



# Australian Stamps Teacher Guide

## Years 3 and 4

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 Years 3 and 4 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 issue, releases and collections are a rich and engaging way to learn about Australian history and culture.

## What does stamp collecting involve?

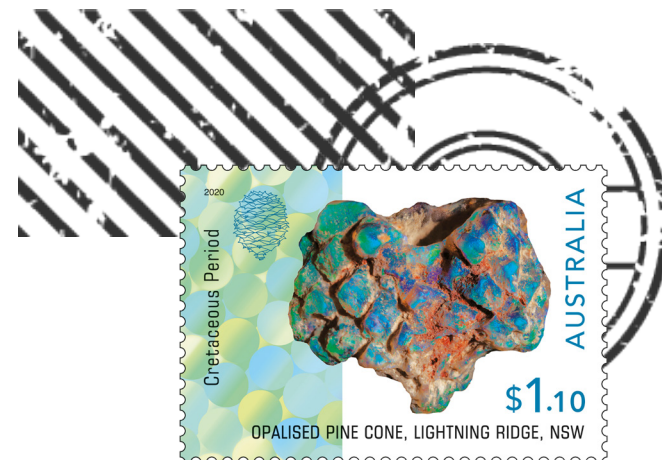
One of the best things about stamp collecting is that starting out is easy. Most stamp collections are built around a certain theme or subject. Stamps are collected from envelopes or purchased as mint (unused). They can then be stored and displayed in a stamp album, separated by plastic sheets and viewed 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	Subject	
1	Philatelics (AKA Stamp Collecting)	<b>Design &amp; Technologies</b> Recognise the role of people in design and technologies occupations and explore factors, including sustainability that impact on the design of products, services and environments to meet community needs <a href="#">ACTDEK010</a>	<b>English (Literacy)</b> Plan and deliver short presentations, providing some key details in logical sequence <a href="#">ACELY1677</a> <a href="#">ACELY1689</a>
2	Stamps from Around the World	<b>Design &amp; Technologies</b> The location of Australia's neighbouring countries and the diverse characteristics of their places <a href="#">ACHASSK067</a>	<b>Mathematics</b> Solve problems involving purchases and the calculation of change to the nearest five cents with and without digital technologies <a href="#">ACMNA080</a>
3	Stamp Hunters	<b>English</b> Create imaginative texts based on characters, settings and events from students' own and other cultures <a href="#">ACELT1601</a> <a href="#">ACELT1794</a>	<b>The Arts - Drama</b> Shape and perform dramatic action using narrative structures and tension in devised and scripted drama, including exploration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander drama <a href="#">ACADRM033</a>
4	Building a Collection	<b>Mathematics</b> Identify questions or issues for categorical variables. Identify data sources and plan methods of data collection and recording <a href="#">ACMSP06</a> <a href="#">ACMSP095</a>	<b>The Arts - Drama</b> Explore ideas and narrative structures through roles and situations and use empathy in their own improvisations and devised drama <a href="#">ACADRM031</a>

# Lesson Information



## Assessment

- Monitoring understanding in class discussions and questioning (teacher observations)
- Collecting work samples
- Student self-assessment
- Peer assessment
- Teacher feedback
- Collaborative activities
- Practical activities
- Presentations



## Differentiation

### Support

Research is conducted as a whole class.

### Structured

Use small group instruction to help support students construct an infographic.

### Extension

Students investigate philatelics clubs in their local area.



## 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.

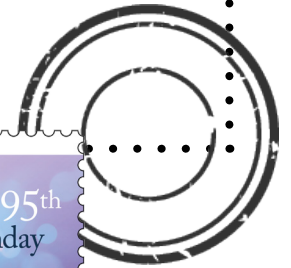
# Lesson 1

## Philatelics

(AKA Stamp Collecting)

### Fun Fact

A philatelist is the name given to someone who collects or studies stamps.



# Philatelics (AKA Stamp Collecting)

## Lesson Overview

Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of stamps and stamp collecting. They will take on the role of a famous stamp collector, investigate what stamp collecting is, and write and present a monologue/speech as their character.

## Learning Intention

In this lesson students will:

- Research the history of stamps and stamp collecting
- Identify, explore and compare different stamps
- Understand that history can be communicated through photographs and drawings on stamps
- Write and present a monologue/speech

## Guiding Questions

### Comprehend

*What are the key features of postage stamps?*

### Analyse

*Explain the hobby of stamp collecting. How can you persuade your audience to give it a try?*

## Synthesise

*You are a stamp collector and want to find a new way of showcasing your stamps. How would you design and create an improved display?*

## Resources

- Internet access for students
- Workbooks for recording research
- Example of a stamp album or [online version](#)
- 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	Features
Collect / collection	Value
Hobby	Album
Post / postage / postcard	Envelope
Deliver	Letter
Origin	Persuasive

## Step 1: Explore

*Watch / Listen / Read - Learn*

- Introduce the terms **collection** and **hobby**. Discuss what they mean and the differences between them.
- Start a class word wall to display meaningful words in this unit.
- Introduce the word **stamp**. What does it mean and why do we use them to **deliver letters** in **envelopes**?
- Students help to brainstorm any words they think might be associated with stamps and stamp collecting and add to the word wall.
- Watch the following [video](#) about stamp collecting as a hobby, then brainstorm why there are different stamps and collections.
- Provide examples of different [stamp issues](#) then have students explore the guiding question:  
*What are the key features of postage stamps?*

## Step 2: Analyse

*Solve a Problem - Think*

- Discuss the key features of **postage** stamps and why they are important i.e. country of **origin**, **value**, date, image.
- Students imagine they are a famous stamp collector and their task will be to write and present a monologue/ speech in character. The purpose of their speech will be to convince the other students to take up stamp collecting as a hobby.
- They will need to research stamp collecting and consider how to write a **persuasive** speech.
- The guiding question will inform their presentation:  
*Explain the hobby of stamp collecting. How can you persuade your audience to give it a try?*

- To be able to write their persuasive speech, students must research:
  - The history of stamps
  - The types of stamps people collect
  - How to start a collection
  - How a collection is kept or presented
  - What tools stamp collectors use
  - Interesting facts about stamps



## Step 3: Create

*Try Something New - Do*

- Using their research, students write a 2 minute persuasive speech to present to their peers. Suggestions of persuasive content include:
  - Why they became a stamp collector
  - Size and contents of their collection
  - Interesting facts about stamps
  - The value of their stamp collection
- Students practise performing their monologues, support in understanding the difference between a monologue and a factual presentation.
- Perform to class.
- Pose the guiding question:

*You are a stamp collector and want to find a new way of showcasing your stamps. How would you design and create an improved display?*

- Support students through the process using a design thinking approach.



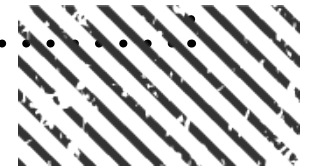
# Lesson 2

## Stamps from Around the World



### Fun Fact

The word 'philately' was first coined by a man named Georges Herpin in 1864. He was a stamp collector.



# Stamps from Around the World

## Lesson Overview

Students will continue to learn and understand stamps and stamp collecting. They will plan a 'stamp trip around the world' as a stamp collector, deciding on places to visit and use the method of creating an itinerary of their journey and the stamps they might find.

## Learning Intention

In this lesson students will:

- Identify and investigate countries around Australia and across the Indian and Pacific Ocean
- Identify and investigate stamps from Australia and its' territories
- Decide on a common theme or series when researching stamps from other countries
- Build a trip itinerary and budget to acquire pre-selected stamps from different countries

## Guiding Questions

### Comprehend

*Why do you think countries are only allowed to sell their own stamps?*

## Analyse

*Why do you think stamps from every country have the same basic features?*

## Synthesise

*What things might philatelists need to consider when trading or buying stamps?*

## Resources

- Internet access for students
- Workbooks for recording research
- World Maps, Atlases, Globes or online maps and mapping applications such as Google Earth
- 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	Post card
Collect / collection	Region
Value / valuable	Atlas
Acquire	Globe
International	Terr
Purchase	
Itinerary	

## Step 1: Explore

*Watch / Listen / Read - Learn*

- Introduce the concept of taking a ‘stamp trip around the world’ as a stamp collector.
- Discuss why international **stamps** might be **valuable** to Australian philatelists.
- Students brainstorm ways that Australian stamp collectors may be able to **acquire international** stamps e.g. receive on mail, **purchase** online, or buy second hand.
- Discuss if students have ever received or sent letters and **postcards** from overseas. Do they have any examples stamps at home they can bring in?
- Discuss and make a list of countries that students know are located near Australia.
- Group the countries into **regions**, referring to maps, **atlases** and **globes**.
- Explore the guiding question:  
*Why do you think countries are only allowed to sell their own stamps?*

## Step 2: Analyse

*Solve a Problem - Think*

- Discuss and locate Australia’s External **Territories** i.e. Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Norfolk Island and Australian Antarctic Territory.
- Introduce the concept that these territories have their own stamps created by Australia Post. View examples of their stamps online (see resources and links).
- Students choose 6 stamps to research (1 Australian external territory and 5 countries located near Australia).
- Students collect basic facts about each stamp’s **origin** (country name, capital, population, languages spoken) and some facts about the stamp (year, price, facts on the content of stamp – e.g. fruit, animal, place, person).
- Pose the guiding question and discuss:  
Why do you think stamps from every country have the same basic features?

## Step 3: Create

*Try Something New - Do*

- Introduce the concept of an **itinerary** and how this can be used as a planning tool.
- Collectively, create a trip planning checklist for students to follow.
- Students brainstorm how they will plan their ‘stamp trip around the world’.
- Students then draft their trip itinerary, ensuring they stop at each country of their pre-selected stamps to purchase or trade.
- Discuss things they will need to take into consideration such as **budget**, trip duration, accommodation, transport, food etc.
- To extend the learning, provide students with a budget and ask them to create a spreadsheet of costs so they have enough money for their trip, including the purchase of stamps if they are rare or valuable.
- Ask students to consider the guiding question when developing their itinerary:  
*What things might philatelists need to consider when trading or buying stamps?*

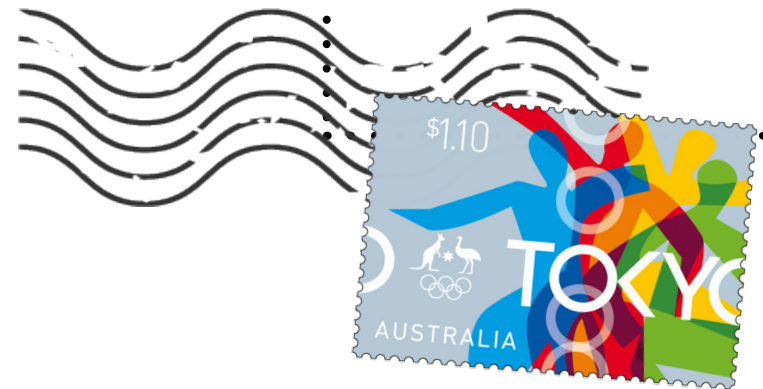


# Lesson 3

## Stamp Hunters

### Fun Fact

The British 'penny black' was first postal stamp ever printed on 6th May, 1840.



# Stamp Hunters

## Lesson Overview

This lesson builds on the skills learnt in lessons 1 and 2 of this unit. Students will reflect on their 'journeys' around Australia's neighbouring countries that led them to collect their stamps. They will determine if they had enough budget to complete their trip and acquire their pre-selected stamps. Students will retell their journeys as a recount to their peers in the form of a diary, comic or narrative.

## Learning Intention

In this lesson students will:

- Reflect on how effective their planning, budget and itinerary was in their 'stamp trip around the world' journey
- Identify if and how they were able to successfully acquire each of their pre-selected stamps
- Plan and practise an oral recount of their fictional stamp collecting journey

## Guiding Questions

### Comprehend

*What preparations are needed for a stamp collecting journey around the world?*

## Analyse

*Measure the success of your stamp collecting trip around the world against your budget and itinerary. What worked and what didn't?*

## Synthesise

*As a stamp collector, how would you predict obstacles in growing your collection and plan to overcome them?*

## Resources

- Internet access for students
- Printed pictures of stamps or access for students to view online
- Cardboard, flip books, art paper etc. for presentations
- Example of a stamp album or online version

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

Stamp	Rehearse
Collection	Character
Journey	Obstacles
Series	Checklist
Measure	Digital/digitised
Analysis	

## Step 1: Explore

*Watch/Listen/Read - Learn*

- Using their completed itinerary and budgets (see lesson 2) to inform their planning, students map out a fictional story plot of their ‘stamp journey around the world’. This could be done in a diary, comic or narrative format.
- Once the story map is complete, allow students time to develop and write their recounts, reminding them to throw in some twists along the way. Were they able to collect all 6 stamps?
- Pose the guiding question for consideration during their writing:  
*What preparations are needed for a stamp collecting journey around the world?*

## Step 2: Analyse

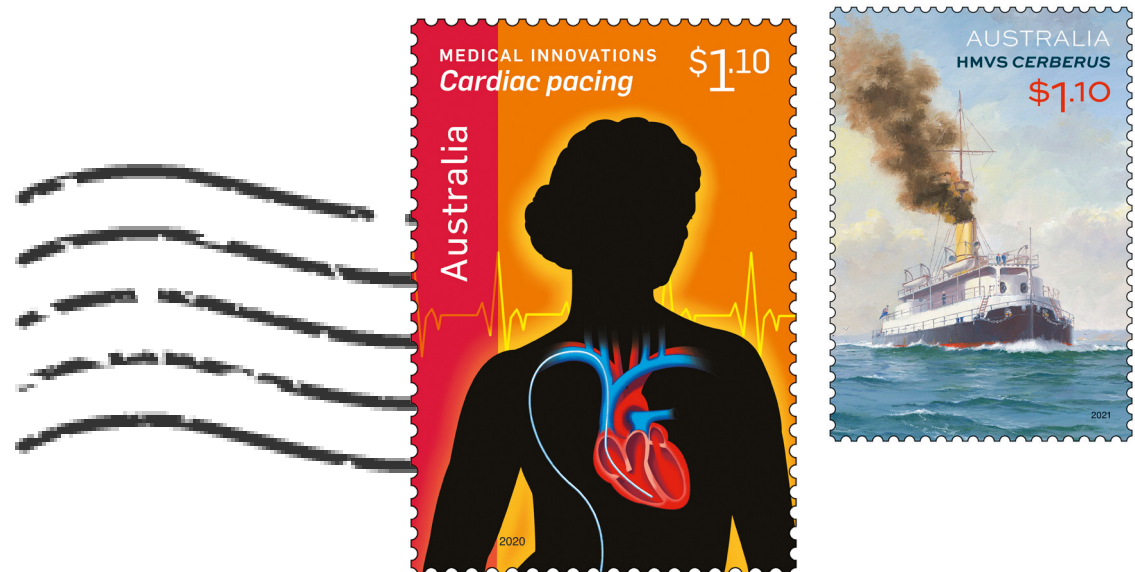
*Solve a Problem - Think*

- Students reflect on their ‘journeys’ around Australia’s neighbouring countries that led them to collect their stamps.
- They will determine if they had enough budget to complete their trip and acquire their pre-selected stamps.
- Pose the guiding question to kick-start the reflection process:  
*Measure the success of your stamp collecting trip around the world against your budget and itinerary. What worked and what didn’t?*
- Once the **analysis** is complete, students revisit their budget and itinerary and make any necessary changes to ensure success if the trip was repeated.

## Step 3: Create

*Try Something New - Do*

- Discuss the process of good oral storytelling, what ingredients need to be there to ensure the audience is hooked?
- Students plan a costume and **rehearse** reading their fictional stories, diaries or comics to the class in **character**.
- Ask students to reflect on the guiding question when creating their character's personalities for the retelling:  
*As a stamp collector, how would you predict **obstacles** in growing your collection and plan to overcome them?*
- Once students have designed and created their infographic, they present to the class and deliver a short explanation and to why they chose their design elements.
- Peers provide constructive feedback on what worked well and what could be changed to improve the intended audience's understanding of the process.





# Lesson 4

## Building a Collection

### Fun Fact

The smallest stamp ever made for postage was in Columbia and measured only 8 x 9.5mm.



# Building a Collection

## Lesson Overview

This lesson has been developed for students to present and promote their research and findings from their 'stamp trip around the world'. They have the opportunity to role play a stamp collector at a stamp convention buying, selling and trading their stamps. Finally, they will reflect on the project and the hobby of stamp collecting.

## Learning Intention

In this lesson students will:

- Identify stamps to add to their collection and devise a way to acquire them
- Participate in a mock stamp collector convention
- Share knowledge of their stamps in an attempt to convince others to add, buy or trade

## Guiding Questions

### Comprehend

*What rules might be needed to ensure fairness at a stamp convention?*

## Analyse

*What criteria needs to be considered when valuing stamps?*

## Synthesise

*How would you create a stamp collecting club in your school?*

## Resources

- Internet access for students
- Printed pictures of stamps or access for students to view [online](#)
- Previous student presentations and stories
- Envelopes or plastic sleeves for students to collect their stamps

## Vocabulary (found in bold throughout the guide)

Stamp	Charter
Collection	Convention
Series	Exhibitor
Trade	Promote
Swap	Album
Fair / unfair	Acquire
Purchase	Criteria

## Step 1: Explore

*Watch/Listen/Read - Learn*

- Recap the 2 student presentations done in this unit and the recount of the ‘stamp trip around the world’.
- After reviewing each student’s **stamp** collection, students decide on one stamp they would like to **acquire** from one of their peers to add to their own **collection**.
- Explain the purpose of a stamp convention (to **trade** and collect stamps) and brainstorm how they might set one up in the classroom.
- Consider the guiding question:  
*What rules might be needed to ensure **fairness** at a stamp convention?*
- Create a class **charter** or set of guidelines on how they can fairly trade stamps at the convention.

## Step 2: Analyse

*Solve a Problem - Think*

- Divide the students into 2 groups, one to be the stamp convention **exhibitors**, and the other to be the stamp collectors attending the **convention**.
- The exhibitors plan how to **promote** their stamps to other collectors (their peers) and trade their stamps in exchange for other stamps.
- They must stick to the class guidelines created for the convention.
- Use play money for the students to **purchase** stamps from each other.
- Students must consider the guiding question to decide on a price range for their stamps:  
*What **criteria** needs to be considered when valuing stamps?*

- Ensure both groups have a turn at each experience.
- Students place the stamps they have traded or bought in envelopes or an album and write notes about their features.



## 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 issues they would like to collect. Use this link to inspire ideas.
- Generate a discussion on how students could find other students around Australia and the world to trade stamps with.
- Pose the guiding question:  
*How would you create a stamp collecting club in your school?*
- Divide students into 2 stamp collecting groups and ask them to create a club charter explaining the purpose, goals and rules. Do they have anything that makes them stand out from other clubs?
- Once formed, encourage the clubs to swap and trade stamps throughout the year.

# 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)
Read <i>The Stamp Collector</i> , a picture book by Jennifer Lanthier. Write a response to the story. How did it make you feel? What did you learn? What questions did it raise?	Investigate the history of the stamp and create a timeline of interesting and important developments.	Create a poster of interesting fun facts that you have learnt in this unit. Illustrate and add pictures of stamps to support the facts.	Start a stamp collection by yourself or with a friend. Trade interesting stamps you find on old letters and mail at home.
★ Create a class competition where rare stamps from different countries are displayed and you vote for your favourite stamp, like a 'people's choice award'.	Research different ways around the world that stamps are made sticky (adhesive). Can you invent a new way to ensure stamps are affixed to envelopes?	★ Hold a mock class auction where stamps are sold off using plastic money. Form groups and become 'stamp collecting societies'. Combine your coins and decide which stamps to bid on.	Research famous philatelists such as Franklin D Roosevelt, and discover some world famous collections. How would you categorise the collections?
What theme would you like to see on the next issue of Australian stamps? Write a persuasive letter to Australia Post convincing them to choose your idea.	Research how stamps are printed. Create a process diagram labelling each step. How could you recreate the stamp making process using only materials found in your home or classroom?	★ Invite another class in as the 'buyers' at a stamp convention. Set up a table showing your rare stamp collection and convince other students to buy or trade your stamps.	Research the many issues of stamps on the Australia Post website. Create a top 10 wanted list and devise a way of being able to add them to your collection.

# 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](#)

[MyStamps and personalised stamps](#)

[Australia Post Education Hub](#)

## Australian Territories - Stamp Issues

[Australian Antarctic Territory](#)

[Christmas Island](#)

[Norfolk Island](#)

[Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands](#)

