

**PHILATELY FUN PACK
FOR TEACHERS AND KIDS
AGES 7-9
PHILATELY MASTERS**



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I. VOCABULARY BUILDING

A STAMP COLLECTOR'S GLOSSARY

Alexander chats to the museum's curator but he struggles to understand what she means because he is still learning the lingo. Could you help him match the words below, so he knows what the museum's curator is talking about? Remember to check out the etymological clues that will help you trace tricky words back to their roots.

Philately



- Someone who collects or studies stamps.

Philatelist



- A stamp that has been through the postal service during mail but was not cancelled, so bears no postal mark.

Commemorative stamps



- The collection and study of stamps and related materials. In Greek, *Philos* in means dear, beloved, *Ateleia* means tax free.

Used/Cancelled stamp



- An addressed envelope or postcard typically bearing a cancelled stamp.

Mint stamp



- A stamp that has been used and bears a postal mark.

Uncancelled stamp



- Copies identical to the stamps already in one's collection. These are collected for swapping with other philatelists. This word comes from Latin, where *duplicare* means to double.

Cover



- Adhesive, sticky substance on the back of a stamp that enables stamps to be stuck on envelopes.

Duplicates



- Special stamps issued to mark an anniversary. To commemorate comes from the Latin word *memorare* to remind of.

Gum



- A stamp that is unused. It is in perfect condition, has its original gum and is uncanceled. It comes from the Latin for *moneta* meaning coin because the Romans coined money in the temple of Juno.

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II. CREATIVE WRITING

TURN A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE INTO SOMETHING MAGICAL

Read the Author's Note, entitled "A Note About This Story," in the back matter. Isn't what happened in Alexander's story more magical than what happened in real life to the character who inspired Nonno? Writing can be therapeutic because it can elevate a terrible experience and spin it into something moving and inspiring for others.

During circle time, share with your classmates an upsetting event you experienced:

- What happened?
- When did it happen?
- How did it make you feel?
- Why are you still upset about it?
- If you could go back in time, is there anything you would do or say differently?
- What would the new outcome be? And how does thinking of this new outcome make you feel?

Write a short story of no more than 600 words based on this upsetting experience. Make sure something wonderful happens instead!

Top Tip! Remember how sad Nonno was before Alexander persuaded him? Emotions have the power to trigger transformation. So be sure to lean into emotion in your story.

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III. DETECTIVE HISTORIES

UNEARTHING STORIES ABOUT WELL-KNOWN PHILATELISTS

Some philatelists are famous people. Alexander is learning all about them. Can you help him with his detective work and research the history of the stamps mentioned in these philatelists' collections?

A. KING CHARLES III

British King George V's grandfather, Prince Albert, introduced him to stamps as a boy. Someone working for him once commented that a Mauritius 1847 two pence blue (a rare stamp, allegedly due to a printing error where "Post Office" replaced "Post Paid") had been purchased for a record sum and that only a fool would pay that amount. The future King, then a prince, admitted to being that fool! Queen Elizabeth II inherited her grandfather, King George V's collection and added to it. This collection is now in the hands of King Charles III. Nicknamed the Royal Philatelic Collection, it is one of the largest in the world in terms of breadth and depth and is currently valued at 100m GBP.

Could you scan the QR code to help Alexander research the Mauritius Blue and answer the questions below?



1. According to the legend, whose ball invitations were responsible for rushing a second, incorrect, set of Mauritius Blues to press?
2. Mauritius was a Dutch, French and British colony at various points in time. Back in 1847, when the Mauritius Blue was printed, which country ruled Mauritius? And how can you tell just from looking at the stamp?
3. How much is the Mauritius Blue allegedly worth? How much does that equate to in your own currency?

C. 1. Eight; 2. A Night at the Opera; 3. 1977

B. 1. Monaco; 2. France; 3. His right hand has six fingers instead of five!

A. 1. Lady Gomm's - she was the wife of Governor Sir William Gomm; 2. Mauritius was a British Colony in 1847. The silhouette designed on the stamp is that of Queen Victoria, Britain's ruler at the time, the same monarch featured on the Penny Black; 3. Approximately 1 million Euros

Answers

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B. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT (1882-1945)

Young Franklin started his collection as a child after contracting polio following his participation at Boy Scout Camp in 1921. His stamp hobby filled his days after polio left him unable to walk. His stamps travelled everywhere with him from school to university and the White House. He was elected in 1933 during the Great Depression and was U.S. President for an unprecedented four terms. He died at age 63 in 1945 on the eve of military victory over Germany in Europe and months from victory over Japan in the Pacific. Stamps brought him much needed relaxation and joy. In this stamp, he can be seen metaphorically “putting the world in order” one stamp at the time.

Could you scan the QR code to help Alexander answer the following questions:



1. Which city state is this stamp from?
2. Geographically, which country borders this city state to the north, east and west?
3. This stamp is also a well-known example of a design error. Examine Roosevelt’s hands. What is odd about them?

C. FREDDIE MERCURY (1946-1991)

The flamboyant lead singer of rock band Queen inherited his father’s passion for stamps and is thought to have collected between the ages of nine and twelve. Freddie’s father worked for the British Colonial Office and Freddie, born Farrokh Bulsara, was born in Tanzania and spent his early life in Zanzibar. Freddie’s collection was auctioned in 1993 with proceeds going to the Aids charity set up in the singer’s memory. In 2020, a collection of stamps featuring Queen was issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the band. The stamps featured album covers including Queen (II) (1974), Sheer Heart Attack (1974) and A Night at the Opera (1975).

Could you scan the QR code to help Alexander answer the following questions?



1. How many stamps in the series feature album covers?
2. Which album included the famous hit song “Bohemian Rhapsody”?
3. In what year was the album that included the famous hit song “We Will Rock You” released?

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IV. ATTENTION TO DETAIL

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

The author's father, who inspired the character of Nonno, completed his Italian collection of stamps, *La Repubblica Italiana*, with the Gronchi Rosa – a stamp she remembers her mother gifting him for his 40th birthday because, in her seven-year old eyes, an envelope seemed like the least exciting gift in the world.



Nonno too has the rare Gronchi Rosa, but Alexander wants to check if Nonno has all the stamps in the Gronchi series in his collection. Can you help him check? Great! Then, read “It’s Your Turn” in the back matter and answer the following questions:

1. If the Gronchi Rosa is part of a triptych, a set of three stamps, why are there more than three stamps in this series?
2. Where is this series of stamps from? What two clues tell you that?
3. What does this series commemorate?
4. Can you help Alexander guess why the Gronchi Rosa is rare?
5. Can you spot all the stamps in the series among the pages of this picture book? If so, where are they?
6. Can you spot the differences between all the stamps in the series?

Now you have had some practice, could you help Alexander spot the difference with a different set of stamps?

7. The 1965 3d Post Office Tower stamp is a British stamp issued to commemorate the operational opening of the Post Office Tower. Colour printing such as in the photogravure process involves different colours applied separately and with a different roller.

Scan the QR code to take a look at the two stamps. Could you help Alexander spot the difference between them? Can you help him make an educated guess about what might have happened?



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DID YOU KNOW?

There are many types of errors that can take place when it comes to printing and perforating stamps, but design errors refer to the stamp's artwork.

- 8. Alexander loves these design mistake stories. Which is your favourite and why?
- 9. Alexander enjoyed delving into these extra facts about how stamps are made or manufactured. Scan the QR code to find out more. Which is the most interesting fact for you?



7. Of the three colours used for this stamp, the olive-yellow ink roller failed to print. Because of this, there is a spectacular difference between the correct version with the commemorative tower and the incorrect version without.



- 1. There are four stamps in the series instead of three. Why? Given the contour of Peru was geographically incorrect, it had to be amended. The correction was reprinted in grey.
- 2. This series is from Italy. The Italian wording is one clue and the highlighted contour of Italy is the other.
- 3. The Gronchi Rosa commemorates the President of the Repubblica Italiana, Giovanni Gronchi's state visit to Peru in 1961. Gronchi was the surname of the President of the Repubblica Italiana at the time. It is pink and rosa means pink in Italian. The Gronchi Rosa is part of a set of three stamps commemorating Gronchi's state visits to three Latin American countries: Argentina, Uruguay and Peru.
- 4. Soult after stamps often have low print runs, meaning not many were printed, because they were mistakes and were soon corrected.

Answers