



Stamp Collecting

Lesson Ideas

Below you will find curriculum-linked lesson ideas and student activity sheets focussed on stamps and stamp collecting. The education resource materials have been designed for a national audience and offer a broad range of learning experiences for middle to upper primary students.

For some of these lessons, students will need to access the Australia Post education website at auspost.com.au/education and, specifically, the 'Stamps and collectables' section auspost.com.au/education/stamps

Broad Learning Outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will learn about stamps and the history of stamps.
- Students will discover the development of stamps from design to print.
- Students will find out what stamp collecting involves.

English

- Invite a stamp dealer or collector to speak to your class about stamp collecting. You could also contact a local Post Office and ask if someone could visit your class to speak about stamps or Stamp Collecting Month.
- Students, working individually or in pairs, review the information in the 'Students' section of the Australia Post 'Stamps and collectables' website then answer the questions on the **'All about stamps'** activity sheet.
- Students to discuss collecting. Why do people collect things? What kinds of things are fun to collect? As a class, make a list of all the things students collect.
- Students to complete the **'KWL chart'** activity sheet.

Mathematics

- Students to research some stamps and stamp collecting statistics, such as how many stamps are printed a day, or approximately how many stamp collectors there are in Australia.
- Students to complete the **'Calculate the postage'** activity sheet.

Science

- Students to explore how to remove a stamp from an envelope with minimal damage to the stamp. Students to conduct a science experiment by starting with a hypothesis, testing their theories and recording their results. Students to experiment with both gummed and self-adhesive stamps.
- Students to make their own 'invisible ink' from lemon juice and use a cotton bud or toothpick to write a message. The messages can be revealed by exposing them to direct sunlight.



Stamp Collecting

Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business)

- Students to use the Australia Post education website to research the history of stamps.
- Students to collect as many old stamps as they can from letters that they, their family, or their friends have received. Students to sort the stamps according to the year they were issued and discuss.
- Students to research stamp issues that feature key events in Australia's history, then select event to research further and write a report.
- Students to complete the **'Design a commemorative stamp'** activity sheet.

The Arts (Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts)

- Students to complete the **'Design a stamp'** student activity sheet.
- Students to use paint to explore what colours can be made using different combinations of cyan, magenta, yellow and black (the colours used in the stamp printing process).
- Students to collect as many stamps as they can from letters that they, their family, or their friends, have received. Make a stamp collage for your classroom. Students may wish to group stamps by value, theme or country of origin.
- Student to use coloured paper or card to make their own stamp collecting album.
- As a class, students to brainstorm some stamp themes that they have seen. In pairs, students to discuss, list and draw other themes they would like to see printed.
- Students to start a class stamp collection.
- Students to complete the **'Finish the stamp'** activity sheet.

Technologies (Design and Technologies, Digital Technologies)

- Students to research the technology behind 'lickable' stamps. What sort of glue is used and why?
- Students to read about the design principles used in stamp making in the 'All about stamps' section of the 'Stamps and collectables' website then research stamps from other countries and determine whether they have the same design principles as Australian stamps. What are the similarities and differences?
- Students to visit auspost.com.au/education for research and then complete the **'Stamps – from start to finish'** activity sheet.
- Students to spend time observing the tiny coloured dots on stamps with a magnifying glass. Students to also observe other printed items (such as postcards, photos, etc.) and compare the dots between them and the stamps. Were all the dots the same size and distance apart? Discuss.

Contributor



auspost.com.au/education



Stamp Collecting

Health and Physical Education

- Students to discuss the benefits of having a hobby. How do recreational activities improve our health?
- Students to research any sport-related stamp or coin issues. When and why were they issued?

Languages

- Students to research the origins of the word 'Philately'.