



# Why Collect Stamps ?



A little bit of history and what we can learn from stamps. Ask an adult or older sibling for help if needed. Use a pencil or pen and follow directions.

As you learned in the previous lesson, buying a stamp proves that you have paid for the letter or package to be delivered. The letter carriers need to be paid because it's their job and you have paid for the service of delivery.



The first modern stamps were issued in 1840 in England (Great Britain.) Sir Roland Hill, at left, persuaded the British



government to issue stamps as proof that a person had paid for delivery of the mail. Before then, mail systems weren't making any money because they expected the person receiving the mail to pay for it.

Many people didn't have the money to pay.

1.)The first stamp in 1840 is called the \_\_\_\_\_ Black because it is black and cost one penny.

Circle the stamp you think is the first.



2.)Who do you think that person is on the first stamp?

She was the Queen of England and her name was \_\_\_\_\_.

Circle the correct name:      Anne                  Mary                  Victoria

Once the British Post Office, called the Royal Mail, started printing different color stamps, people started collecting them. Some people even bought enough to use as wallpaper for a room in their houses; after all, Queen Victoria was on them! Eventually all countries across the world started issuing stamps.



Over the years, stamp collecting became popular around the world. In 1864, the Frenchman Georges Herpin, left, decided to use two Greek root words *philo* and *ateleia* to create a new name for the hobby of collecting stamps. *Philo* means “to like”, and *atelēs* means “free from tax or charge.” This evolved into the French word *philatélie*. In English we spell it philately. **Say** the word **phi-lat-e-ly**. People who like collecting stamps are philatelists.

Have you ever received a birthday card or gift in your mailbox at home? Did it cost you money? No, because the person who sent it to you spent the money for it to be delivered by paying for the stamps. That is why the term *atelēs*, meaning “free from tax,” was used to help create the word philately.



Hobbies are activities that people enjoy doing when they have time. Examples of hobbies are collecting baseball or Pokémon cards, coins, rocks, or reading and gardening. These things can be done alone or with friends, just like collecting stamps.





Did you notice that the Penny Black does not have the country name, Great Britain, on it? In the philatelic world, England is called Great Britain. Every country has to put their name on their stamps except Great Britain, because they created the first postage stamp.



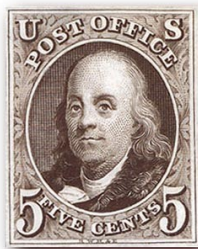
3.) Looking above, there are two stamps that were not issued by Great Britain. ○ Circle the two stamps and say the country names.

Today, Great Britain identifies their stamps by putting a silhouette of the reigning monarch in the corner of their stamps. At right is a stamp celebrating the life of Sir Roland Hill because he is important in postal history. Can you see the Penny Black in the background? In the top right corner is the silhouette of Queen Elizabeth, who was queen when the stamp was issued in 1995.



4.) The United States issued its first stamp in 1847.

○ Circle the stamp at right that you think was the first U.S. stamp.

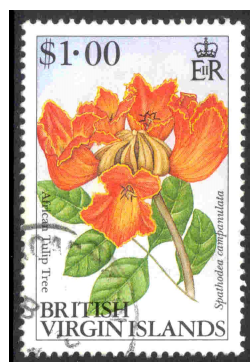
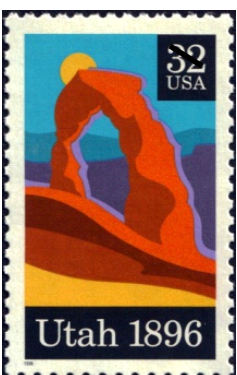
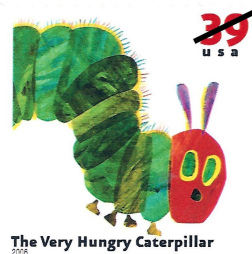


Who is pictured on the stamp? \_\_\_\_\_

He was the first Postmaster General during the American Revolution.

# 5.) Why people collect stamps. They like:

- exploring the world via stamps
- collecting topics they are interested in
- visiting far away places via stamps
- learning about geography
- art and colors
- learning new things and being smart
- fun, interesting hobbies



Circle the stamps you like.



Some of the stamps on the previous page are not from the United States. There are over 200 countries and territories in the world today that issue their own stamps. These governments issue stamps about things that are important to the people that live there such as famous people, nature, sports, music, and history.

If you want to go to Australia some day, it would be fun to try to collect stamps from Australia and learn about that country. Or if you play soccer, it would be fun to collect soccer stamps from around the world.



6.) Below are some stamps from foreign countries. Foreign means countries other than the one you live in. Draw lines from the names of the countries to the stamp you think is from that country. Every country has their own language and the name of the country on the stamp is spelled in their language, not necessarily in English.

Romania

Poland

Italy

Greenland

South Korea

Spain

Philippines



South Korea

Spain

Philippines



## WHY COLLECT STAMPS Review Quiz circle the correct answers

1.) Who persuaded the British government to issue postage stamps?

- a.) Ben Franklin      b.) Queen Victoria      c.) Sir Rowland Hill

2.) What is the first postage stamp called?

- a.) penny blue      b.) penny black      c.) penny red

3.) The hobby of stamp collecting is called

- a.) philately      b.) numismatics      c.) philanthropy

4.) Every country has to put the country name on its stamps.

True or False

5.) The first U.S. postage stamp has a picture of \_\_\_\_\_ on it.

- a.) Abraham Lincoln      b.) George Washington      c.) Ben Franklin

6.) Philately can teach you about the world.

True or False

7.) Where are these stamps from? Write the correct letter next to the country name.

You can do this!!!!

\_\_\_ Great Britain

\_\_\_ USA

\_\_\_ Iceland

\_\_\_ France

\_\_\_ Canada

A



B



C



D



E



# WHY COLLECT STAMPS

## Answer Key

- 1.) Penny
- 2.) Victoria
- 3.) USA stamp with man on moon, Australia stamp with children
- 4.) Benjamin Franklin
- 6.) Romania — baby chick , Poland—dinosaur, Greenland—ship,  
South Korea—flowers, Spain—coat of arms,  
Philippines—lighthouse

## **Review Quiz**    Answer Key

- 1.) c
- 2.) b
- 3.) a
- 4.) False
- 5.) c
- 6.) True
- 7.) Great Britain    **B**  
USA    **E**  
Iceland    **D**  
France    **A**  
Canada    **C**

The next lesson is

## **The Basics of Collecting**

*Coming Soon* ↓

Figuring out what stamp is from which country is like trying to solve a puzzle.

If you want to challenge yourself and learn how to identify more countries on stamps, do the lesson called

## **Foreign Stamp Challenge**

