Fun and Games

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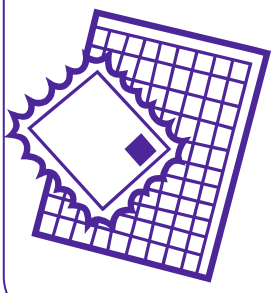

Written by Alexandra Robb,
Development Officer for the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies.

Stamp Bingo

Bingo cards made up with stamps on them instead of numbers.

Example bingo card:

You could use illustrations of stamps, or the actual stamps provided you have a number of copies of the same stamp and they are not valuable ones.
Arrange a random selection of stamps onto small cards. Remember the cards are like bingo cards - so think carefully about the combination of stamps on each card and the duplications.

For every different stamp used, you need a copy for the calling cards. It is useful if you can enlarge the illustration for this, so scan the stamp to produce a large copy.

Laminate the bingo and calling cards to make them last longer.

An alternative is to simply identify the stamps by country of issue - i.e. you call out France. The children see if their bingo card has a stamp from France on it. The stamps don't necessarily have to be the same but there should be a selection of countries. This is a good game to recognise the various country names and languages.

Counters can be used to cover the stamp on the children's cards.

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Sorting Game

This sorting or classification game is a fun way to sort groups of stamps. In this example it's used to classify the animals into mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates.

You need a quantity of mixed animal stamps. These are placed in a large pile on a table or tray. You also need title cards for each of the groups (see below).

The children have to collect a stamp and place it in the correct group. This can be a fun relay game if the children are put into teams. The pile of stamps in the middle of the room and the title cards at one end. The first member of each team runs to collect a stamp and then runs to place it in the group. Each member of the team continues in relay. The first team to complete sits down. Points can be awarded for speed and for each stamp correctly placed.

For younger children, they could mount the stamp on the correct animal shape representing the group. For example, see the pictures below:

mammal

fish

bird

reptile

amphibian

invertebrate

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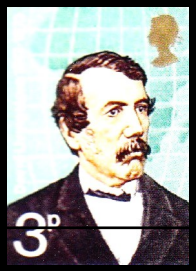
Memory Game

A version of the card game, pelmanism.

The pack of cards is spread out face down and the children try to turn up pairs with the same stamp. If a match is found the pair is removed. If unmatched, they are turned face down again and play continues.

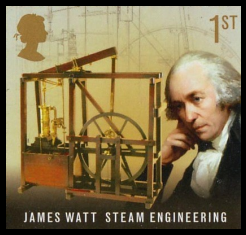
Cards are made from scans of stamps, printed out and laminated. Each card will have to be made the same size, and with the same backing so they look identical when face down. You will need two cards for each stamp.

The cards could be made from a variety of stamps or on a particular theme or country. The cards could also contain some interesting facts which have to be read out when matched to enhance the learning. See the following example on 'Famous Scots'.



David Livingstone, one of the greatest explorers of Africa.

Rabbie Burns, Scotland's most famous poet.



James Watt, acknowledged as the 'Father of the Steam Engine'.

Fun and Games

Bits and Pieces

Guess the animals shown in these stamps.

Answers:

1. white rhinoceros - *(recognised as the white rhino by the wide mouth)*
2. common zebra
3. koala
4. pygmy hippo
5. Malayan tapir
6. tiger

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Pin the Head on the Stamp

A variation of pin the tail on the donkey. An enlarged illustration of a British stamp with a separate cut-out of the Queens head. Blindfolded, the children have to position the Queen's head in the correct place.

You need to be able to scan and enlarge the stamp or illustration of the stamp to at least A3 or even A2 size. Again enlarge a picture of the Queen's head and cut out separately. Mount all on sturdy card or attach to a pin board.

<u>Interesting Fact</u> - Great Britain issued the first postage stamp and therefore British stamps do not have the country name on them. All British stamps have the reigning monarch's head on them. The first stamp was the Penny Black[1] issued in 1840 with the head of Queen Victoria.

[1] Penny Black: The world's first stamp, issued on 6th May 1840 during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Ideas

Fun and Games

Guess the number of stamps

Fill a large jar with stamps. *(The organiser of the competition will need to know the exact number.)* Everyone has to guess how many stamps are in the jar. The winner is the person who has guessed the exact number or closest to that number in the jar.

If you wish to raise money then there could be a cost per guess.

Design a Stamp

Choose a theme and the children design a stamp. The design should be on A5 size paper, not stamp size!

Guidelines for designing stamps:

- do not use any more than 6 colours
- design to be kept simple
- remember that if produced as a stamp it would have to be reduced to stamp size and detailed drawings would not be clearly seen.

If you have the funds you can then get the winning stamp(s) produced in a miniature sheet and use as labels or cinderellas[1] .

The following page shows some examples.

[1] cinderella: a stamp like label produced by others and not by the government postal service.

Ideas

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Competition run by ASPS[1] for the Millennium, 2000

Competition run by ASPS and Girlguiding, 2003

Competition run by the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, 2012
Supported by ASPS

[1] ASPS: Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies

Fun and Games

Exhibitions

Displays/Exhibitions

Collages, posters, stamp pages can be displayed. Using stamps, postcards, memorabilia, specimens and objects all relevant to the theme.

You can scan the stamps and enlarge to make posters. See example sheets on Australia and China. 3D posters were created by adding specimens and objects.

Trails can be developed using stamps and/or stamps can be hidden around the room to find.

National Exhibitions

There are a number of exhibitions and competitions in the UK. Find out more from the following websites:

http://www.ukphilately.org.uk

http://www.planetstamp.co.uk/cafe/cafe_specials.html

For first time entries, it is a good idea to enter the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS), one page competition. Entries are expected around February/March each year and the exhibition is held in April at their Scottish Congress[1]. Details available from their website:

www.scottishphilately.co.uk

Please note that there are strict rules on the layout, mounting of the stamps and writing up for these competitions. Some of the more elaborate pages and designs found in this pack would **not** be suitable for the national competitions. Ideas and help can be found on the planetstamp website. (See Resource Pack—Competitions)

Even if you have no entries, anyone interested can attend Congress, see the displays and visit the dealers.

[1] Scottish Congress: The Association organises an annual Congress every Spring. Congress is attended by several hundred collectors from all over Scotland and further afield. Many dealers have stalls at the event. There are also National Exhibitions and Junior Competitions held. It is held at Dewar's Centre, Perth.

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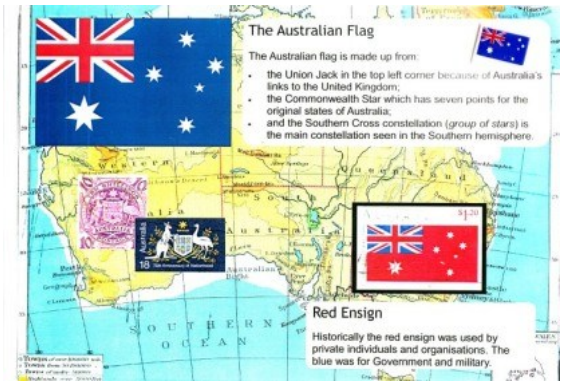
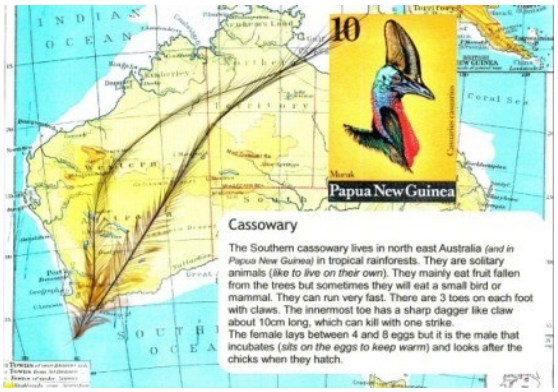
Displays

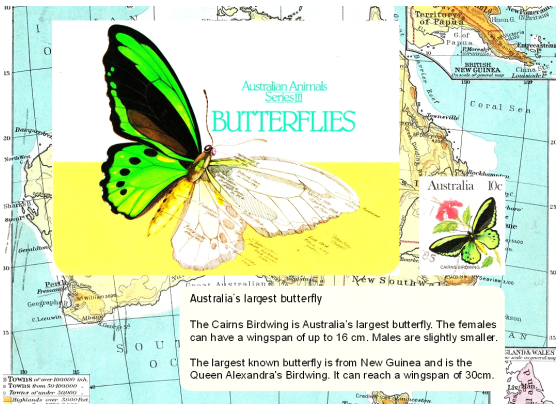
Australian Display

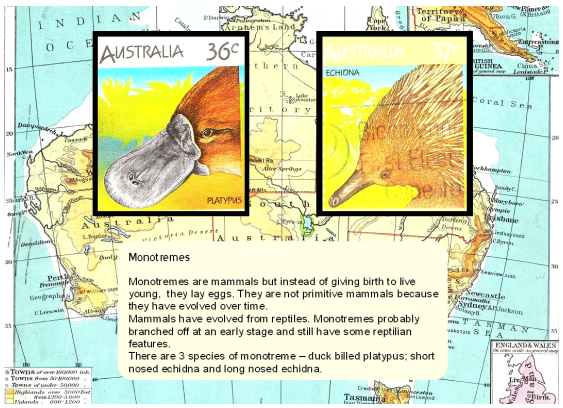
Pictures and stamps were scanned. Once printed, additional items such as eucalyptus leaves, cassowary feathers and small plastic flag were added.

Actual size of each poster - A4.









Displays

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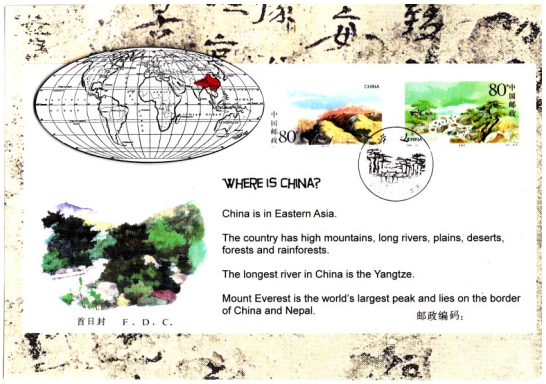
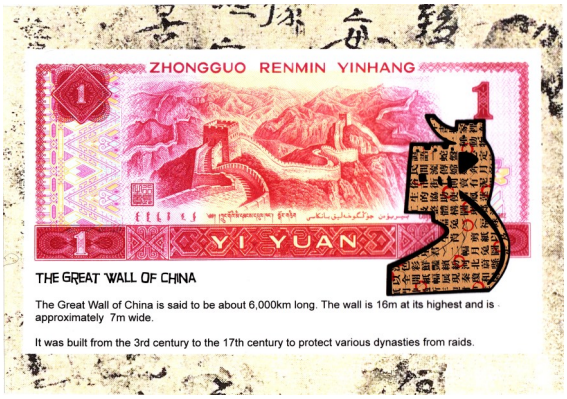
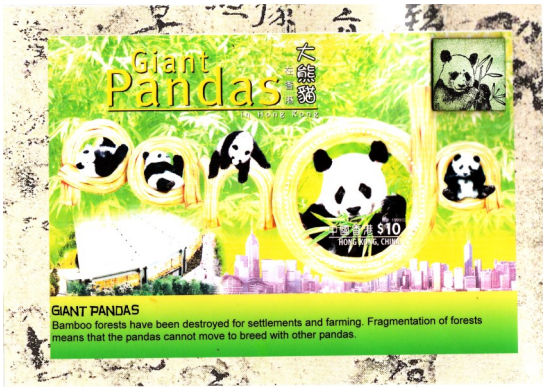
China Display

Pictures and stamps were scanned. Once printed, additional items such as 3D Great Wall Design, bamboo tags, calligraphy pen and ink were added.

Actual size of each poster - A4.