Franklin's Post Office Ledgers

Guiding Questions
- Name some of Franklin's accomplishments you've learned about. Did you know about his work as Postmaster?
  - Do you think his work as the first Postmaster should be one considered one of his more important accomplishments? Why or why not?
- How do you think colonial settler maps helped create the network of the postal service?
  - How did these maps negatively impact Indigenous communities along these networks?
- These documents are primary sources. What's the difference between a primary source and a secondary source? How do primary sources help us learn about the past? If someone in the future is researching you, what would be a primary source from your life?
- Why is examining communication between cities important?
- Mail delivery varies over time. What patterns do you notice from 1748-1753? How is it helpful to see data summarized in a graph like this?
- Postal carriers traveled on circuits, so people could know when to expect mail delivery. How is this the same today? How has it changed with technology?
- What are the challenges of using primary documents? How do datasets help with this?
  - Open a dataset. How does it compare to a document?

Classroom Activities
- Have kids mimic the Postal Service among themselves.
  - Take turns as Postmaster and create delivery schedules.
  - Send mail to each other (either within the classroom or to each other's houses, as long as postage is provided) and keep a log of mail received at home.
- Write a letter! https://www.amphilsoc.org/letter-writing