

Junior Stamp Club: Program plans, March-November, 2006

(In previous months, children were provided an introduction to stamp collecting, soaking stamps, use of tongs and hinges and how to mount stamps. More detailed programs for March-November follow. Note no meetings are scheduled during the summer.)

March/06

Main topic: Topicals on pages

Show and Tell: Reports from back home on items of interest to collectors

Main Activity: Display of topical stamps (from packet) on squared pages. 30 stamps per packet.

1. Hand out list of common topicals to each child.
2. Review the list of topicals and what they include.
3. Ask children to select two of their favorites.
4. Explain plan to select one for displaying today and one to take home.
5. Hand out squared pages.
6. Children select packet of topical they desire most.
7. Children display stamps on squared pages.

Points and prizes: Explain and let children view prizes and buy prizes.

Homework: Take home a packet of 30 topical stamps, along with a squared page or a stock page and return to the next meeting with a completed page.

April/06

Main topic: Great Britain stamps, with reference to U.S.A. and Canadian stamps.

Show and Tell: Show page of topical on page displayed on squared paper at home. (Note points.)

Main activity: Display of Great Britain stamps on squared pages.

1. Hand out (a) four sample Gr. Br. Stamps, including current 2nd and 1st stamps and a current pence stamp, and an old sterling stamp; (b) one U.S.A. stamp; (c) one current commemorative Canadian stamp. Ask children to keep the Canadian stamp for the next session.
2. Ask what's missing on these stamps (Answer: no statement of country).
3. Explain why no country is listed (Privilege because of issuing the first postage stamp).
4. Explain meaning of 1st and 2nd.
5. Explain difference between sterling and decimal currency and symbols on stamps.
6. Refer to the U.S.A. stamp and ask about similarities and differences in stamps of Great Britain, U.S.A. and Canada.

7. Distribute squared pages.
8. Distribute a selection of 30 Great Britain stamps for children to display on squared pages.
9. Children display stamps on squared page.

Homework: Children select 30 U.S.A. stamps to display on squared page at home.

May/06

Main topic: Canadian stamps

Show and Tell: Show the page of U.S.A. stamps displayed on a squared page at home. (Note points.)

Main Activities: (a) Information about Canadian stamps; (b) view of tagging on Canadian stamps; (c) display of Canadian stamps on squared pages.

1. Hand out a selection of Canadian stamps to each child. Stamps to include a current commemorative (for children who lost theirs), a current or recent definitive and an old commemorative or definitive without tagging.
2. Explain the difference between commemorative and definitive stamps.
3. Let children use an ultraviolet lamp to see tagging on stamps (Caution against looking directly at the light.).
4. Discuss what they saw and explain tagging and its purpose.
5. Children select 30 different Canadian stamps to display on a squared page.

Planning ahead: Enquire about any countries children have heard about in Europe. Explain the plan to deal with various other countries in Europe in September and that it will be an opportunity to learn some geography and history that will help in school. Countries will include Germany, the Netherlands and Italy.

Points and Prizes: Children view and make purchases.

Homework: (1) Hand out a map of Europe to each child, and explain the need to keep this safe for looking at when collecting stamps from countries in Europe. Ask children to write down some information about two countries in Europe and bring this back to the September meeting. (2). Ask if any children remembered any mail coming to their home or mail box without any stamps on it. Ask what they saw in the upper right hand corner of the envelope. Show a Business Reply Envelope. Ask children to look for any mail that has no stamps on it (“Stampless mail”) and keep any envelopes or cards or small package wrappers and cut around any printed information on large parcel wrappings or cartons. Demonstrate this procedure. Explain that we will be dealing with this kind of mail late in the fall, but that this gives children time to find something they can use at that time.

September/06

Main topic: European countries and their stamps

Show and Tell: Children report on what they know about European countries. Award points.

Provide: Packets of European stamps and specially designed single pages for displaying one stamp from each of several European countries.

Activities:

1. Distribute packets of European stamps to each child.
2. Ask children to examine their map of Europe, and mention countries and their locations on the map.
3. Ask children to place (don't mount) stamps of each country as it is mentioned, on the square for that country
4. Review the country name and the English translation for each country as it is mentioned.
5. Ask children to display the European stamps on their squared pages.

Planning ahead: Explain the plan in the fall to deal with edges of Canadian stamps, including perforations (from holes formed by stamps printed together on a sheet) and straight edges.

Homework: (a) Ask each child to look for two Canadian stamps to bring to the meeting next month: a stamp with at least one perforated side and a stamp with sides without any perforations, i.e., a stamp with four straight edges. Ask them to soak and dry any stamps they find so that they can be ready to place on a page at the meeting. (b) Ask children to continue looking for stampless mail and save it for the November meeting. Show a Business Reply Envelope again.

October/06

Main topic: Stamp edges

Show and Tell: Children report on and show their stamps with and without perforations. Award points.

Need: Perforation gauges.

Provide: Packets of stamps with different edges, as follows: (1) one perforated edge; (2) two corner perforated edges; (3) two opposite perforated edges (coil stamps); (4) four perforated edges; (5) two stamps attached with a common perforation; (6) a stamp with an irregular shape; (7) a triangle stamp.

Activities:

1. Distribute packets of stamps and specially designed page for displaying stamps with different edges.
2. Ask children to locate the stamps as they're mentioned with various kinds of edges.
3. Ask children to examine the size of perforations on the attached stamps, and then on one of the single stamps, and to report what they find.

4. Explain differences in perforation sizes.
5. Explain how perforated edges occur.
6. Explain how four straight edges occur (Die cut process).
7. Children display stamps on specially designed sheets according to the kinds of perforated edges and straight edges, using their own stamps, when available.
8. Explain that there are some stamps with simulated (or “pretend”) perforations, and how and why these occur.
9. Explain the plan to deal with stampless mail next month. Show a Business Reply Envelope again.
10. Show samples of possible items for Christmas gifts related to stamp collecting, and explain their use and value and their cost.

Homework: (a) Distribute list of Holiday gift suggestions for stamp collectors; (b) Ask children to continue looking for stampless mail.

November/06

***Main topic:* Stampless mail**

Show and Tell: Children report on their findings of stampless mail. Award points.

Need: Equipment for cutting squares from mail items.

Provide: Specially prepared sheets for displaying corners of stampless mail.

Activities:

1. Hand out sheets for displaying corners.
2. Explain the different kinds of stampless mail, and indicate who pays for the postage and when, why this kind of mail exists, and why Canada Post encourages people to use postage labels for parcels.
3. Help children cut corners from any mail pieces they brought to the meeting and help them mount them on the prepared sheet.
4. Explain the plan to add items to this page in the future, and that leaders and children with extra copies of any variety could bring their copies to the club and give them to children who need them, and that children can also look for other varieties to mount on their sheets.

Homework: Distribute list of Holiday gift suggestions for stamp collectors.

**Brantford Junior Stamp Club
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