

# STAMP COLLECTING

All levels

## Purpose

To help you explore a hobby that will be fun and will help you discover things about God’s world. You are encouraged to continue with this hobby beyond the time needed to complete this badge as it will provide you with a wealth of knowledge about countries around the world.

## Exploring

In 1840, as a result of a submission by Rowland Hill, stamps were introduced in England as a means of paying for mail. Prior to that, postage was paid by the receiver and the cost was worked out using a complex system based on the distance and the number of sheets per letter. Two stamps were issued; the Penny Black and the Twopenny Blue. The rest of the world soon followed this new postage system and the hobby of stamp collecting started.

- 1. Learn the meaning of the following stamp collecting terms.
  - Philatelist** Another name for a stamp collector.
  - First Day Cover** An envelope with a stamp that was cancelled the first day it was issued.
  - Perforations** The little holes punched between the rows to be separated. The size and spacing of these holes vary for different stamp issues.
  - Cancellation** A Post Office mark printed over a stamp on an envelope to show that it has been used.
  - Watermark** A faint design in the paper used for making stamps. Not all stamps have a watermark.
  - Approvals** Stamps sent by dealers to collectors who can select the ones they want to buy and return the rest.
  - Pre-stamped envelope** An envelope with a stamp printed on it.
- 2. A Stamp Catalogue is a must for all collectors and are available from newsagents and bookstores. Obtain a catalogue and list the information that such a book can provide.
- 3. Australia Post produces a free Stamp Bulletin at regular intervals providing information on new Australian stamp issues. Obtain a Stamp Bulletin by writing to:
  - Australia Stamp Bulletin
  - Locked Bag 8
  - South Melbourne Vic. 3205
- 4. List five things you can learn about a country by collecting stamps.

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## Doing

1. On a sheet of paper, or in an album, exhibit one of each of the following:
  - a. First Day Cover
  - b. Regular postage stamp
  - c. Commemorative stamp
  - d. Stamp with overprint
  - e. Stamp with watermark
  - f. Miniature sheet
2. Do one of the following:
  - a. Mount and exhibit in an album, in chronological order, a collection of at least 200 different stamps from one country.
  - b. Mount and exhibit in an album a collection of at least 100 different stamps dealing with one topic (birds, flowers, cars, sport, Christmas, religion, etc.)
  - c. Mount and exhibit in an album a collection of at least 500 different stamps from at least five different countries.

## Reflection

Why did you take up stamp collecting? Do you ever look closely at the stamps and try to find out why they were issued? Can stamps be used to remind people of what God has done for us? How?

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Ask your Counsellor to sign below and arrange for the presentation of your badge.

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