counter came in and, reaching up with a penny, said, "Gimme one. Me sister's got it."

Stamp Out Tuberculosis

Soon, countries around the world started selling Christmas Seals to help people with TB. Today, TB is not the threat that it was 60 years ago. But there is still a need for help. Today the money from the sale of Christmas Seals helps people with asthma, bronchitis and other diseases of the lungs.

Standards Link: History: Students understand how events in the present are connected to the past and the importance of civic virtue.

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Help Elinar sort the mail.

Draw a line from each envelope to the box it goes in. Unscramble the names of the cities on the map. Then draw a line from each box of mail to that city's location on the map.

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow multiple-step directions.

Find the hidden pictures.



Standards Link: Visual discrimination.



Find the stamp that is different.

Standards Link: Visual discrimination.

Extra! Extra!

Create a Goodwill Seal

Find a picture and/or words from today's newspaper that seem to say "goodwill." Use these images and/or words to create a Goodwill Seal. If you could sell your seal, what cause would you support with the money?

Standards Link: Social Science: Students understand the importance of civic virtue.

Kid Scoop® Puzzler

Look for a pattern in each row of stamps. Draw the stamp that comes next.



Standards Link: Math: Students recognize patterns.

Double Double Word Search

STAMP
PENNY
SEALS
SWEDEN
NEWSPAPER
NORWAY
STORMY
RAGS
HOLIDAY
WORKERS
LUNGS
QUEEN
MAIL
MAP

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

P A M D Y M R O T S
M G F W O R K E R S
P M A T S G N U L Y
N E W S P A P E R A
E O R A N E E U Q D
D P R A G S N L U I
E N T W S L N I E L
W N K H A D Y A T O
S E A L S Y V M P H

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop® LESSON LIBRARY

Power of the People

Christmas Seals showed people that anyone can help solve serious health problems, not just doctors and nurses. Look through today's newspaper for examples of people working together to make the world a cleaner, safer, healthier place to live.

Standards Link: Health: Students make decisions about health and safety issues.

Why did the boy jump up and down on the letter?

ANSWER: He heard that you have to stamp letters or the post office won't send them.



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