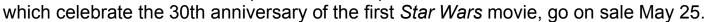
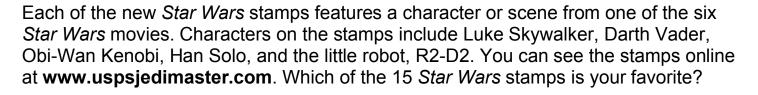
Stamps Are Making News

On May 14, the cost of mailing a letter will increase from 39 cents to 41 cents. The price of mailing other things, such as postcards, will go up too.

A new price means the post office needs to issue some new stamps. Among the first 41-cent stamps will be a set of 15 *Star Wars* stamps. Those stamps,





For the second time in its 256-year history, the post office is asking people over 18 years old to pick a favorite stamp. The first time they put a stamp up for vote was in 1993, when the people chose a picture of singer Elvis Presley for a stamp. The *Star Wars* stamp with the most votes will be re-released in late summer or early fall on its own stamp sheet.



released issue anniversary future increase decrease

For the first time ever, the post office is selling a new kind of stamp called a "Forever" stamp. You can buy the stamp now for 41 cents, and it will be good forever -- even when stamp prices go up in the future.

MORE FACTS ABOUT STAMPS IN THE NEWS

- The new 41-cent rate is for letters that weigh one ounce or less. The cost of mailing letters that weigh more than an ounce will decrease. For example, the cost of mailing a 2-ounce letter will go from 63 cents to 58 cents.
- The last time postage rates increased was January 2006.
- Have you seen R2-D2 on a street corner near you? The post office decorated 400 mailboxes to look like R2-D2 when it announced plans for the Star Wars stamps.

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

Who (or what event) do you think should be honored on a stamp? Write a letter to the Post Office to explain your reasons for wanting that new stamp.