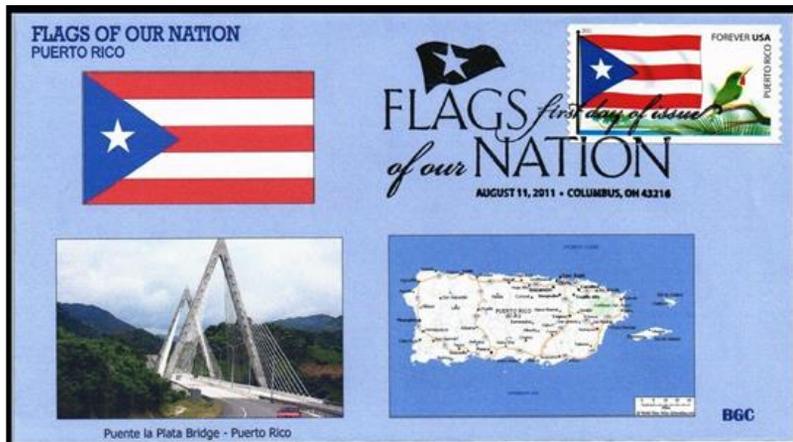


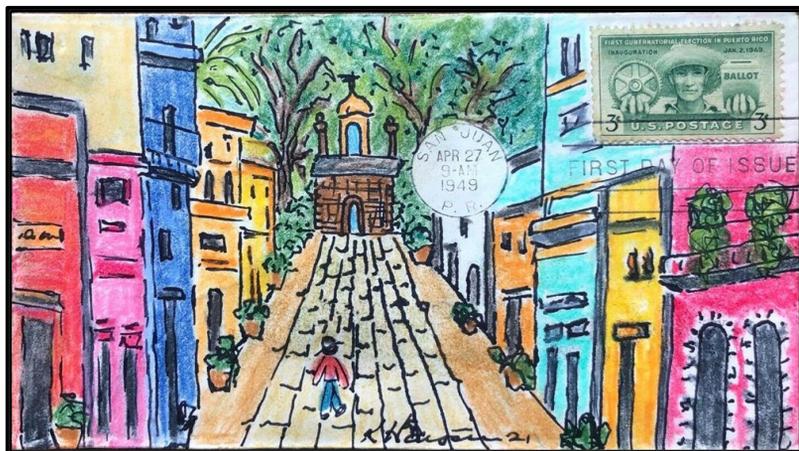
Editor/Creator: Aimée Devine

Puerto Rico

¡Bienvenidos a Puerto Rico, La Isla del Encanto! Welcome to Puerto Rico, the Island of Enchantment! This issue is loaded with activities to teach you all about this fabulous Caribbean island. You might notice that some of this issue is written in English and Spanish. That is because both languages are spoken on the island. Puerto Rico is a territory of the United States. That means you don't need a passport to visit if you are an American citizen. You also don't need to worry about exchanging your money— dollars are used there. Most Puerto Ricans speak both languages, so if you don't know Spanish it's always easy to get help. Have fun and maybe sometime soon, you can make a visit to this beautiful island.



Left: A BGC cachet with the Puerto Rican flag and the Ponce de Leon Bridge. Bottom left: A very colorful Kate Hayden cachet showing a Puerto Rican street scene. This cover has an add-on cachet because the artist painted it years after it was originally cancelled.



Many thanks to the Sociedad Filatélica de Puerto Rico for helping with this issue of *Topical Tidbits*. If you'd like to learn more about this ATA affiliate, please visit their website at:

<https://sfpr1952.org>

Puerto Rico Fun Facts

- The capital, San Juan, is the largest city on the island. Its Old San Juan neighborhood features colorful Spanish colonial buildings and *El Morro* and *La Fortaleza*, huge fortresses that are hundreds of years old.
- When Christopher Columbus arrived on the island in 1493, he named it *San Juan Batista*. Then in 1508, the island's first governor, Juan Ponce de León, changed the name to Puerto Rico, which means "rich port" in Spanish, because all the gold and treasures from the Americas went through the island before sailing to Europe. The capital city then became known as San Juan.
- The Taíno Indians have lived on the island of Puerto Rico since around 1200. They called the island *Borikén*, which some historians think meant "island of crabs" or perhaps "land of the brave."
- In 1898, Puerto Rico came under United States rule after Spain lost the Spanish-American War. In 1917, the island became a U.S. territory and Puerto Ricans were given U.S. citizenship.
- Puerto Ricans use the U.S. dollar and the U.S. Postal Service. U.S. citizens—including Puerto Ricans—don't need passports to travel between Puerto Rico and the mainland United States.
- Puerto Rico is about the size of Connecticut and is home to over 3.5 million people.
- The official languages are Spanish and English.
- Puerto Rico has the only tropical rainforest in the U.S. national forest system, El Yunque (YUHN-kay) National Forest.
- San Juan is the oldest continuously inhabited city in a U.S. territory.



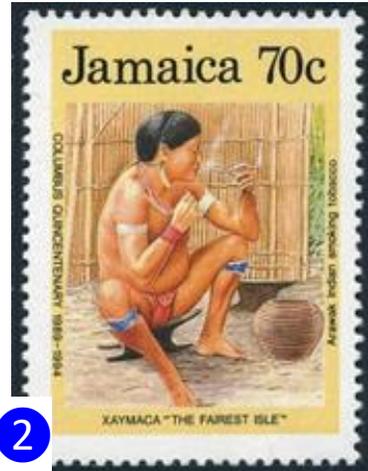
This first day cover by Brenda Little shows an anole which is a little lizard found all over Puerto Rico. There are nine varieties on the island. They can change from brown to a bright green and back again, but so far no one knows why.

Taíno Indians

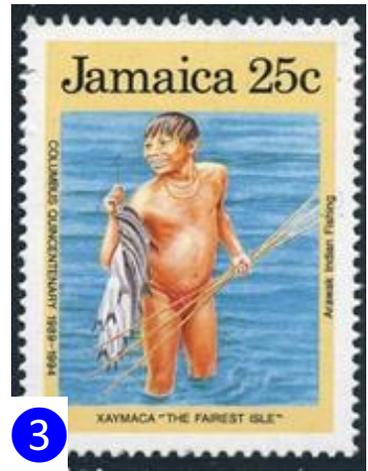
Taíno Indians are a subgroup of the Arawakan Indians who lived in Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico at the time of Christopher Columbus' arrival to the New World. They shared a universal language and religious beliefs. Skilled at agriculture and hunting, Taínos were also good fishermen. They used large dugout canoes for fishing, transportation, and water sports. They had no calendar or writing system. They were able to count only up to twenty by using their hands and feet. Sadly, their numbers began to decline after the arrival of the Spanish in 1508. Malnutrition and disease killed many Taínos. Once thought extinct, recent DNA testing from the tooth of a Taíno woman who lived between the 8th and 10th centuries, proved that present-day Puerto Ricans are more closely related to the long-thought "extinct" natives than any other indigenous group in the Americas. The Taínos contributed greatly to the Spanish language and culture. Many of their words, such as *maracas*, *iguana*, and *coquí*, are still in use today. Some of their words are even used in the English language.



1



2



3

4

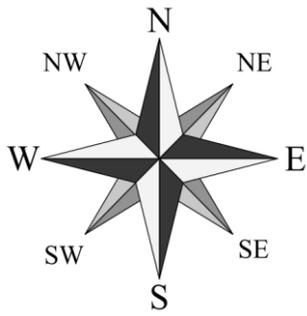


See if you can translate the Spanish version of these Taíno words into English.

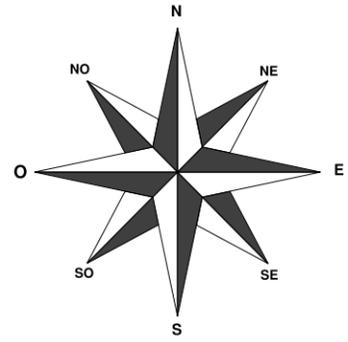
1. canoa _____
2. barbacoa _____
3. hamaca _____
4. huracán _____
5. tabaco _____
6. manatí _____
7. patata _____

Match these captions to the stamps on the right.

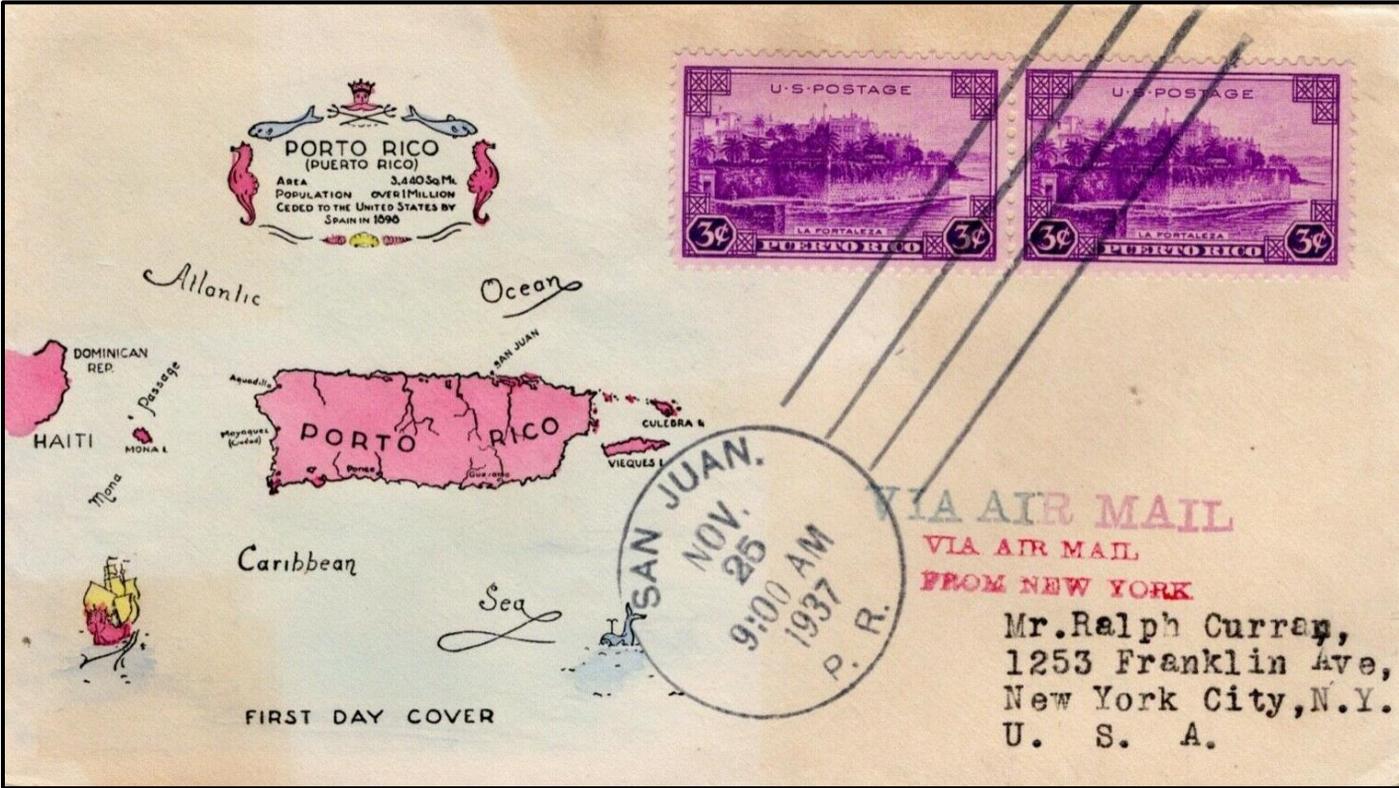
- a. _____ Arawak Indian fishing
- b. _____ Arawak making cassava
- c. _____ Taíno clay pot/olla de barro
- d. _____ Arawak Indian smoking tobacco



Cover Clues



There's a lot of information to be found on a cover.
Use the image below to answer the questions.



1. What body of water lies south of Puerto Rico?

2. The islands of Culebra and Vieques lie to the _____ of Puerto Rico.
3. The Atlantic Ocean is _____ of the island.
4. The capital, San Juan, is on the _____ side of Puerto Rico.
5. Two countries that are west of Puerto Rico are:
_____ and _____.
6. On what date was this cover cancelled? _____
7. In what city was it cancelled? _____
8. What time was it cancelled? _____
9. This cover flew via air mail from what city? _____
10. What is the total amount of postage paid to mail this cover? _____

San Juan- 500 Years

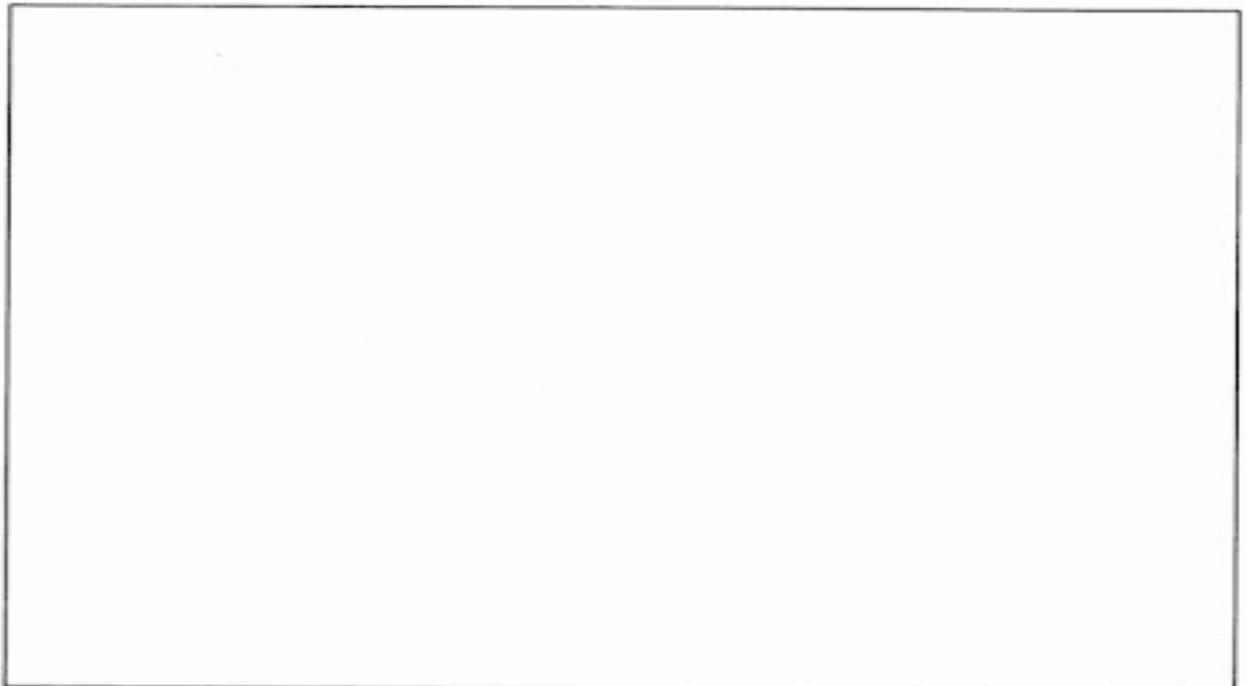
In 2021, the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico, celebrated 500 years since its founding in 1521. The capital of Puerto Rico is the oldest city under U.S. jurisdiction and is the second oldest European-founded city in the Americas. San Juan was the departure point of Spanish expeditions to settle unknown parts of the New World during the early 16th century. In 1595, the walled fortifications surrounding the city repulsed the English navigator Sir Francis Drake, as well as many later attacks. Since this time, the city has expanded beyond its walled confines (known as Old San Juan) to incorporate the surrounding areas.



The stamp of La Fortaleza (left) was issued in 1937. Built in the 1530s, it is one of oldest buildings in the U.S. and serves as the official residence of the governor of Puerto Rico. The 1971 stamp to the right commemorates the 450th anniversary of San Juan, Puerto Rico - the oldest continuously inhabited city in America. The vignette pictures a sentry box from Castillo San Felipe del Morro.



Below: The USPS did not issue a stamp for San Juan's 500th anniversary. Design your own below. Be sure to include the words "U.S." and "Forever" for the denomination.



El Yunque National Forest

- El Yunque is the only tropical forest in the National Forest System of the United States.
- It is the rainiest of all the U.S. national forests.
- It has high biodiversity, with 225 native tree species and 165 vertebrate species documented.
- It is the only U.S. national forest located on an island.

- El Yunque es el único bosque tropical dentro del Sistema de Bosques Nacionales de los Estados Unidos.
- Es el bosque nacional de los EE.UU., más lluvioso.
- Tiene la mayor biodiversidad con 225 especies nativas de árboles y 165 especies de vertebrados documentadas.
- Es el único bosque nacional de los EE.UU. localizado en una isla.

El Yunque is the perfect place for bird watching. Read each description below and match it to the correct stamp.

1. ___ These tiny little green birds resemble hummingbirds but are more closely related to kingfishers. They like to travel together in pairs.
2. ___ This species is the only remaining native parrot in Puerto Rico and has been listed as critically endangered by the World Conservation Union since 1994.
3. ___ This bird has a black upper body with bright red throat and breast and eats beetle larvae, earwigs, ants, and other insects. It will also occasionally eat spiders, frogs, and lizards, as well as berries and fruit.
4. ___ One of the most colorful birds found in Puerto Rico, the male has a bright yellow rump and underbelly, an orange forehead, a bright blue crown and black backside, tail, wings and cheeks. In contrast, the female is dull olive green with a lighter blue crown.
5. ___ This little grey and yellow bird likes to eat caterpillars, flies, grasshoppers, beetles, spiders and even butterflies.



**A. Puerto Rican Woodpecker/
Carpintero de Puerto Rico**



**B. Puerto Rican Parrot/
La Cotorra Puertorriqueña**



**C. Adelaide's Warbler/
Reinita Mariposera**



**D. Puerto Rican Tody/
San Pedrito**



**E. Antillean Euphonia/
Jilguero**

El Coquí

Native to the forests of Puerto Rico, the little frog called coquí (pronounced ko-kee) is only one to two inches long. Its scientific genus name is *Eleutherodactylus*, which means “free toes,” because it doesn’t have webbed feet like most frogs.

Instead, special toe pads allow it to climb up structures such as trees. Birds and snakes are the coquí’s biggest predators. Coquíes eat mostly spiders, crickets, and roaches. The word *coquí* refers to the sound of their call which can be heard all over the island from dusk until dawn.

C C U À K J T G A A Y D Y C P
 I S L A R S R A O R C E T Z A
 K S B S E B O A A W P D R K N
 P V L R T L O M U I O O E J F
 S V O A L Y P L E M J S E Q I
 E F A I N H X W U F M D H H B
 G B R H I D W A Q E Q N E G I
 Z G B B C T R E S B M N A M O
 N C I D M A D Y O W D N Z P M
 X A E S O L R K B S A N L B V
 N J H E N Y O A A R E D I P S
 L M C O B D R I C O X I P D L
 U G A T C A Y I N U R E P B R
 F R O G Ñ D U N N X C C Q C V
 P E R A H T C R I C K E T Y K

Find the words below in the puzzle. The words on the left are in Spanish and the English words are on the right. Both appear in the puzzle and can go in any direction and can share letters.

- isla.....island
- rana.....frog
- árbol.....tree
- croar.....croak
- grillo.....cricket
- araña.....spider
- bosque.....forest
- cucaracha.....roach
- anfibio.....amphibian
- dedos de los pies.....toes



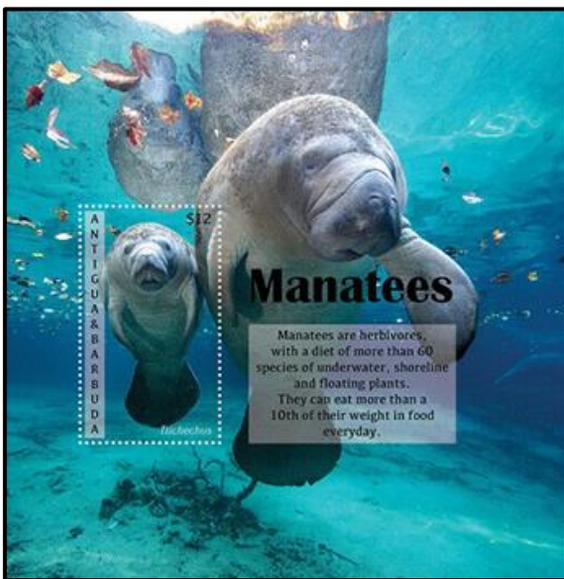
These two covers honor the coquí. The one on the left was made by Luís González Pérez in 2012. The stamp features the Puerto Rican flag. The cancel has a tiny coquí. The cover on the right was made by Ronald H. González in 2019.

Manatee Maze

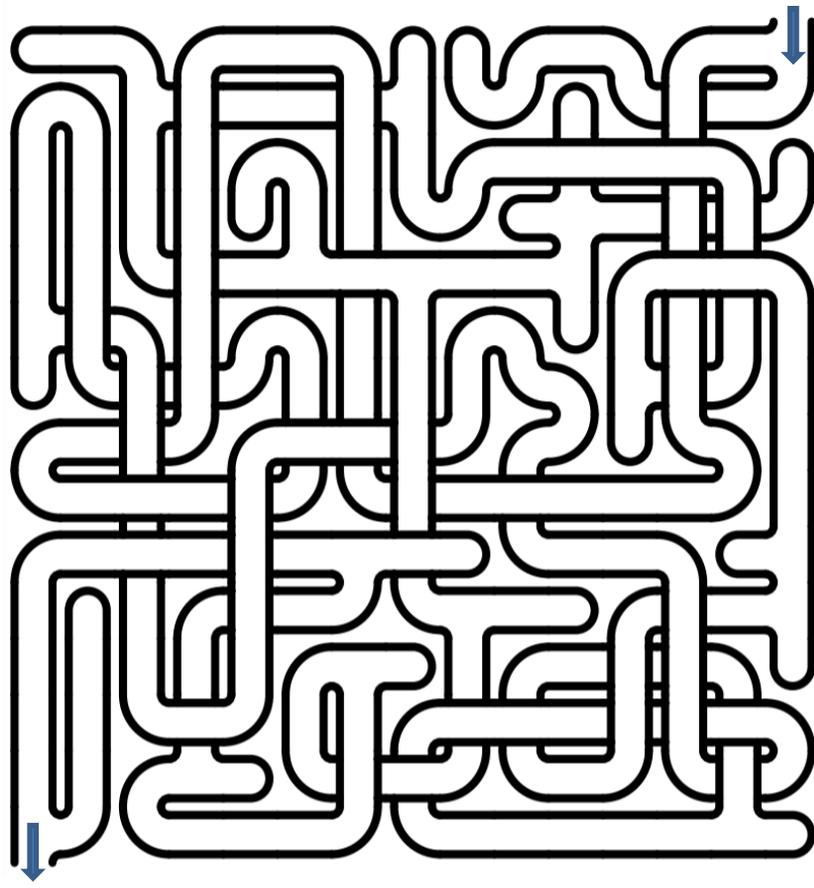
Manatees are very gentle marine mammals that live in shallow rivers, saltwater bays, canals, and marshy coastal areas. Adult manatees can grow to be 9-13 feet long. On average manatees weigh between 800-1,300 pounds. They can eat up to 100 pounds of grass, algae, and sea plants in one day. Their only known predators are humans who often kill them accidentally with the propellers of their boats. Here's an interesting fact- located on the northern coast of Puerto Rico, the city of Manatí is said to have been named for the many manatees that are found in its waters.



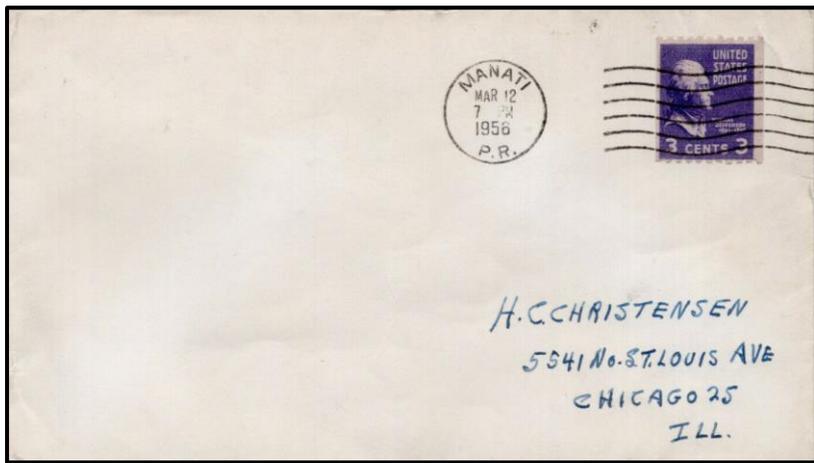
These two manatees were so busy playing they got lost in the thick sea grass. Please help them find their way out!



Above: A souvenir sheet from Antigua & Barbuda.



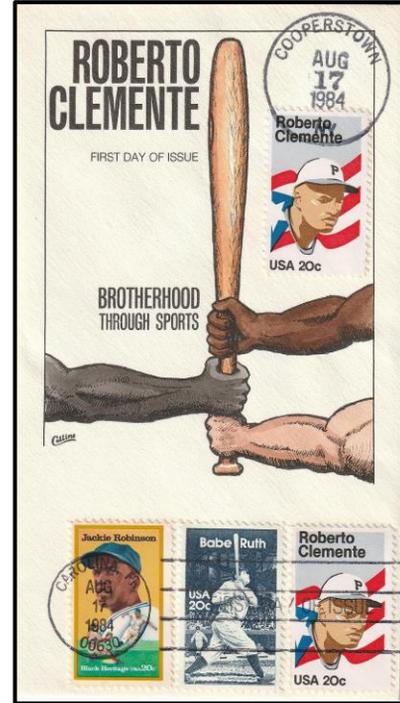
Above: This cover by Ronald Beller has a stamp stating that manatees are an endangered species. There are many programs that allow you to adopt a manatee. Ask a parent to help you find out how you can help protect these beautiful creatures.



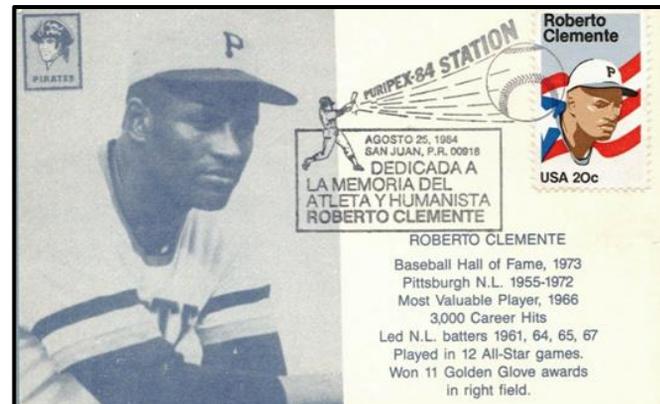
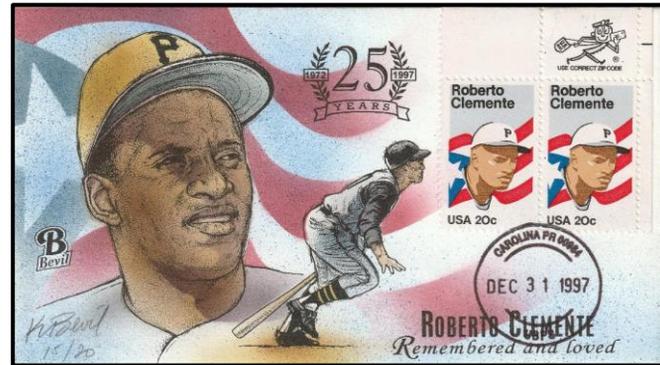
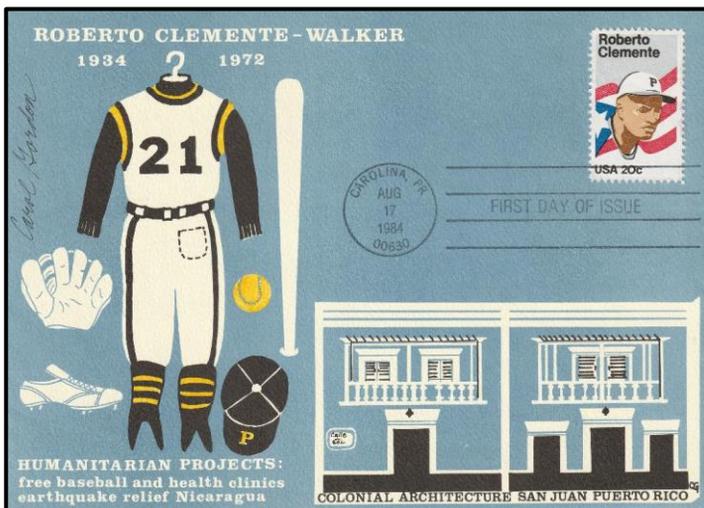
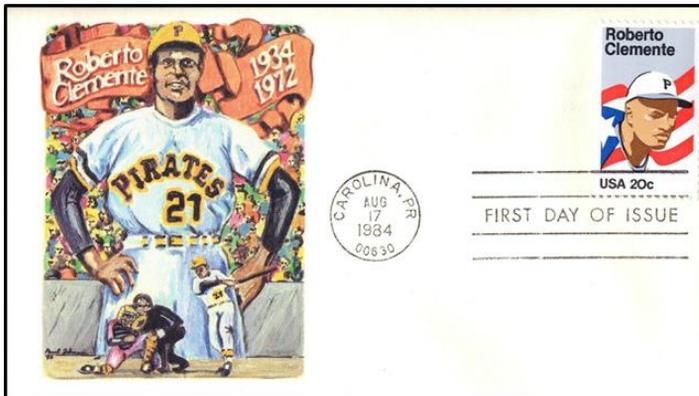
Look closely at the 1956 cancel on this cover (envelope). It's from Manatí, Puerto Rico! Use the blank space on the left to design a cachet (drawing on a cover) with manatees.

Roberto Clemente

Roberto Clemente was a Puerto Rican baseball player who played right field for the Pittsburgh Pirates for eighteen seasons from 1955 to 1972. He had one of the most powerful throwing arms of any outfielder in baseball history which earned him twelve Gold Glove Awards. During the off-season, the twelve-time all star was known for his charity work in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Sadly, in December of 1972, he died in a plane crash off the coast of Puerto Rico while delivering aid to earthquake victims in Nicaragua. His untimely death was felt around the world. In his honor, the Roberto Clemente Award is presented every year to the MLB player who best follows Clemente's example of humanitarian work. His team, the Pirates, retired his number 21 and the city of Pittsburgh named a bridge after him. He was both the first Latin American and Caribbean player to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. There are many memorials honoring Clemente in Puerto Rico, including the coliseum in San Juan which was named after him.



Right: A Fred Collins cachet.
Below: A cachet by Bevil.



Above: A Panda cachet from 1984.
Below: A cachet by Carol Gordon honoring Clemente's humanitarian projects and showing colonial architecture from Puerto Rico. Right bottom: This cover has an event cancel from PURIPEX '84, a stamp show sponsored by the Sociedad Filatélica de Puerto Rico.

"Any time you have an opportunity to make a difference in this world and you don't, then you are wasting your time on Earth."

---Roberto Clemente

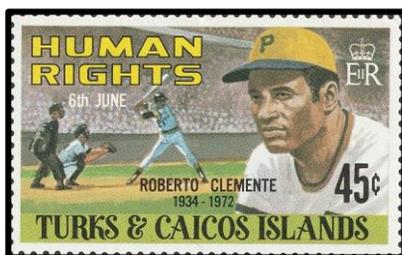
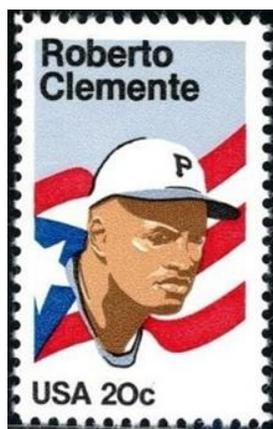
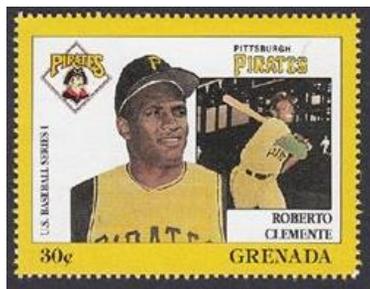
Be Like Clemente!

Think of ways that **you** can make a difference in this world!



Baseball Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Look for the items listed in the chart next time you watch a baseball game. Check them off as you spot them.

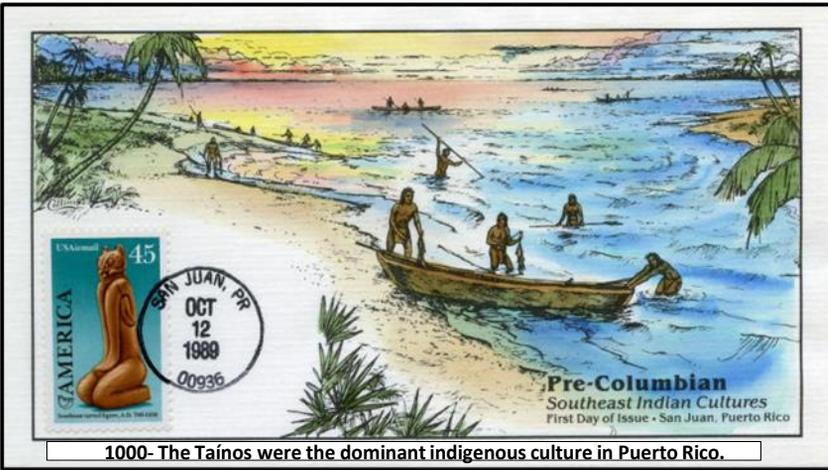


Roberto Clement has been honored on stamps from all over the world. Circle your favorite.

Look for...	✓
umpire/árbitro	
mascot/mascota	
right-handed pitcher/lanzador diestro	
left-handed pitcher/lanzador zurdo	
batter/bateador	
score board/marcador	
pitcher's mound/montículo del lanzador	
dugout/banquillo de jugadores	
broken bat/bate quebrado	
helmet/casco	
baseball glove/guante de béisbol	
advertising sign/cartel publicitario	
program/programa	
announcer's box/caja del anunciador	
stolen base/base robada	
home run/carrera	
slide into base/deslizarse en la base	
bases loaded/bases llenas	
foul ball/batazo fuera de la zona	
bunt/toque	
strike out/ponchado	

Timeline Fun

How much do you know about Puerto Rico's history? You can use the images of these covers to learn about some exciting events and people that all contributed to the island's history. Cut around the dotted lines of the covers on the next five pages. Then you can arrange them in chronological order according to the date in each white box.



1000- The Taínos were the dominant indigenous culture in Puerto Rico.



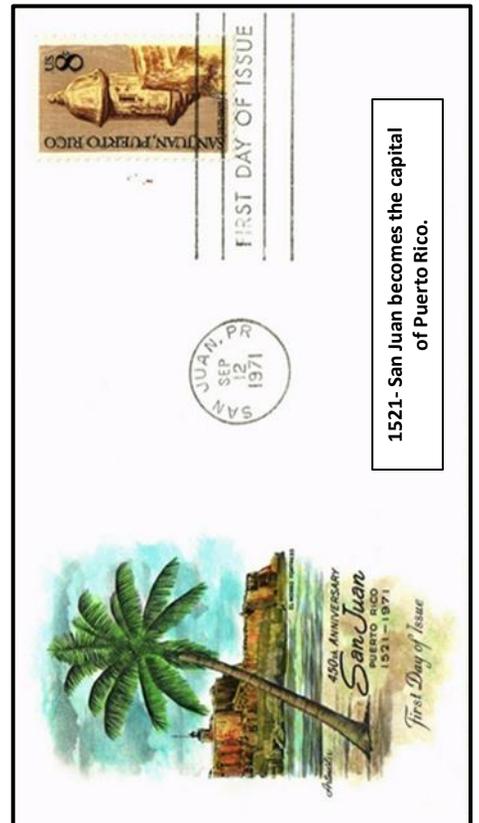
1493- Christopher Columbus discovers Puerto Rico.



1508- Ponce de León arrives in Puerto Rico and becomes the first governor.

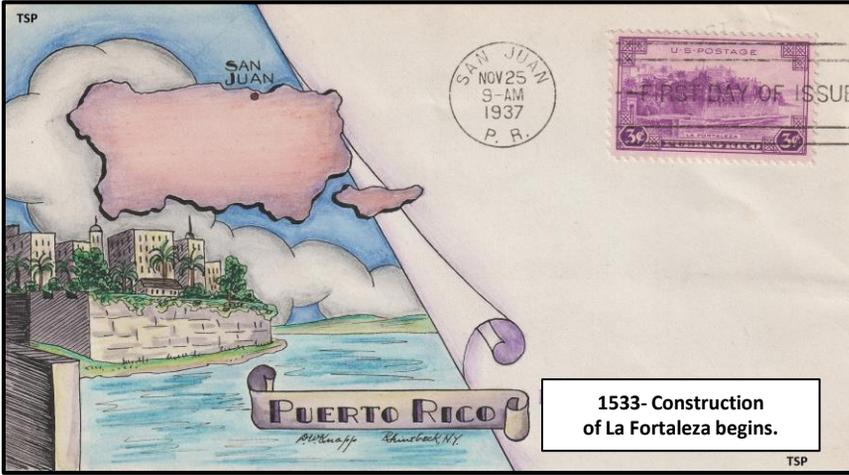


1515- Sugar cane from the Canary Islands is introduced to Puerto Rico.



1521- San Juan becomes the capital of Puerto Rico.

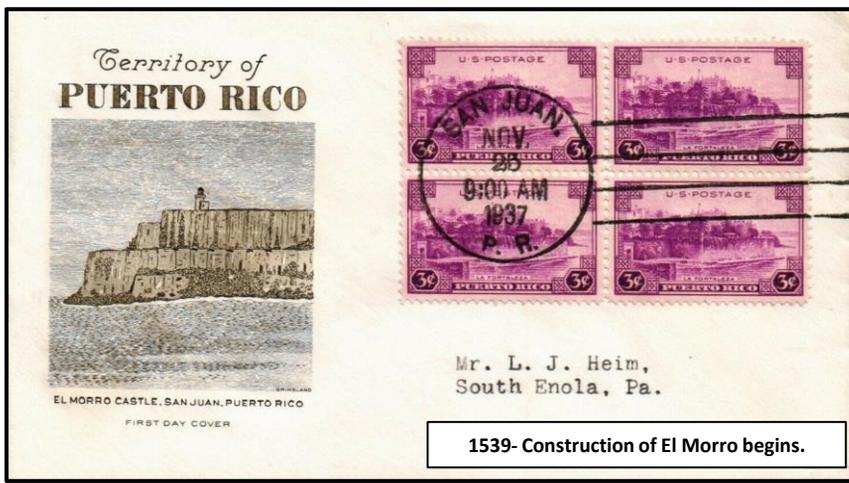
Timeline Fun, page 2



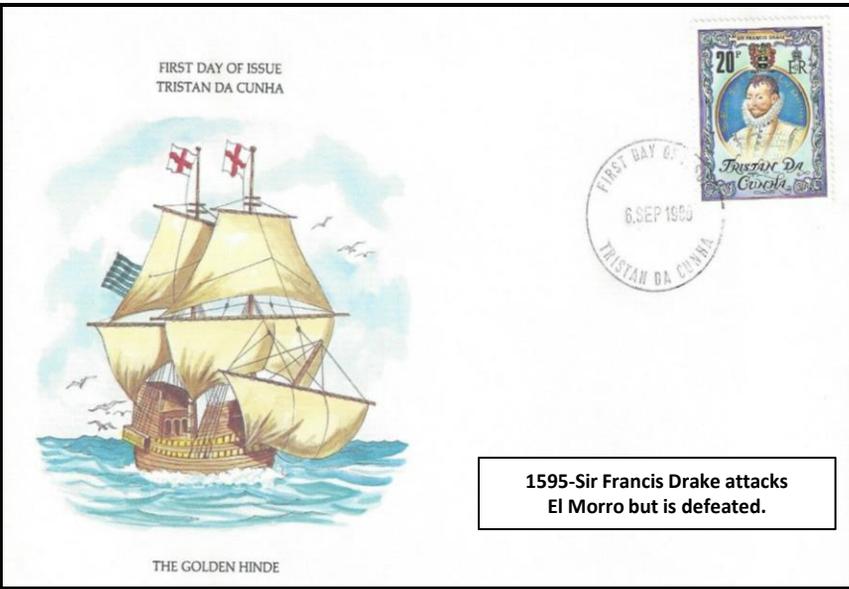
1533- Construction of La Fortaleza begins.



1625- Tobacco becomes a commercial crop on the island.



1539- Construction of El Morro begins.

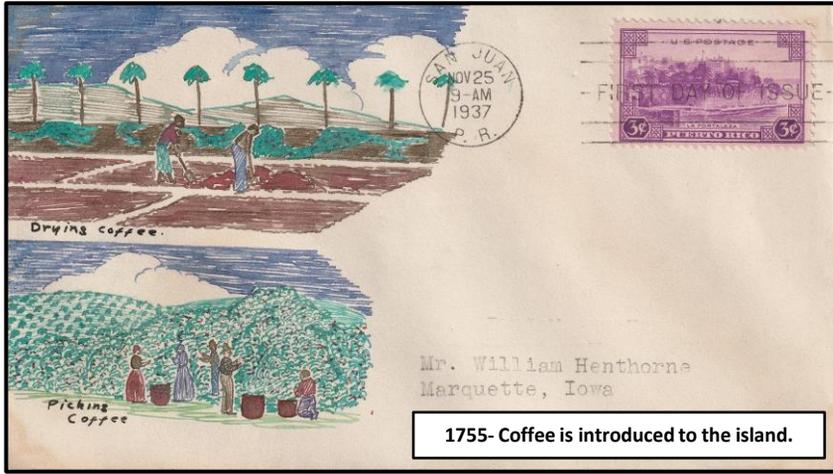


1595- Sir Francis Drake attacks El Morro but is defeated.

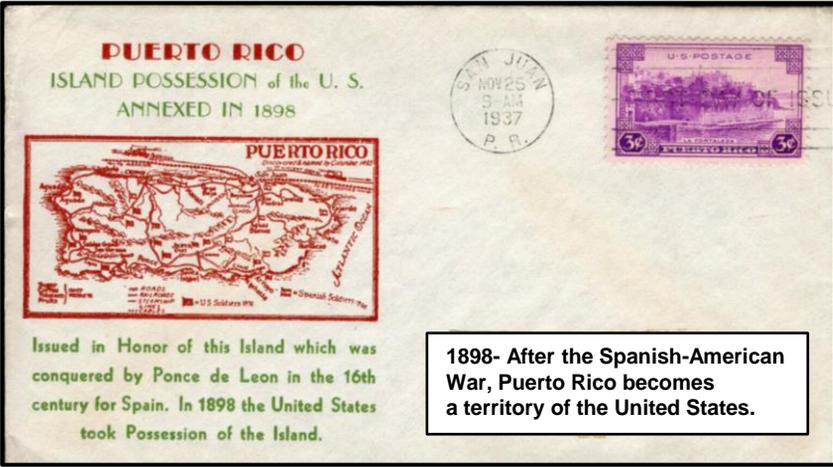


1630- Construction is begun on Fort San Cristóbal and on the walls that surround San Juan.

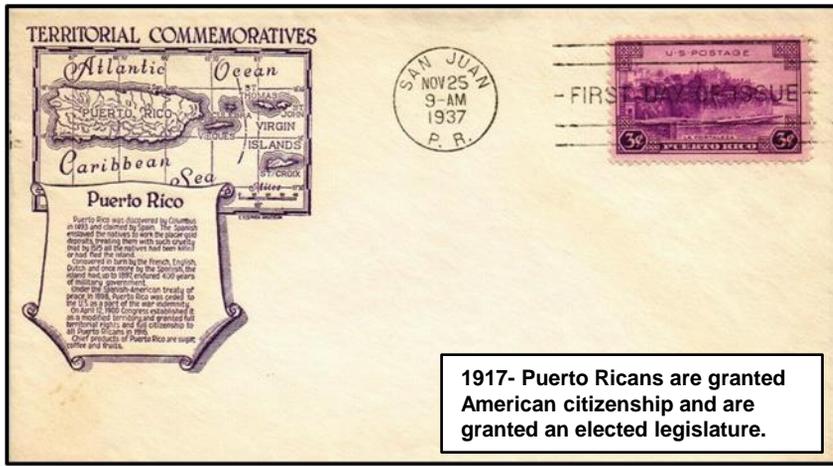
Timeline Fun, page 3



1755- Coffee is introduced to the island.



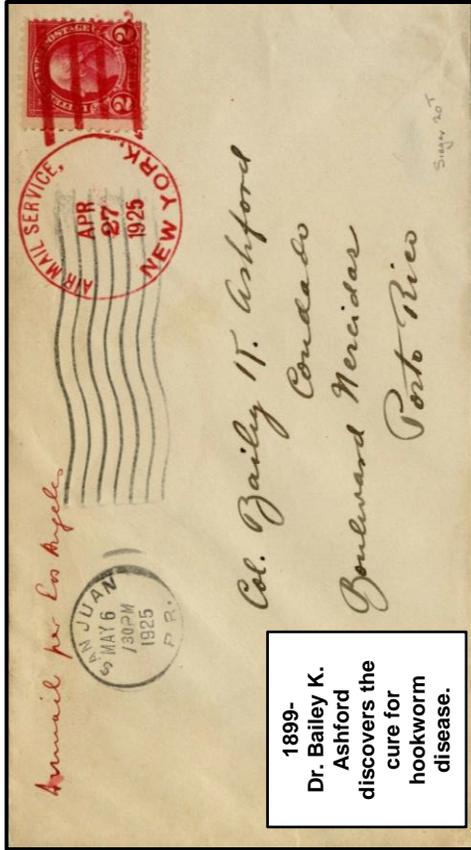
1898- After the Spanish-American War, Puerto Rico becomes a territory of the United States.



1917- Puerto Ricans are granted American citizenship and are granted an elected legislature.



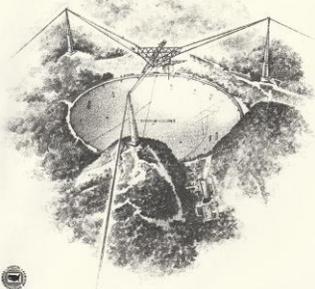
1949- Luis Muñoz Marín becomes the first elected governor of Puerto Rico.



1899- Dr. Bailey K. Ashford discovers the cure for hookworm disease.

Timeline Fun, page 4

Official First Day Of Issue



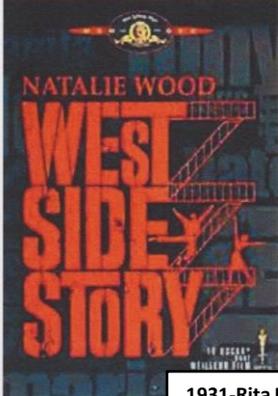
ANAHEIM CA
JUL 10 2000
92803



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

PROBING THE VASTNESS OF SPACE
Radio Telescope
Arecibo Observatory, Puerto Rico

1963 - The world's largest radio telescope is inaugurated at Arecibo Observatory.



NATALIE WOOD
WEST SIDE STORY



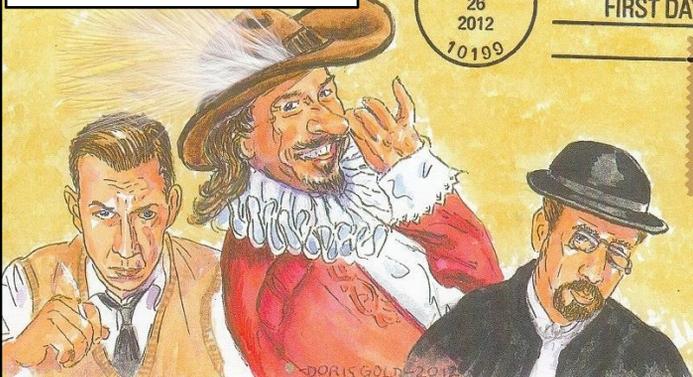
HUMBLE TX
SEP 22 2012
77338

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Rita Moreno

1931-Rita Moreno is born in Humacao, Puerto Rico and is one of very few actors to win an Oscar, an Emmy, a Tony, and a Grammy,

1912- José Ferrer is born in San Juan. He's the first Hispanic to win an Academy Award for best actor.



NEW YORK NY
APR 26 2012
10199

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



JOSÉ FERRER
Actor
USA | FOREVER

63/91 FKB



1967-Actor Benicio del Toro is born in San Germán, PR. He's played in movies like Star Wars and Guardians of the Galaxy.



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

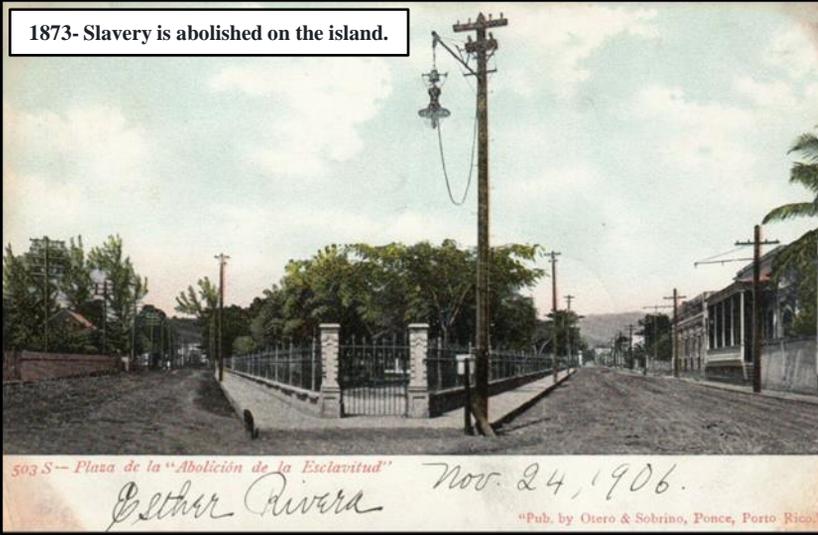


WPA POSTERS FOREVER/USA
HYDE PARK NY
MAR 7 2017
12538

1903- The University of Puerto Rico is founded.

Timeline Fun, page 5

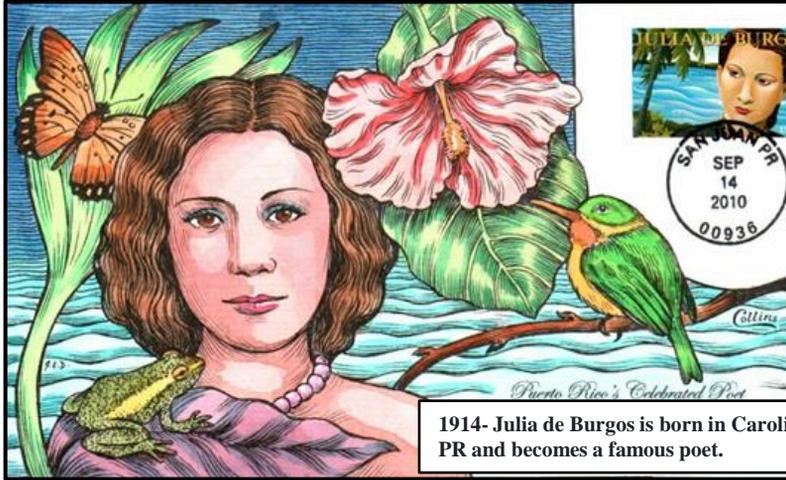
1873- Slavery is abolished on the island.



"Pub. by Otero & Sobrino, Ponce, Porto Rico"

ARTURO ALFONSO SCHOMBURG
 PROGRAM
 CULTURAL
 MAYAGÜEZ • PUERTO RICO
 JANUARY 24, 1901
 SCHOMBURG
 MAYAGÜEZ
 PUERTO RICO 00680
 TACUAFAN • PUERTO RICO
Arturo Alfonso Schomburg
 Puerto Rican historian, writer and activist
 Tacuafan, Puerto Rico
 PLAZA ALMIRANTE
 CRISTÓBAL COLÓN STATION
 EDUCANDO CON CULTURA, INC.

1874-Historian, writer, and activist Arturo Alfonso Schomburg is born in Santurce, PR.



1914- Julia de Burgos is born in Carolina, PR and becomes a famous poet.

FLAGS of our NATION
 AUGUST 11, 1911 - COLUMBIAN QM 0216
Puerto Rico
 Capitol Building, San Juan, Puerto Rico

1952- The flag that was presented in 1895 is made the official flag of Puerto Rico.

ADIÓS AMIGO ROBERTO
 Roberto Clemente
 USA 20c
 CAROLINA, PR
 AUG 17 1984 00630
 FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
 I would like to be remembered as a ballplayer who got all the love to give.
 Roberto Clemente
 8.12/1918 San Juan
 8.9/1972 Carolina
PUERTO RICO

1972- Baseball player and humanitarian, Roberto Clemente, dies in a plane crash.

Travel to Puerto Rico



President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Works Projects Administration (WPA) in 1935 to give jobs to millions of unemployed people. These workers not only constructed buildings, roads, and bridges, they also painted beautiful murals in post offices and created travel posters. In 2017, the USPS issued a set of stamps featuring some of these posters. Included was one for Puerto Rico. You can try your hand at designing a travel poster for Puerto Rico below. You might like to do some research on the computer to find some famous sites around the island or use information from this issue of *Topical Tidbits*. Have fun!

DISCOVER

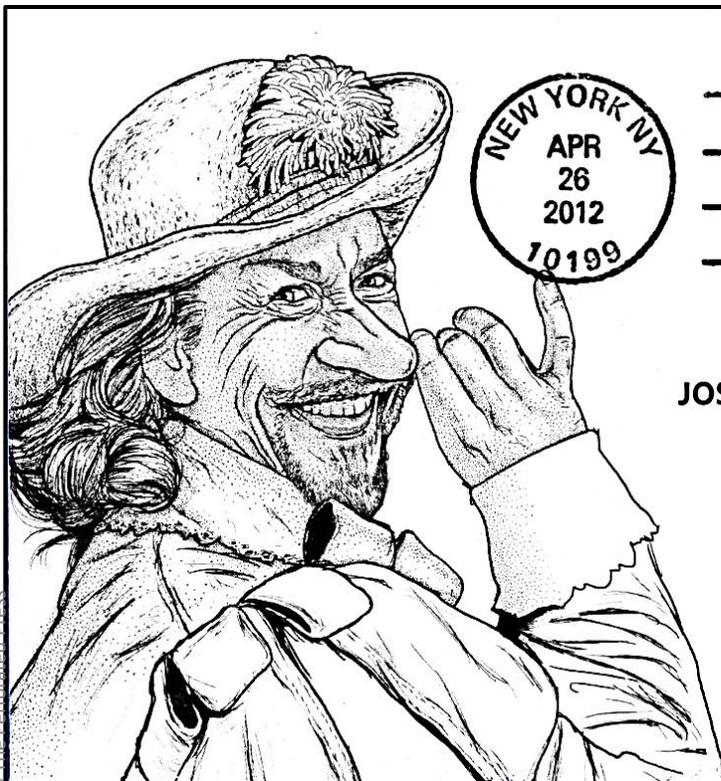
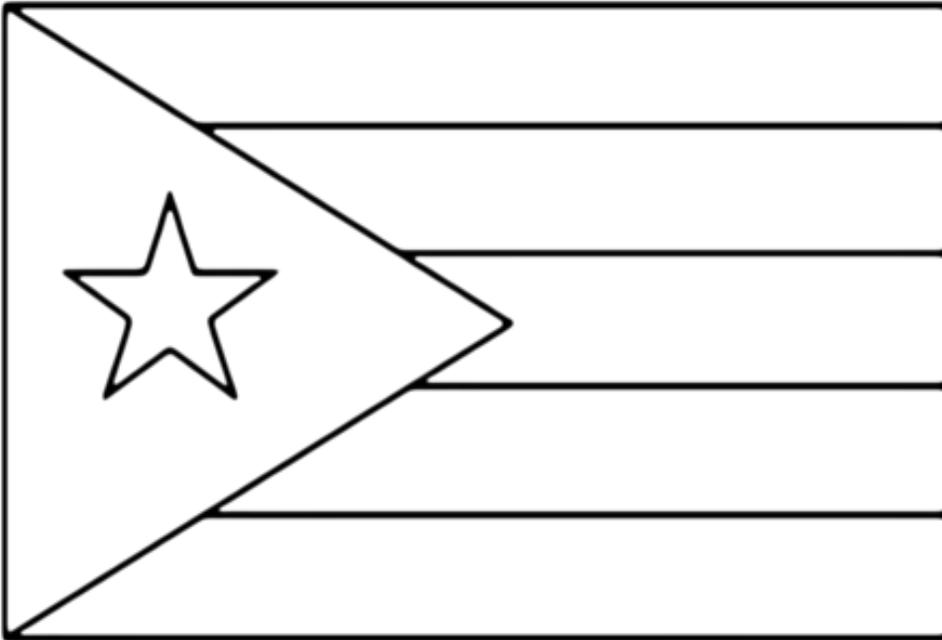
Puerto Rico!

Puerto Rico

Have fun coloring the images below. You can use the stamp to the right to help color the Puerto Rican flag. The coin (middle right) is the back of a quarter and shows a sentry box from El Morro and a hibiscus flower. The cover at the bottom honors José Ferrer in the role that won him an Oscar.



DID YOU KNOW? The first ZIP Code issued in the United States in 1963 was to Adjuntas, Puerto Rico!



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



JOSE FERRER
in

Cyrano
de Bergerac

BEVIL *W. Bevil*

Puerto Rico

