

NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM SELF-GUIDE

8 Art of Cards & Letters



Visit the emotional heart of the museum to see and hear the letters that have brought soldiers closer to the people they left behind in **Victory Mail**. Also learn about the evolution of the American envelope. *Open through Spring 2011.*

Don't miss the **USS Oklahoma Handstamp** recovered from Pearl Harbor after December 7, 1941.

7 Stamp Gallery



Every stamp tells a story. Changing exhibits showcase a variety of stamps and their stories. *Open August 4, 2010 to March 2, 2012.*

Currently on display: Collecting History
View highlights from the oldest intact national stamp collection in the world as the Postal Museum celebrates the 125th anniversary of the National Philatelic Collection. Reflect and learn about the history of this Smithsonian national treasure.

6 US & International Stamp Gallery

This room holds thousands of stamps. The pull-out frames protect stamps from light damage. Pull one out to see the stamps inside. Don't miss the **1917 5-cent Plate Proof Errors** embedded in a sheet of 2-cent stamps. We've found one in US frame #38, hunt for the other 2.

5 Ford Education Center



Access Arago, the museum's online database through games, timelines, and special highlights. Look for the EXPLORE icon throughout the museum to find the objects featured at the Center; also test your mail sorting skills and send yourself an e-stamp collection.



1 Moving the Mail

The museum's atrium has different vehicles that moved the mail. Look up to see the airplanes soaring overhead. Find the dogsled that sped mail through the Alaskan snow.

Don't miss **Owney**, the mascot of the Railway Mail Service.

2 Binding the Nation

Enter the forest and follow the path mail carriers traveled from New York to Boston in 1673. Throughout American history, mail brought news to the furthest corners of the country. See if you can transport the mail as quickly, safely, and cheaply as possible on our Surface Table!

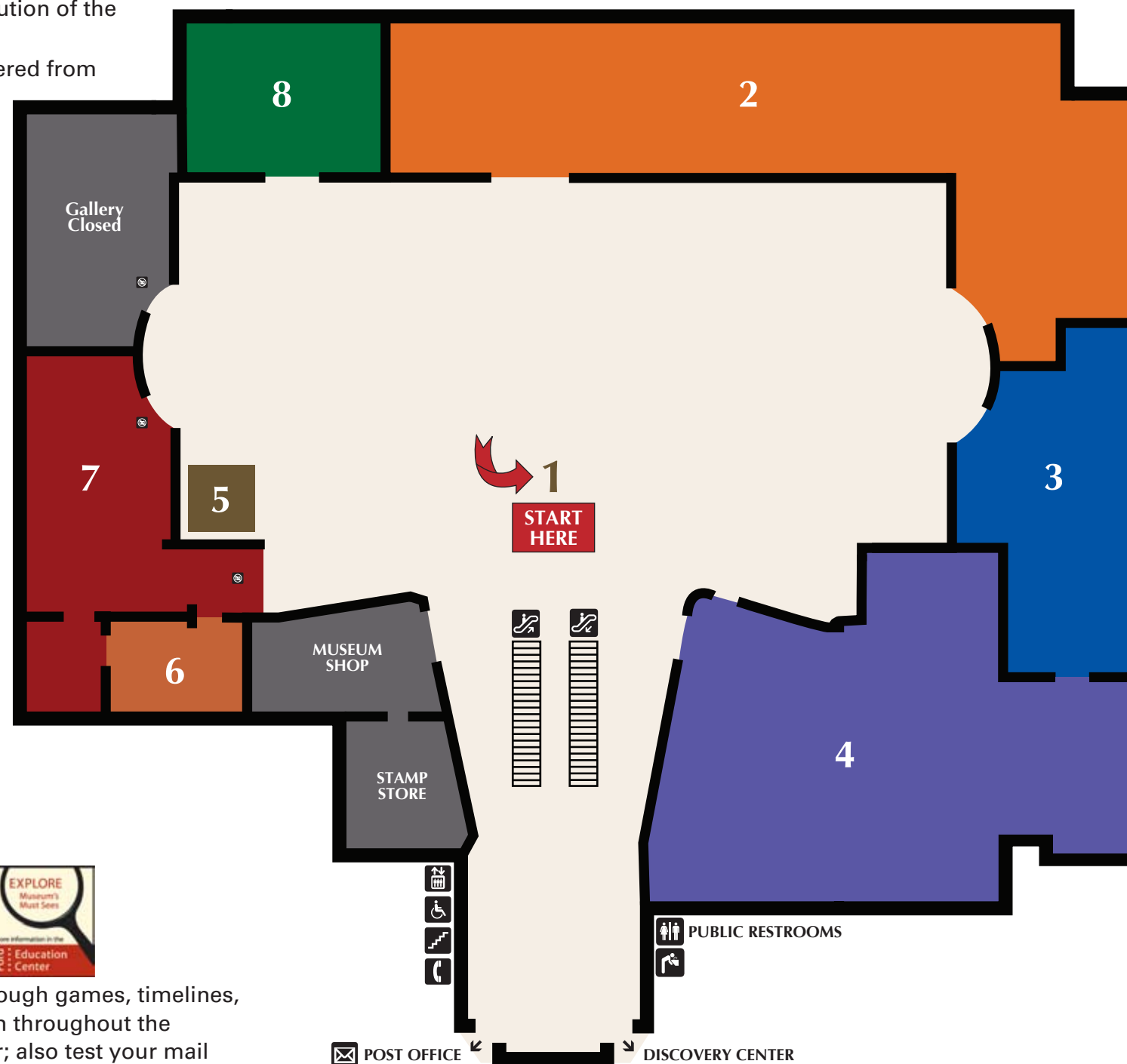
Also discover the work of Postal Inspectors from yesterday and today. Try your hand at solving postal crimes and learn how to protect yourself from mail fraud in **POSTAL INSPECTORS: THE SILENT SERVICE**.

3 Customers & Communities

See how the postal system works to get mail to every person in America. This exhibit highlights mail's impact on city streets and rural routes.

4 Systems at Work

Unwrap the mystery of a letter after it enters the mail stream in this highly interactive exhibit. Take a journey to see how that process has changed over time. Whether by hand, machine, or cutting-tech software, the goal remains the same: Getting mail as fast and as efficiently as possible to customers. *Opens Fall 2011.*



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