



# Australian Stamps Teacher Guide

## Foundation - Year 2

The Australia Post Stamp Guide is a trusted and engaging resource for teaching about stamps and stamp collecting, a popular hobby in Australia and around the world.

Developed by Australia Post, this curriculum-aligned resource for Foundation to Year 2 will help you and your students discover the rich history and meaning behind stamps.



# User Notes

## Background

Stamp collecting is a popular hobby in Australia and around the world. It encourages self-directed learning and can foster essential skills, behaviours and dispositions such as; reasoning, logic, resourcefulness and goal setting. Stamp collecting encourages students to question, compare, analyse, sequence and be inquisitive all while having fun. Every stamp tells a story and Australia Post's stamp series, releases and collections are a rich and engaging way to learn about Australian history and culture.

## What does stamp collecting involve?

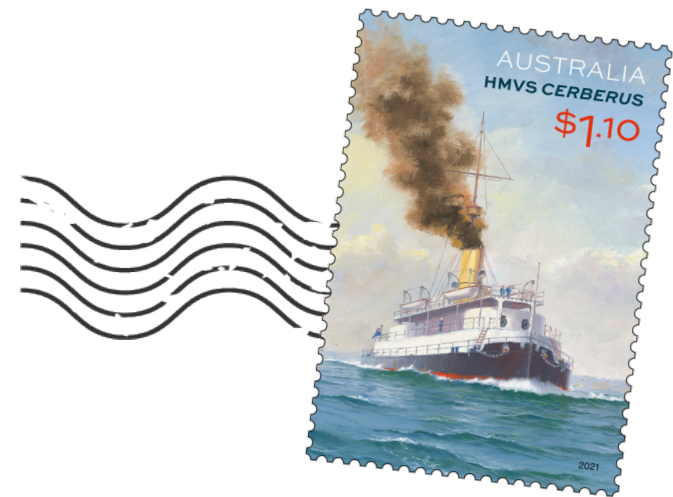
One of the best things about stamp collecting is that starting out is easy. Most stamp collections are built around a certain theme or subject. Stamps are collected from envelopes or purchased as mint (unused). They can then be stored and displayed in a stamp album, separated by plastic sheets and viewed with a magnifying glass!

## Lesson structure

Each lesson has been designed for teachers to pick and choose the activities most suitable for your current programming requirements and student ability levels. There is no set duration for the experiences, some tasks will take longer than a single lesson and we encourage you to adapt it to suit your environment.

## History

Each year several hundred million stamps are printed. Designs are commissioned with great care to maintain the high quality and reputation of Australian stamps. Stamps tell us about current and historical events as well as the world around us. Since 1993, Australia Post has celebrated Stamp Collecting Month. Each year a Stamp Collecting Month topic that is part of student learning is chosen. Learning through stamps is fun and interesting. Check out the current Stamp Collecting Month stamps and teacher resource material at: [auspost.com.au/scm](https://auspost.com.au/scm)



# Curriculum Links

| Lesson                                 | Foundation  | Year 1  | Year 2   |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1<br>What is a Stamp?                  | <b>HASS</b><br>How the stories of families and the past can be communicated, for example, through photographs, artefacts, books, oral histories, digital media and museums <a href="#">ACHASSK013</a> | <b>HASS</b><br>Differences and similarities between students' daily lives and life during their parents' and grandparents' childhoods <a href="#">ACHASSK030</a>                            | <b>Geography</b><br>The connections of people in Australia to people in other places in Australia and across the world <a href="#">ACHASSK050</a>  |
| 2<br>Why do all stamps look different? | <b>Design &amp; Technologies</b><br>Generate, develop and record design ideas through describing, drawing and modelling <a href="#">ACTDEP006</a>   | <b>Design &amp; Technologies</b><br>Use materials, components, tools, equipment and techniques to safely make designed solutions <a href="#">ACTDEP00</a>                                   | <b>Design &amp; Technologies</b><br>Use personal preferences to evaluate the success of design ideas, processes and solutions including their care for environment <a href="#">ACTDEP008</a> |
| 3<br>How are stamps designed?          | <b>Visual Arts</b><br>Use and experiment with different materials, techniques, technologies and processes to make artworks <a href="#">ACAVAM107</a>  | <b>Visual Arts</b><br>Create and display artworks to communicate ideas to an audience <a href="#">ACAVAM108</a>   | <b>Media Arts</b><br>Respond to media artworks and consider where and why people make media artworks <a href="#">ACAMAR057</a>   |
| 4<br>What is stamp collecting?         | <b>English</b><br>Create short texts to explore, record and report ideas and events using familiar words and beginning writing knowledge <a href="#">ACELY1651</a>                                    | <b>English</b><br>Engage in conversations and discussions, using active listening behaviours, showing interest, and contributing ideas, information and questions <a href="#">ACELY1656</a> | <b>English</b><br>Create short imaginative, informative and persuasive texts using growing knowledge of text structures and language features <a href="#">ACELY1671</a>                      |

# Lesson Information



## Assessment

- Monitoring understanding in class discussions and questioning
- Collecting work sample
- Student self-assessment
- Peer assessment
- Teacher feedback



## Differentiation

### Support

Research is conducted as a whole class.

### Structured

Use small group instruction to help support students construct their stamp album.

### Extension

Students investigate other themes on stamps.



## Connecting Home and School

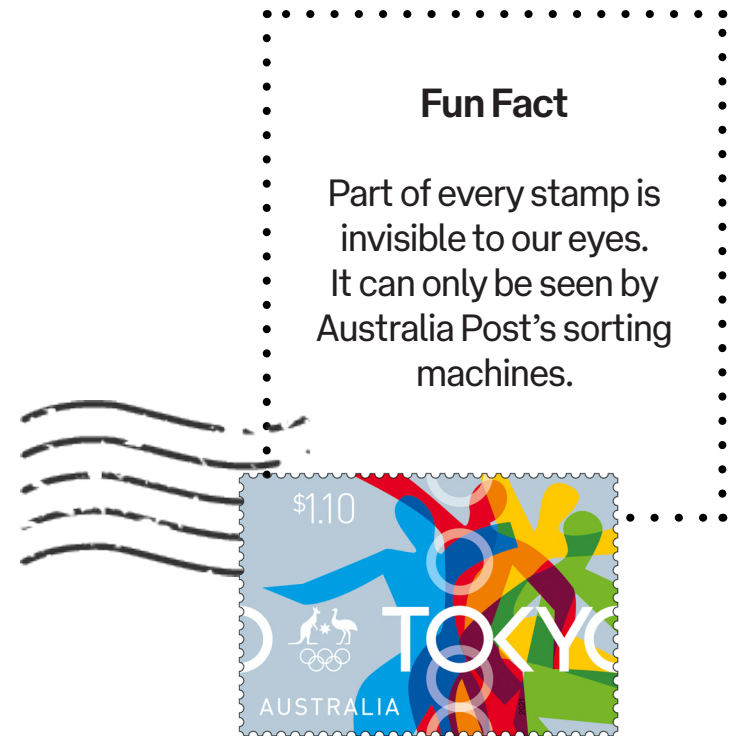
Encourage students to deepen their understanding of their own heritage and family history.

Discover if anyone in their family is a stamp collector and if possible, view their collections.

Invite families to review the Australia Post stamp collections online and identify each person's favourites.

# Lesson 1

What is a stamp?



# What is a stamp?

## Lesson Overview

This lesson introduces students to the hobby of stamp collecting. They will investigate the use and history of stamps and why people like to collect them. After learning how stamps are classified, they will design and make their own stamp and album to inspire the start of their own collection.

## Learning Intention

In this lesson students will:

- Investigate the history of stamps
- Compare, analyse and classify themed stamps
- Construct a stamp collecting album

## Guiding Questions

### Comprehend

*How would you classify the following stamp issues?*

*[Show previous [Australia Post stamp issues](#)]*

### Analyse

*What evidence can you find that stamp collecting is a popular hobby?*

## Synthesise

*How would you design the next set of Australia Post stamps?*

## Resources

- Internet access for students
- Magnifying glasses
- Example of a stamp album or [online version](#)
- A4 paper for creating a stamp album
- Examples of postage stamps brought in from home (can be pre-used)
- Printed pictures of stamps or access for students to view [online](#)

## Vocabulary *(found in bold throughout the guide)*

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Stamp                     | Category / classify / group |
| Collect / collection      | Album                       |
| Hobby                     | Envelope                    |
| Post / postage / postcard | Letter                      |
| Deliver                   |                             |

## Step 1: Explore

*Watch / Listen / Read - Learn*

- Introduce the term **collection**.
- Create a class pictograph of different collections the students may have at home.
- Conduct the same exercise for the word **hobby**, then discuss the meaning difference.
- Introduces the word **stamp**. What does it mean and why do we use them to **deliver letters in envelopes**?
- Watch the following [video](#) about stamp collecting as a hobby, then brainstorm why there are different stamps and collections.
- Show different [stamp issues](#) then have students explore the guiding question:  
*How would you classify the following stamp issues?*  
E.g. [Animals](#), [Christmas](#), [Planets](#), [Transport](#),

## Step 2: Analyse

*Solve a Problem - Think*

- Provide each student with a different stamp. Using the magnifying glasses they must identify and record the key features of their stamp e.g. **postage** value, date, country.
- Encourage students to talk to their peers about what they see. As a class, **classify** the stamps into defined group **categories**.
- Explore other stamp categories online.
- Ask the guiding question:  
*What evidence can you find that stamp collecting is a popular hobby?*
- Show other online examples of stamp collections from around the world and ask students if they think there are any features of stamp collecting that would define it as a hobby.

## Step 3: Create

*Try Something New - Do*

- Students create their own stamp drawings (including the key features).
- Photocopy or print a scale copy of each student's stamp and provide a paper version for everyone.
- Ask them to cut out the stamps and classify into themes e.g. animals, places, people etc.
- Show students how to fold A4 paper to create an **album** booklet and explain that they will need a cover page and titles at the top of each page that describes their chosen theme.
- After designing their single stamp, pose the guiding question:  
*How would you design the next set of Australia Post stamps?*
- Support students through the process using a design thinking approach.





# Lesson 2

Why do all stamps  
look different?



## Fun Fact

During the Sydney  
2000 Olympic Games  
the world's first instant  
stamps were produced  
for every Australian  
athlete or team  
winning a gold medal.

# Why do all stamps look different?

## Lesson Overview

This lesson develops understanding of the different media techniques used by artists and stamp designers. Students will investigate different stamps and identify design components and the types of images used. They will describe the parts of a stamp's design and the various roles of individuals involved in the production process.

## Learning Intention

In this lesson students will:

- Understand that history can be communicated through photographs and drawings on stamps
- Investigate and discuss artistic methods used to make art
- Compare and analyse different images on stamps
- Investigate various artists and people involved in the production of stamps
- Construct a diagram of the parts of a stamp

## Guiding Questions

Comprehend

*Why is there different types of artwork on Australian stamps?*

## Analyse

*Why do all stamps have a different value and what might happen if they didn't?*

## Synthesise

*What would you change to improve the stamp design process?*

## Resources

- Internet access for students
- Sample of a stamp enlarged and printed for students on A4 paper
- Examples of postage stamps brought in from home (can be pre-used)
- Printed pictures of stamps or access for students to view [online](#)

## Vocabulary *(found in bold throughout the guide)*

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Stamp               | Postmark    |
| Collect /collection | Post Office |
| Artwork             | Value       |
| Medium              | Blueprint   |
| Perforation         | Diagram     |

## Step 1: Explore

*Watch/Listen/Read - Learn*

- Introduce the term **artwork** and what it means.
- Students brainstorm different materials used to make artworks.
- Introduce the term **art medium** used to describe the type of art and materials used to make it.
- Add any mediums to the list that were not suggested by students e.g: printmaking, collage, ceramics, sculpture, watercolour, photos.
- Display enlarged **stamp** samples from a few [issues](#). Ask students to identify the type of artwork and mediums used.
- Explore the guiding question:  
*Why is there different types of artwork on Australian stamps?*

## Step 2: Analyse

*Solve a Problem - Think*

- Identify other features of stamps such as the text, symbols, background colours and borders.
- Look at the **perforations** (wiggly like edges) of stamps and discuss why they are used.
- View some stamps that have a **postmark** and discuss why the **post office** uses ink stamps on the paper stamp.
- Discuss the text that is featured on stamps i.e. the Country of Origin, value, year and a possible title or theme for the artwork.
- All stamps have different values clearly displayed. Pose the guiding question and discuss:  
*Why do all stamps have a different value and what might happen if they didn't?*

## Step 3: Create

*Try Something New - Do*

- Students design their own stamp **blueprint** with perforation marks. Choose a medium and the artwork image they want to create. Then label the various parts of their stamp showing the title, **value**, country name, and year.
- Once students have finished their **diagrams** ask students to describe the various features of the stamp and what they represent.
- On A4 size paper, students create their stamp artwork and once completed, add in the written features.
- Ask students to reflect on the guiding question:  
*What would you change to improve the stamp design process?*

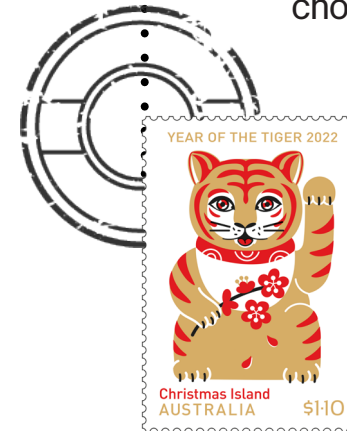


# Lesson 3

How are stamps  
designed?

## Fun Fact

In 2013, Belgium  
printed half a million  
stamps that smelled  
and tasted like  
chocolate.



# How are stamps designed?

## Lesson Overview

This lesson builds on the skills learnt in lesson two. Students will take on the role of artist and stamp designer, choosing a theme for a stamp issue and creating three to four stamps. Students will work through the process of planning, creating the artwork and incorporating that artwork into a stamp with associating text.

## Learning Intention

In this lesson students will:

- Choose a theme for their stamp issue
- Plan the content of the artwork and text of three to four stamps
- Select an appropriate art medium to create the artwork for the stamp
- Share their finished stamp designs and receive feedback

## Guiding Questions

### Comprehend

*Why is it important for stamps to have a range of artists and artwork types?*

## Analyse

*What connections can you make between stamp themes, facts and artwork?*

## Synthesise

*How would you test if each stamp fits the same series and theme?*

## Resources

- Internet access for students
- Printed pictures of stamps or access for students to view [online](#)
- Students' diagrams from previous lesson
- Blank paper for the planning and creation of artworks and stamps
- Various art materials for creating artworks and stamps

## Vocabulary *(found in bold throughout the guide)*

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| Stamp       | Fact                |
| Collection  | Theme               |
| Artwork     | Design              |
| Series      | Checklist           |
| Perforation | Digital / digitised |
| Scale       |                     |

## Step 1: Explore

*Watch/Listen/Read - Learn*

- Review the diagrams and stamps created in Lessons 1 and 2, discuss **stamp** features.
- Create a **checklist** of the feature inclusions for students to refer to (**artwork**, country, year, value, title, perforations).
- Review the range of Australia Post [stamps](#).
- Discuss the guiding questions:  
*Why is it important for stamps to have a range of artists and artwork types?*
- Students brainstorm / research a list of **themes** for which they could create a stamp **collection** e.g. type of transport, animal, plant, place or person.

## Step 2: Analyse

*Solve a Problem - Think*

- Students will now assume the role of both artist and stamp designer, creating their own stamp issue series comprising of 3 or 4 stamps.
- Ask the students to pretend that Australians don't know anything about the theme the students are choosing, and through their artwork they must communicate some facts.
- Students select one fact per stamp they wish to communicate. They must research and check the fact is correct, writing an idea for their artwork design next to the fact.
- Explore the guiding question:  
*What connections can you make between your theme, your facts and your artwork?*

## Step 3: Create

*Try Something New - Do*

- Once the theme, facts and artwork plan is complete, students create the artworks for their stamp issue.
- This should be done on separate A5 or A6 paper. Take a **digital** photo then shrink to **scale** (or leave full size).
- Provide all of the mediums required for students to create their artwork designs.
- To complete the stamp design, students must include the other text details and perforation markings.
- Pose the guiding question as a student self-reflection task to ensure the theme is clearly defined and consistent across the issue:

*How would you test if each stamp fits the same issue and theme?*





# Lesson 4

What is stamp collecting?



## Fun Fact

Australia began to issue Christmas stamps annually in 1957 and was the first country in the world to do so.

# What is stamp collecting?

## Lesson Overview

This lesson has been developed to allow students to share and get feedback on their stamp designs. They will get the opportunity to trade their stamp designs with other students in order to build their album collection. To summarise the unit, they will reflect on the hobby of stamp collecting determining what skills and enjoyment they gained.

## Learning Intention

In this lesson students will:

- Share, discuss and get feedback on their own and others' stamp designs
- Learn how to fairly trade stamps with their peers
- Reflect on their stamp collection and make plans to build it further
- Compose a list, write a letter and mail to a recipient

## Guiding Questions

### Comprehend

*Can you explain why people trade things, and how to do it fairly?*

## Analyse

*Can you identify any ways that the stamp collection and trading process could be improved?*

## Synthesise

*Can you assemble a list of possible stamp issue themes that Australia Post could develop?*

## Resources

- Internet access for students
- Printed pictures of stamps or access for students to view [online](#)
- Pre-designed stamp series from lesson 3
- Photocopy of student created stamps for trading
- Stamp albums from lesson 1

## Vocabulary (found in bold throughout the guide)

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Stamp       | Charter  |
| Collection  | Process  |
| Artwork     | Designer |
| Series      | Envelope |
| Trade       | Mail     |
| Swap        | Letter   |
| Fair/unfair | Post box |

## Step 1: Explore

*Watch/Listen/Read - Learn*

- Recall concepts from lesson 1 about collections and hobbies.
- Provide time for students to share their albums and use removable Blu Tack to add any stamps they have been collecting over the unit.
- In small groups, students share their albums and ask for feedback from their peers on the series they created in lesson 3 (scaffold how to provide constructive feedback).
- Discuss the terms **trade / swap** and identify what they mean and how to conduct a trade **fairly**.
- Explore the guiding question:  
*Can you explain why people trade things, and how to do it fairly?*
- Create a class set of guidelines (charter) on the fair rules of swapping or trading their stamps.

## Step 2: Analyze

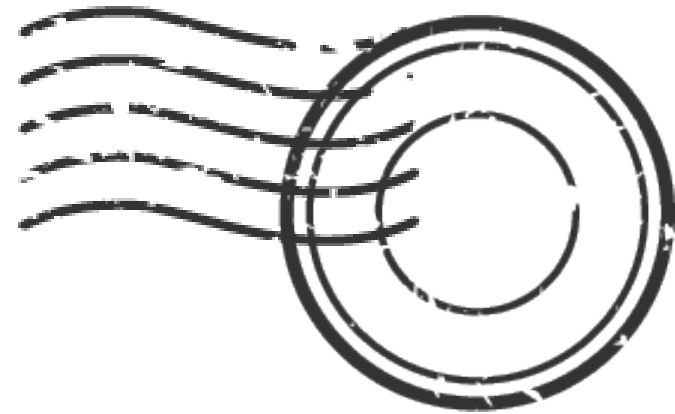
*Solve a Problem - Think*

- Students decide which of their stamps they are going to keep for their stamp collection and identify the ones they wish to trade.
- As a class, conduct the swapping process according to the class **charter** of trading rules.
- Students record the **designer** under each stamp.
- *Tip* - Using Blu Tack to adhere the stamps into albums will make them easy to swap.
- As a class, explore the guiding question:  
*Can you identify any ways that the stamp collection and trading process could be improved?*
- Review the class charter. What worked well? Was anything about the process **unfair**? On reflection, should any of the guidelines be changed?

## Step 3: Create

*Try Something New - Do*

- Discuss ways that students can continue stamp collecting at home as a hobby.
- Students write a list of themes or stamp issues they would like to collect. Use this [link](#) to inspire ideas.
- Generate a discussion on how Australia Post might decide on the stamp themes, and how they find the artists who create the artworks.
- Pose the guiding question:  
*Can you assemble a list of possible stamp issue themes that Australia Post could develop?*
- Students compose and send a letter to Australia Post detailing their ideas for future series themes. Include a copy of their own issue if possible.
- Provide stamps and **envelopes** then walk to the **post box** so students can **mail** their **letters**.



# Independent Learning

This matrix provides extra student-led activities that can be completed independently, in small groups, or as homework tasks. The activities with a star ★ are more challenging or will take longer to complete. Some will require teacher scaffolding.

| English   | STEM  | The Arts   | Critical Thinking (Research)  |
|---|---|--|---|
| Write or draw a list of special days and events that have been commemorated with stamps.  | ★ Use online programs to create stamp designs. Use the copy and paste tools to create repeated displays of stamps for printing. | ★ Create a simple relief cut print by scratching designs into polystyrene before painting the surface and pressing it onto paper.        | ★ Find a series of stamps online with famous scientists or engineers and research their inventions. Build a model of your favourite invention using materials found in your classroom. Would you change any features? |
| Choose a series of stamps from the Australia Post website and create a story (narrative) based on what you see on the artwork.  | Create your own personal stamp using a digital camera and a software program.   | Use magazines to cut out pictures and create a collage theme that might inspire a stamp series.  | Make a stamp series exploring Australia's national symbols and Coat of Arms.  |
| Set up a post office in the classroom. Take turns writing letters, being a postal worker receiving and postmarking the letters, and putting them in a class post box. | Research how stamps are printed. Create a process diagram labelling each step.  | Design a postcard series with artwork on the front and a place for the stamp, writing and address on the back. Mail to someone you know. | ★ Research the world's most famous stamps. Create a Venn diagram labelled valuable, rare or both. Draw a picture of them in the correct bubble.   |

# Resources & Links

## Resources

[Cool stuff about stamps](#) (pdf download)

[Stamp collecting tips for beginners – part 1](#)

[Stamp collecting tips for beginners – part 2](#)

[Australian Curriculum](#)

[Stamp Collecting Month](#)

[Kids stamp album](#)

[Stamp issues](#)

[Why collect stamps?](#)

[Meet some stamp designers](#)

[Pop culture stamps](#)

[Australia Post Education Hub](#)

