Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Workshop

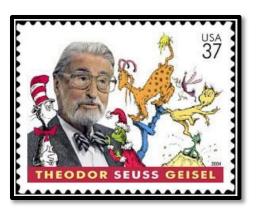






1a. Discover the World Through Stamps





Authors

People



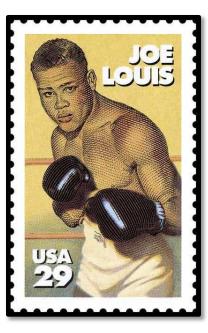
Poets



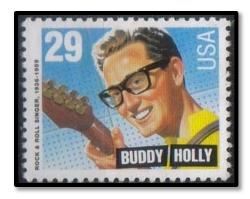
World Leaders



Scientists



Athletes



Entertainers



Composers



Explorers

Popere Tour

Foreign countries



Mountains

Places



Underwater



Forests



Churches



Monuments



Beaches



Institutions















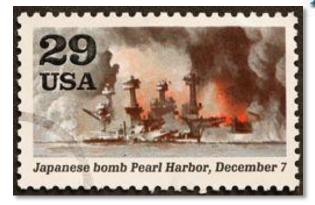




History



















Geography

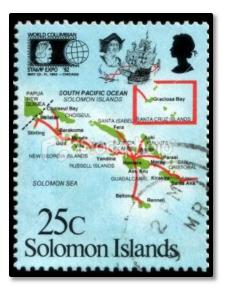
















1b. History of the U.S.P.S.



- Pre-1639 -- Bags of letters brought by sea captains were left on tables in various taverns and coffee houses.
- 1639 -- First postal service established at Fairbanks Tavern on the Boston waterfront.
- 1673 -- Monthly delivery between New York and Boston began- took 2 weeks
- 1737 British appoint Benjamin Franklin 1st postmaster of Philadelphia.
- 1775 -- Franklin was appointed 1st postmaster general of the United States. Our current
 - postal system descended directly from his system.

- 1792 Congress set postal rates based on how far a letter travelled.
- 1794 The first letter carriers didn't earn a salary from the postal department. Instead, they collected 2¢ from the recipient for each piece of mail they delivered.
- 1840 Great Britain issues the very first stamp.
- 1847 The United States issues its first stamps.



The first stamp. Known as the "Penny Black"



Scott #1
Benjamin Franklin



Scott #2 George Washington

•1893 – First commemorative stamps were issued. The 16 stamps honored the 400th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America.



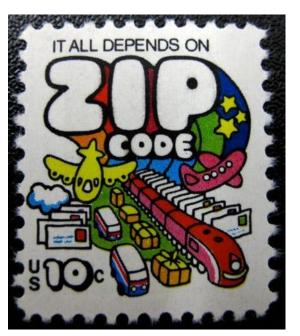
•1896 – Rural Free Delivery (RFD) began.

Mail was brought directly to the homes of farmers and other people living in the country. Before this, it had to be picked up in town.

•1963 – ZIP Codes were first used. ZIP stands for:

Zone Improvement Plan

These numbers help move mail more efficiently.





Mr. Zip





A Mr. Zip Block



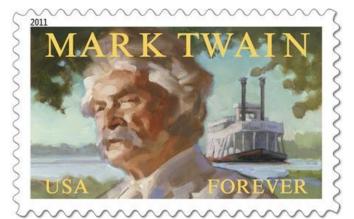
In use from 1964 until 1986

- •1974 -- Self-adhesive stamps tested
- •1992 Self adhesive stamps introduced nationwide
- •2007 "Forever" stamps issued
- •2011 Most new stamps issued will be "Forever" stamps









1b. Transporting the Mail

20th Universal Postal Congress

A glimpse at several potential mail delivery methods of the future is the theme of these four stamps issued by the U.S. in commemoration of the convening of the 20th Universal Postal Congress in Washington, D.C. from November 13 through December 14, 1989. The United States, as host nation to the Congress for the first time in ninetytwo years, welcomed more than 1,000 delegates from most of the member. nations of the Universal Postal Union to the major international event.









0.0575 1996







1799 - Stagecoaches used to deliver the mail.









Early 1800s – Steamboats began moving the mail along rivers and canals.











1838 – Trains started carrying the mail.

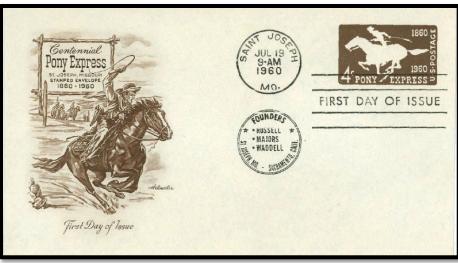


1855 – Congress appropriated \$30,000 to buy camels for the Army, which were used to carry mail over the southwestern deserts.









1860 – The Pony Express began delivering mail from Missouri to California.











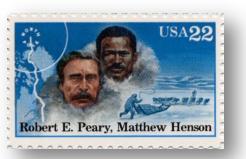
1911 – First experimental airmail delivery. Regular air postal service began in 1918.

















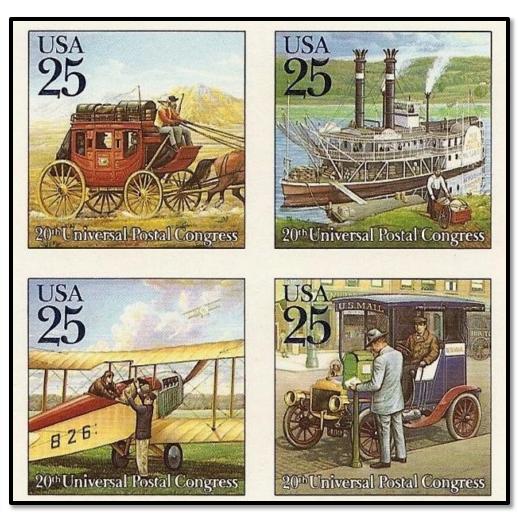


By zeppelin

Over the years, mail has been delivered in some unusual ways.







Each method of transportation increased the potential for moving the mail faster.

1b. Differences with Overseas Posts

- It used to be that only some foreign countries printed stamps with living people on them. The United States' policy was that no one could be on a stamp unless he had been dead for at least 5 years (presidents were the exception- first birth anniversary after death). As of 2011, the USPS has decided to put living people on stamps.
- Some foreign post offices are used as banks, for collecting taxes, or giving vaccinations.

Some countries don't deliver mail. It must be picked up at the post office.

post office.









2. Types of Collecting



Collecting World Stamps

- Collecting stamps from around the world can be a lot of fun, but rather challenging.
- There will be a lot of stamps that aren't pictured in world albums.
- There will be stamps that you will never be able to get
 - -too rare
 - -too expensive



A page of Great Britain stamps

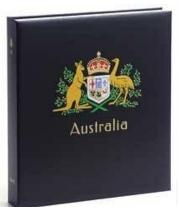


A world album from Mystic Stamp Company

Collecting by Country

- You can learn many things about a country by looking at its stamps
 - Language
 - History
 - Culture
 - You might think about collecting only certain years- for example, nothing after 1980
 - Many stamp albums are available for different countries.











Topical Stamp Collecting

- Collect stamps by a specific topic:
 - -cats, trains, space, soccer, tractors, Olympics
- Find a topic about something you're interested in:
 - -chess, music, or the American Civil War
- Arrange stamps in a way that pleases you
 - -should make sense to you
 - -stock pages make it easy to arrange and re-arrange stamps







Examples of Topical Collections



Insects



















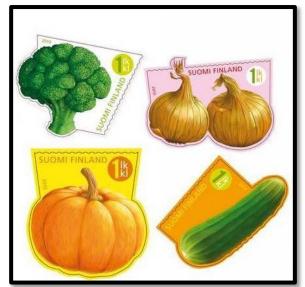
Vegetables

















Race Cars





















Eagles











































Ships



















U.S. Flags



















USA First-Class





Gerald R. Ford

Presidents



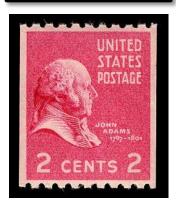








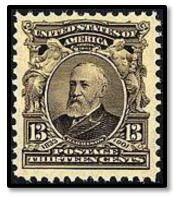
















Scouts

























Any questions?



3. Stamp Collecting Terminology



3a. Perforated Stamps





Stamps with lines of small holes or cuts between rows of stamps that make them easy to separate.

3a. Imperforate Stamps



Stamps without perforations or separating holes. They are usually separated by scissors.

Perforated or Imperforated?













3b. Mint Stamps









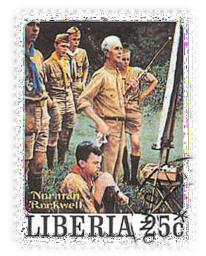


Stamps that have never been postally used.



3b. Used Stamps















Stamps that have been cancelled so that they can't be used again.

Mint or Used???













3c. Sheet Stamps



As printed, this is a complete unit consisting of four or more panes of stamps, each of which is cut apart when the stamps are sent to the post office.

3c. Booklet Stamps







- Made up of one or more small panes of stamps in a cardboard cover.
- Booklet stamps usually have 1, 2, 3, or 4 straight edges.



Perforations missing from 1 side



Perforations missing from 1 side



Perforations missing from 2 sides



Perforations missing from 3 sides



Perforations missing from 4 sides

May not have perforations on 1, 2, 3, or all 4 sides.

3c. Coil Stamps









Stamps issued in rolls (one stamp wide) for use in dispensers or vending machines.

Coils can be horizontal or vertical.

They have perforations on two opposite sides and no perforations on the other two opposite sides.

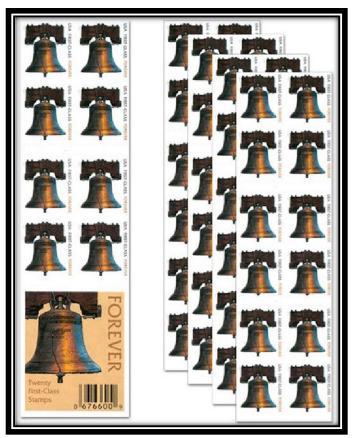
Coil or Booklet Stamps???

















3d. Plate Blocks

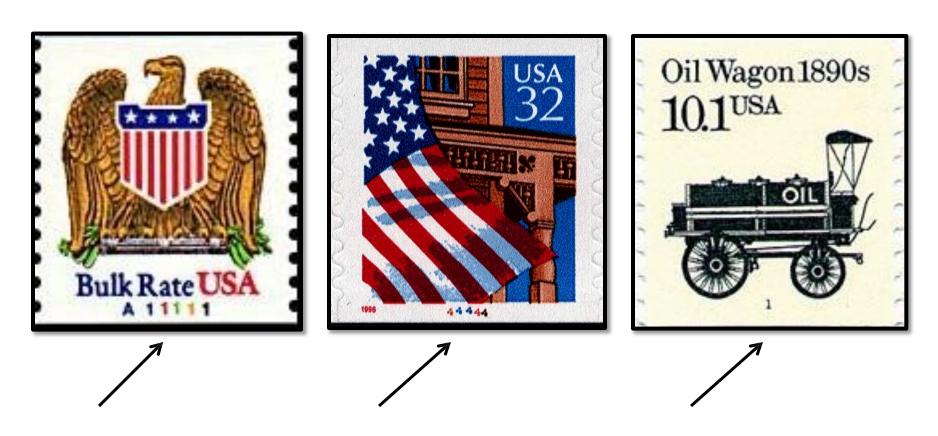


- A block of 4, 8, 10, 12, or 20 stamps with a plate number in the corner
- Plate number is used to track stamps and printing plates used
- A single stamp with a plate number is called
 Plate Number Single
- Booklets have plate numbers in the selvage

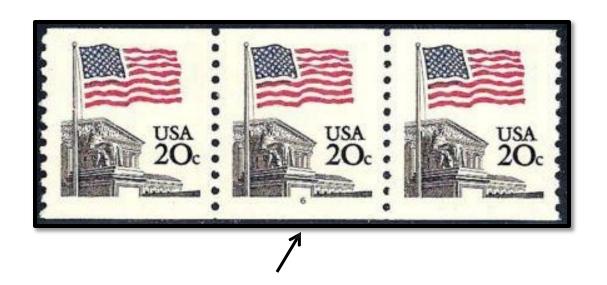
3d. More Plate Blocks



3d. Plate Number Coil



 A plate number coil (PNC) is a stamp with the number of the printing plate or plates printed on it.



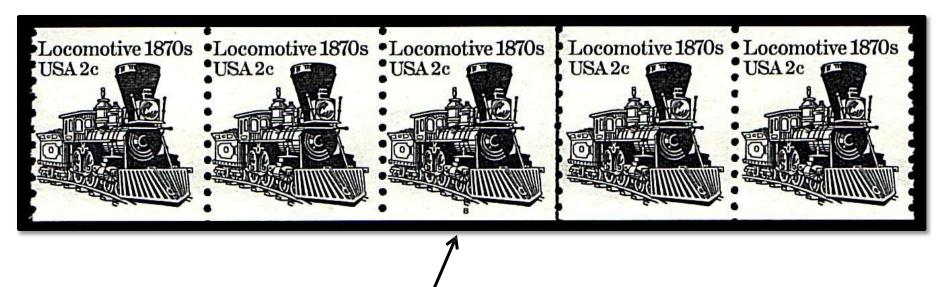
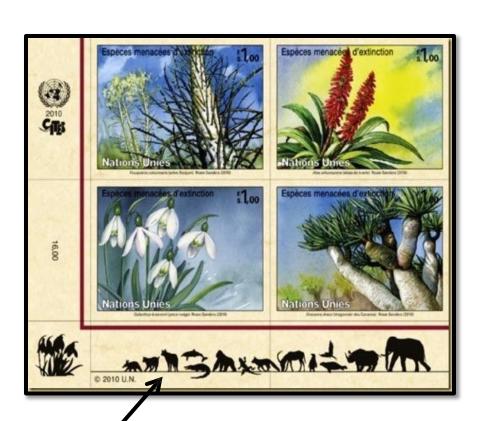


Plate number coils are collected in coils of 3 or 5.

3d. Marginal Markings





The selvage (paper around panes of stamps) that contains words, numbers, or pictures.

Other Marginal Markings



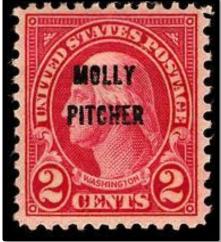
- Selvage, or marginal markings include color, designs, and pictures
- Colored dots tell the printer if stamp colors are accurate, or if more color should be added to the printing machine.

3e. Overprints









Additional printing on a stamp that was not part of the original design.

The purpose of the stamp is changed, but not its value.

- War tax
- A country becomes independent
- Royalty
- Olympics
- Commemorate an event or person

3e. Surcharges











A stamp whose value has been changed by overprinting.

Overprint or Surcharge???













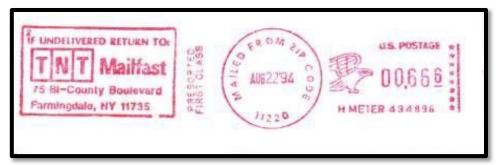
3f. Metered Mail











Envelopes that are machine-stamped with the proper postage amount using specialized printed images instead of individual sticky stamps.

3g. Definitive Stamps













Regular issues of postage stamps, usually sold over long periods of time.

- No special purpose for the stamp except to pay postage
- Smaller stamps
- Often printed in very high quantity - billions

3g. Commemorative Stamps



Stamps that honor anniversaries, important people, or special events.

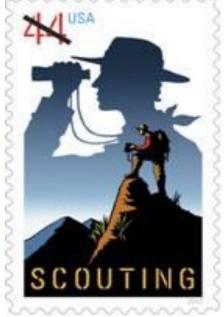
- Sometimes issued in sets of stamps
- Larger than definitives
- Printed in smaller quantities

Definitive or Commemorative???















3g. Semi-postal Stamps





A stamp that is issued to raise money for some purpose (such as a charity). It is sold over and above the cost of postage.



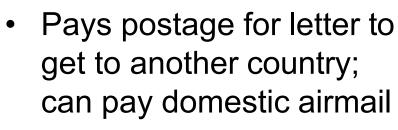


For example, if the first class mail rate is 45¢, then the semi-postal stamp would sell for 55¢ with the extra 10¢ going to research or charity.

3g. Airmail Stamps



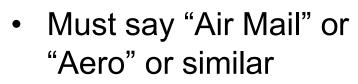








 Can be definitive or commemorative











3h. Cancellations



A mark placed on a stamp by a postal authority to show that it has been used.

3h. Postmarks





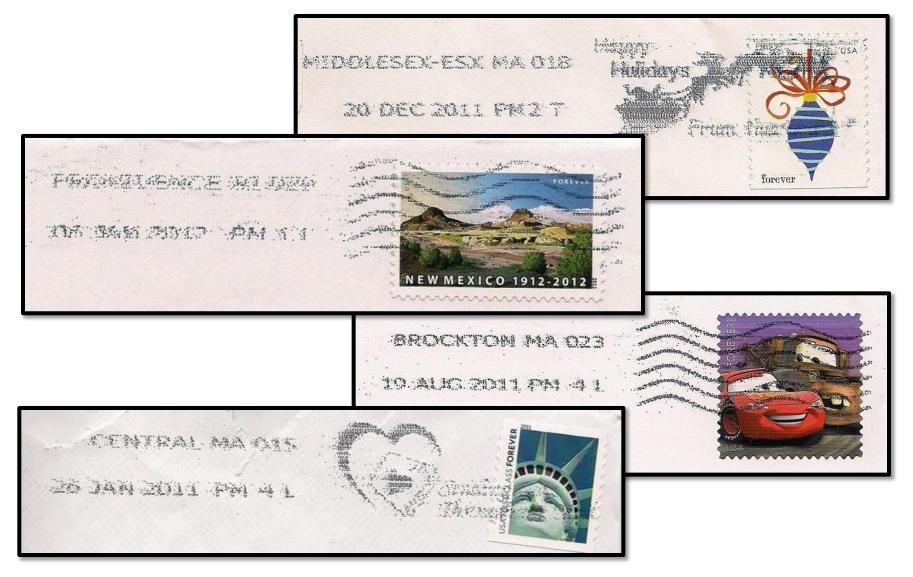






A mark put on an envelope showing the date and location of the post office where it was mailed.

Newer Style Postmarks



Postmark is sprayed-on by a machine

3i. First Day Covers

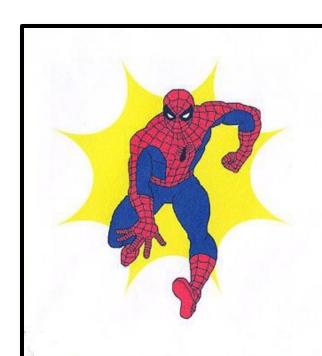
- Shows all the elements of a regular postmark, in addition to when stamp is first issued
- Date of issue is the first day the stamp goes on sale to the public
- Usually says "First Day of Issue"
- May or may not have a cachet (a picture printed on the envelope)







Mrs J Robinson 200 Manorbier Road Ilkeston Derbyshire DE7 4AB



Boy Scouts

More than 70 million Americans have been touched with the many lond memories of Scouting.



3j. Postal Stationary -Aerogramme





A letter sheet made of a single piece of lightweight paper with gummed flaps, normally used for international airmail.

The outside resembles an envelope on which the stamp is printed.

3j.Postal Stationary – Stamped Envelope



An envelope, on which the post office has printed, or embossed, a stamp.

3j. Postal Stationary – Postal Card



A government-produced card, with stamp imprinted in the upper right-hand.

Where To Find Stamps

FOR FREE:

- From the mail that comes to your home- ask friends and relatives to save theirs, too
- Find a local business that will save them for you
- Ask relatives if they have old letters at home in the attic or basement (check cover value before cutting)
- From pen pals
- Join a local stamp club
- Become a member of the Young Stamp Collectors of America Club sponsored by the APS

FOR PURCHASE:

- Check with dealers at stamp shows
- Visit a stamp store
- Order online or through the mail from a stamp company, with your parents' permission

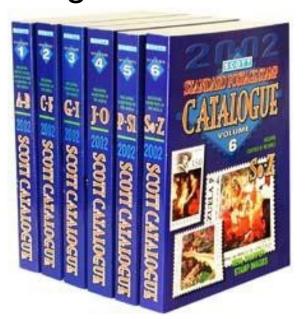




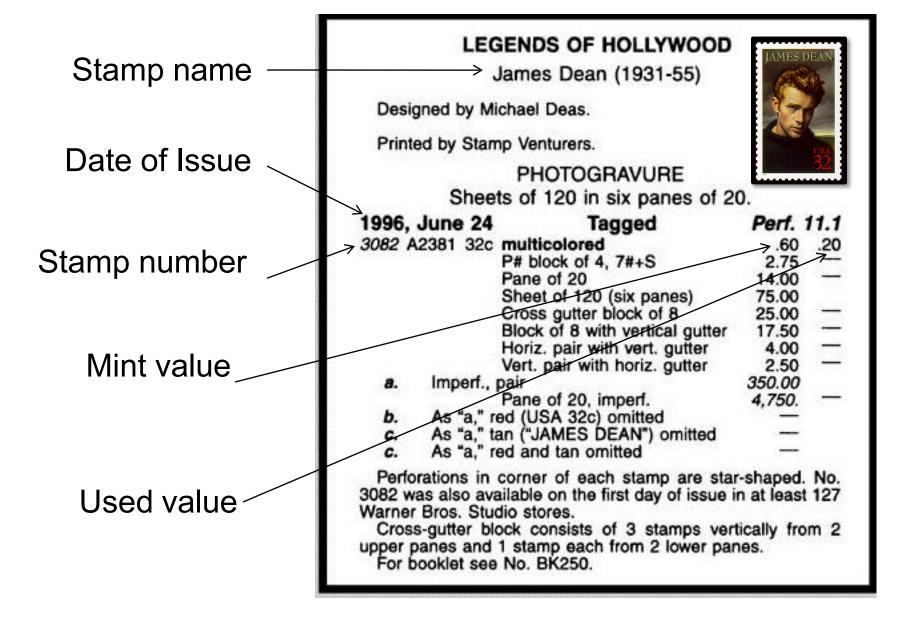
Ready for a break?

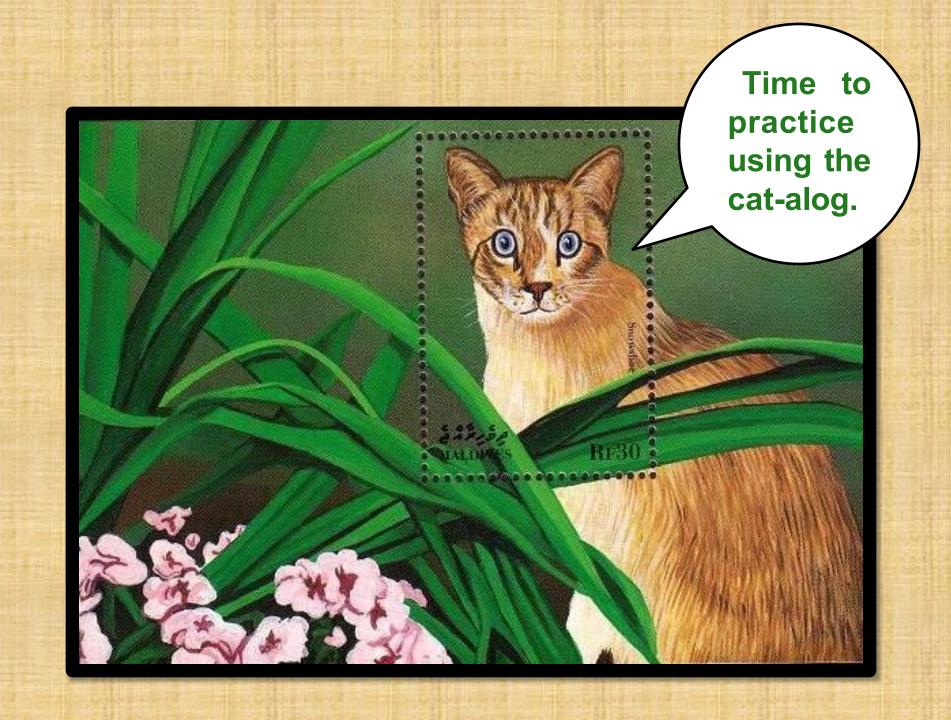
4a. Stamp Catalogs

- Used to identify and value stamps
- Each stamp is assigned a number
- •Stamps are usually sold for amounts very different than those shown in the catalog
- Catalogs are organized by country



How to Read a Stamp Catalog





4b. Stamp Condition

- A stamp's value is based on its condition.
 - is the stamp mint or used?
 - is the image centered?
 - what is the size and intensity of the cancellation?
 - are there any rips or tears?
 - are there hinge marks?
 - any color fading?
 - any discoloration?









• Is the image centered?



The four margins around the image should be equal.

• What is the size and intensity of the cancellation?

- Lightly canceled- the main design of the stamp is readily visible through the cancel mark
- Heavily canceled- the cancel mark obscures or covers most of the stamp's design





Heavy

Light

Are there any rips or tears?





•Are there any hinge marks?





No Yes

• Is there any color fading?





Yes No

Is there any discoloration?



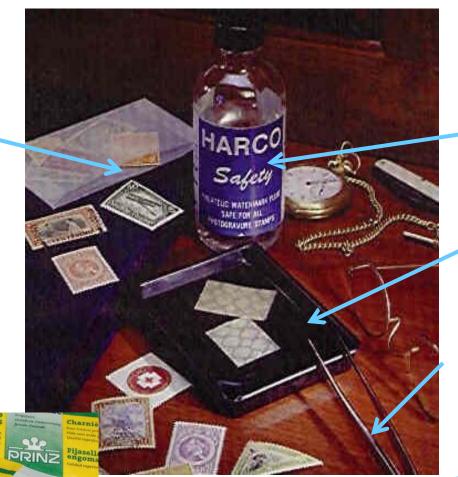
Tape was used on this tape.



The red envelope bled onto this stamp when it was soaked.

5. Stamp Hobby Tools

f. Glassine envelope



Hinges

- g. Watermark fluid
- b. Water and tray
- a. Stamp tongs

10 13/2 (66) 1 10 11/2 (7) 21 12 12 13/2 (7) 21/2 (7) 21/

e. Perforation gauge

c. Magnifier

5a. Stamp Tongs

- Made of metal
- They keep the stamp from getting damaged from dirt and oil from your skin
- Come in a variety of sizes and shapes

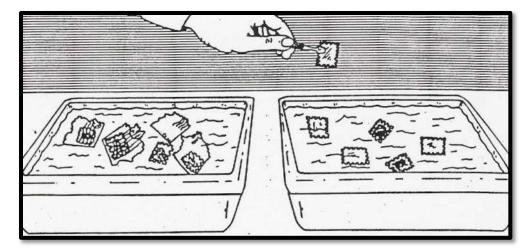


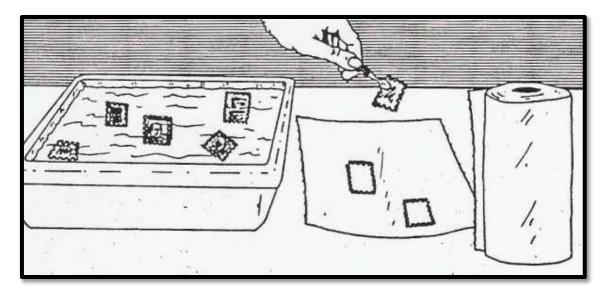
5b. Water and Tray

- Used for removing stamps from envelopes
- Separate paper colors before soaking-- stamps on colored paper may bleed
- Use lukewarm water
- Do just a few stamps at a time
- Replace water when it becomes dirty

Allow stamps to float free of backing. Do not pull

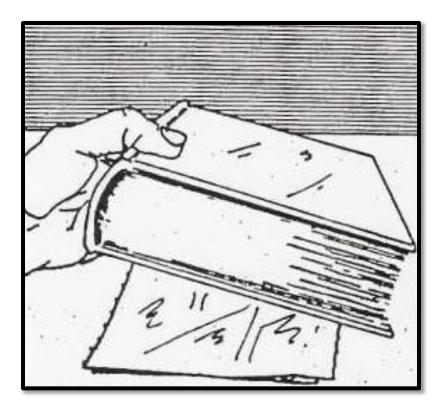
them off!





After soaking, the stamps should be dried face-down on something absorbent, like paper towels or a bathroom towel.

When they are completely dry, place them under a heavy object, like a book, to flatten them. This may take a few days.



Time for a soak.



5c. Magnifiers

Used to enlarge details on stamps.



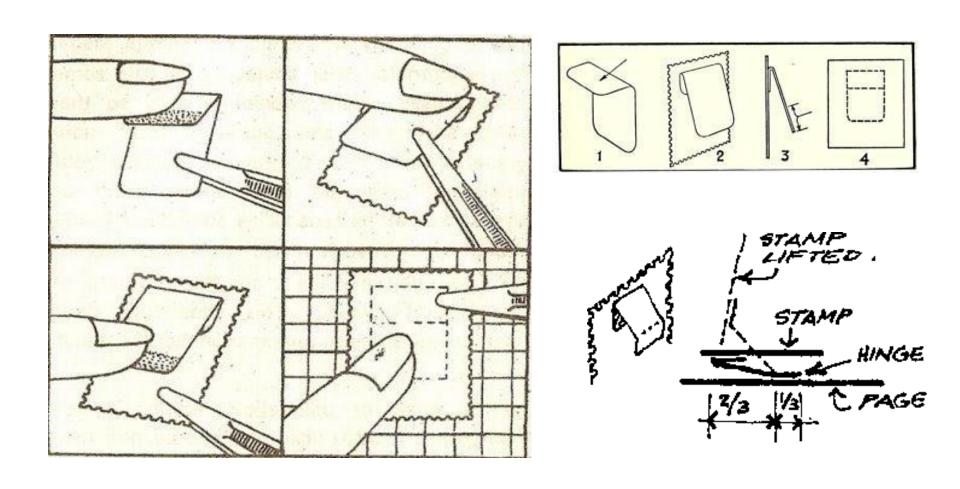
5d. Hinges

- •Small, thin, folded pieces of translucent paper with special gum on one side.
- Good for used stamps.

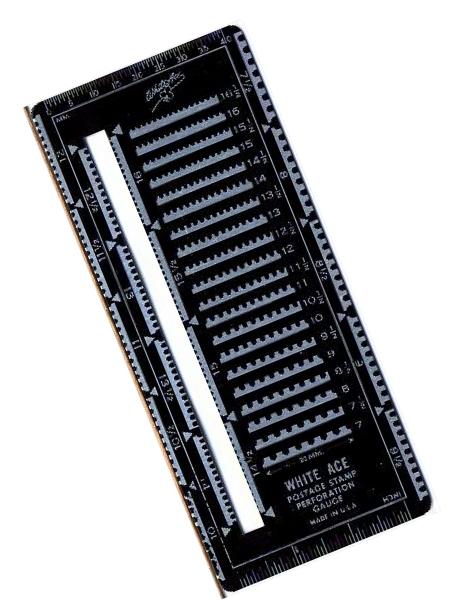




5d. How To Hinge a Stamp



5e. How To Use a Perforation Gauge



Move the stamp up and down until the perforations on the stamp exactly line up with the pattern on the gauge.

The perforation size can make a big difference between a stamp being an inexpensive version to a very valuable one.

5f. Envelopes & Sleeves

GLASSINE ENVELOPES:

- Very thin and translucent
- Protect stamps from air and moisture
- Available in many different sizes

PLASTIC SLEEVES:

- Made of thin plastic
- Used for envelopes (covers)





5g. Watermark Fluid

- Watermarks are designs made into the paper during the manufacturing process while the paper is still wet.
- Where the image is impressed, the paper is thinner and the image can be seen by holding the paper up to a light (or setting it against a dark background).

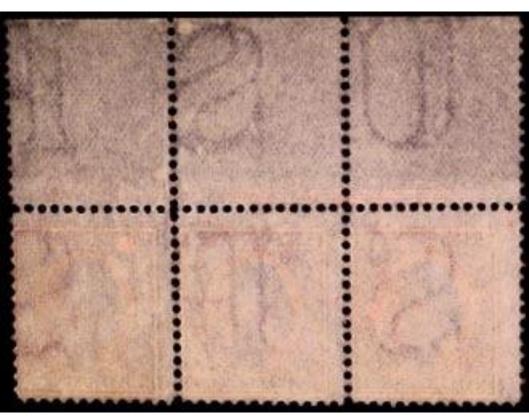
• When the watermark can't be seen by the naked eye, a

special fluid is used.

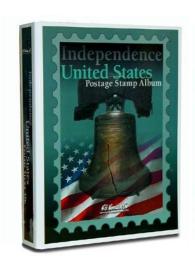


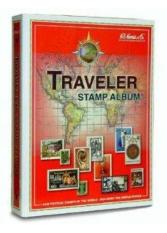
5g. Watermarks



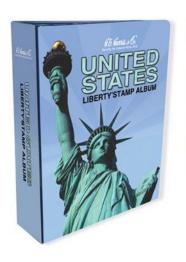


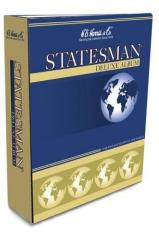
6a. Stamp Album Options





Albums can be found in many different styles and price ranges.

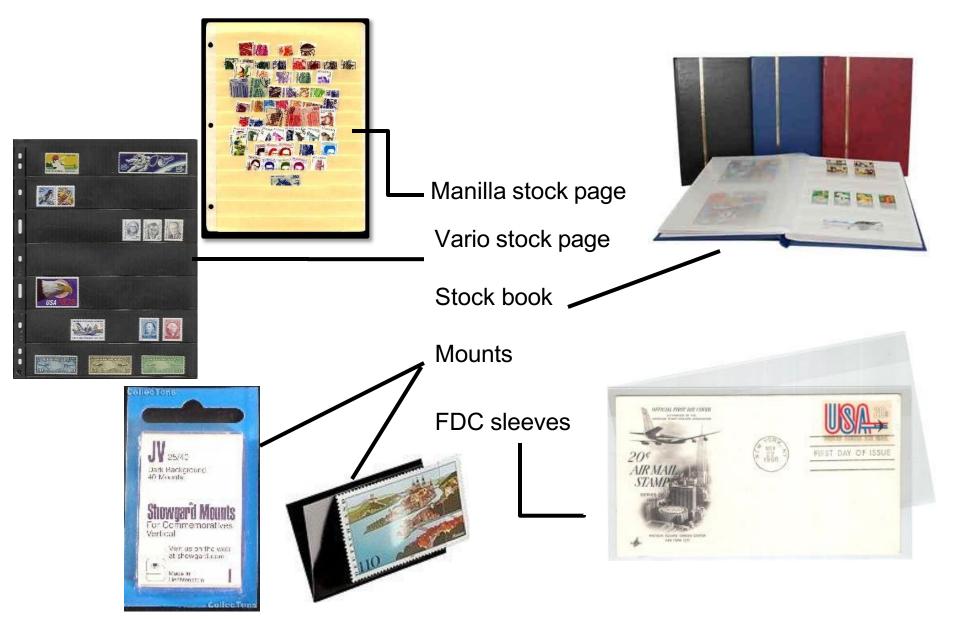








6b. Ways to Preserve Mint Stamps



Hang in there.

We're almost done!



7. Do at least TWO of the following:

- -Design a stamp, cancellation, or cachet.
- -Visit a post office, stamp club, or stamp show with an experienced collector. Explain what you saw and learned.
- -Write a review of an interesting article from a stamp newspaper, magazine, book or Web site (with your parent's permission).
- -Research and report on a famous stamp-related personality or the history behind a particular stamp.
- -Describe the steps taken to produce a stamp. Include the methods of printing, types of paper, perforation styles, and how they are gummed.
- -Prepare a two- to three-page display involving stamps. Using ingenuity, as well as clippings, drawings, etc., tell a story about the stamps, and how they relate to history, geography, or a favorite topic of yours.

8. Mount and show, in a purchased or homemade album, ONE of the following:

- -A collection of 250 or more different stamps from at least 15 countries.
- -A collection of a stamp from each of 50 different countries, mounted on maps to show the location of each.
- -A collection of 100 or more different stamps from either one country or a group of closely related countries.
- -A collection of 75 or more different stamps on a single topic. Stamps may be from different countries.
- -A collection of postal items discovered in your mail by monitoring it over a period of 30 days. Include at least five different types listed in requirement 3.

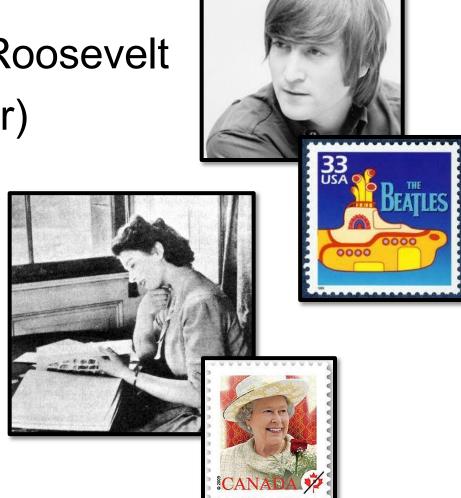
Congratains

You are now a philatelist-one who studies and collects postage stamps.

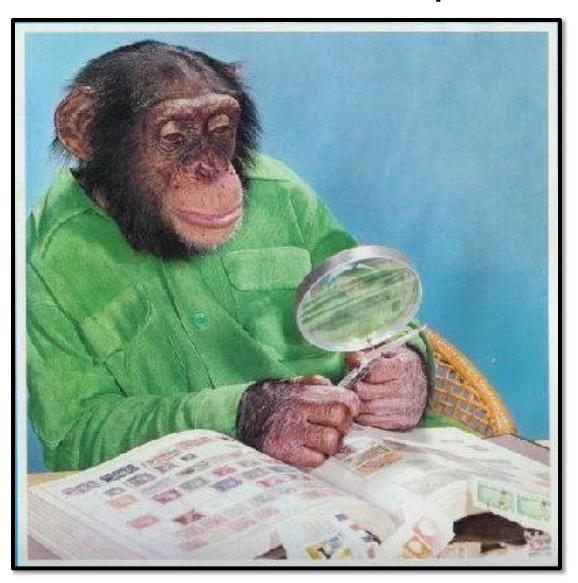
Some Famous Philatelists:

- Queen Elizabeth II
- President Franklin Roosevelt
- John Lennon (singer)





And one *not* so famous philatelist!





Resources

- American Philatelic Society: <u>www.stamps.org</u>
- American Topical Association: <u>www.americantopicaassn.org</u>
- Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge: <u>www.sossi.org/badges/bsamb.htm</u>
- BNAPS Youth: www.bnaps.org/stamps4kids/
- History of the Post Office: www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/pubs/pub100.pdf
- The National Postal Museum: <u>www.postalmuseum.si.edu/</u>
- Learn More About Stamps: <u>www.learnaboutstamps.org/</u>
- Wisconsin Federation of Stamp Clubs: www.wfscstamps.org/



Whspecial hards to:

MaryAnn Bowman

for giving so generously of her time and expertise



Brian Jones

for his merit badge knowledge and encouragement