



Stamp Collecting Merit

1. Obtain and sort 250 stamps by countries. Your collection should have stamps from at least fifteen countries.
2. Make a list of all the stamps in your collection. For each stamp, include the following information:
 - a. Country of origin
 - b. Date of issue
 - c. Face value
 - d. Present value
 - e. Noted flaw
 - f. Purpose of issue (The purpose for the production of the stamp may include an anniversary, event, or a celebrity. However, some stamps may have just been produced for a general purpose. Note this as well.)

Make a chart similar to the example below on separate sheets of paper and then insert them into your workbook.

Stamp #	Country of origin	Date of issue	Face value	Present value	Noted flaw	Purpose of issue
1						
2						

3. Define the following terms:

- a. Cachet: _____

- b. Centering: _____

- c. Face value: _____

- d. Faults: _____

- e. Flaws: _____

- f. Forgery: _____



Leader's Initials
Date _____

Leader's Initials
Date _____

- g. Hinges: _____

- h. Overprint: _____

- i. Perforations: _____

- j. Philatelist: _____

- k. Proofs: _____

- l. Scott catalog number: _____

- m. Space filler: _____

- n. Specimens: _____

- o. Surcharges: _____

- p. Tropicalization: _____

- q. Watermark: _____

Leader's Initials
Date _____

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4. Obtain a stamp album and hinge stamps into the album. Maintain separate sheets for each country of origin.
5. Describe and demonstrate to your commander the use of at least three tools used for stamp collecting. The list below is not exhaustive.
 - a. Tongs or tweezers: _____

 - b. Magnifying glass: _____

 - c. Hinges: _____

 - d. Watermark fluid: _____

 - e. Perforation gauge: _____



f. Water _____

6. Make a list of five things philatelists look for when collecting stamps. In addition, list and define gum conditions and stamp appearance terminology.

Things collectors look for to determine the value or collectibility of a stamp:

Gum conditions: _____

Stamp appearance: _____

7. Write a 250-word essay on the history of stamp collecting.

Write your essay on a separate sheet of paper and insert it in your workbook.

8. Make a time line of at least twenty significant dates in U.S. postal history.

Make your time line on a separate sheet of paper and insert it in your workbook.

9. Provide an example or picture of each of the following:

- a. Perforated and imperforate stamps
- b. Mint and used stamps
- c. Sheet, booklet, and coil stamps
- d. Overprint and surcharge
- e. Cancellation
- f. First day cover

Include these samples on separate sheets of paper and insert them into your workbook.

Leader's Initials
Date _____



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Leader's
Initials

Date _____

10. Do ONE of the following:

- a. With an experienced collector, visit a stamp club, stamp show, or store specializing in stamp collecting. Write a 100-word report on what you saw and learned.
- b. Read a pamphlet, book, or article about stamp collecting. Write a 100-word summary of the article. Provide the original article for your commander, along with your summary.
- c. Write a 100-word report on a famous stamp; include a picture of the stamp.
- d. Give an oral report (at least three minutes long) to the group about your collection.
- e. Write a 100-word report describing at least three ways to preserve stamps. Be sure to cite your sources.

If you choose an option with a report, be sure to insert it into your workbook.

