



Stamp Collecting (Philately)

Stamp collection is a popular hobby. People all over the world collect stamps. Stamp collecting is not only a fun hobby, but also a great way to learn about history and culture.

Name _____

Do all of the following requirements (1-8)

- ____1. The necessary tools to collect stamps are a pair of tweezers, storage envelopes, storage box, and stamp hinges or stamp mounts. Describe how each of these relates to stamp collecting.
- ____2. Collectors can collect Used or Mint (unused) stamps. Find an example or illustration of each and label difference in gum and postmark.
- ____3. **Stamps can be classified as Definitives or Commemoratives.** List what the USA's first definitive and commemorative stamps depicted and when they were printed.
- ____4. Mounting stamps correctly preserves their appearance and value. Demonstrate the use of stamp hinges to affix stamps to the stamp album or notebook page. Using a stamp mount, affix a mint stamp to the page.
- ____5. Collect 50 different stamps from correspondence and explain or demonstrate the following:
 - ____a. How to soak stamps from the envelope
 - ____b. How-to and when to carefully cut out the self-adhesive stamps
- ____6. Choose a theme to start you own collection in a stamp album or notebook. Label the page and mount your new collection. Watch for stamps to add to your own collection and ask family and friends to save stamps for you.

- ____7. Stamps reflect what a country feels is important. Select 10 culturally significant stamps. Mount them and label each with a description that explains what the stamp depicts.
- ____8. Research how collecting used stamps can help support missions. Report what you find with your unit, troop or family.

Do three of the following optional requirements (9-21)

- ____9. Find the current United States Postal Service rates for 1st Class mail, airmail and postcards. Explain when each of these postage rates is used.
- ____10. Introduce stamp collecting to someone younger. Show them your album and talk with them about how you handle the stamps, mount them and collect them.
- ____11. When adding older stamps to your collection, you may find several that look alike, but differ only in their perforations. Research the number of perforations and demonstrate how to measure with a perforation gauge or an illustration of a perforation gauge.
- ____12. The first adhesive postage stamp in the world was issued in 1840, and the hobby of the stamp collecting was born. Find out who issued it and why it is nicknamed **"Penny Black"**.
- ____13. Airmail stamps were introduced in 1918. Since then they have used Curtis Jenny, DC-4, and Jets on the stamps. Find at least 5 air mail stamps.
- ____14. **Research errors in printing such as the famous "Jenny invert" that have enhanced the collecting value of stamps.**
- ____15. Visit the National Postal Museum in Washington D.C.
- ____16. Start a stamp collection of a foreign country or worldwide stamp collection.
- ____17. Stamp designs are suggested by the public. Research the process that the **Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee** uses to select a stamp design. Design your own stamp following their rules and guidelines.

- ____18. Set up a Stamp Fest for your troop. Invite an expert to come in and share with the troop. Invite Philatelists (stamp collectors) to come share their albums and special interest collections.
- ____19. Older stamps had watermarks. Research the different types and prepare an informative page on them.
- ____20. Some stamps have the same design but have perforations on differing sides. Differentiate between coils and sheets, explaining the perforations possible with each.
- ____21. Scott Publishing Company was the first to catalog stamps by assigning numbers to the stamps. Find the “Scott Number” for 5 of your stamps in your collection.

Trail Badge Mentor Signature

Date

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