

THE QUEST

#1 GET STAMPS

Cool stamp collections are not born...they are built! You can construct one...if you know how. To begin, gather as many stamps as you can. Ask everyone you know to save stamps for you.

WHERE TO GET STAMPS

Mailboxes Many people get stamps every day on their mail. Ask family and friends to save them for you.

Post Office You can buy new stamp issues here.

Stamp Dealers You can buy older stamps here. Look in the Yellow Pages under "Stamps for Collectors" or search the American Philatelic Society's directory at http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_DealerMembers.htm

The Internet: Philatelic web sites on the Internet sell stamps and stamp collecting supplies. Some offer **free stamps**.

Free Stamps for Kids

P.O. Box 10654

Phoenix, AZ 85064

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Meadows/8406/free.htm>

About.com Free Stamp Sites (includes ISWSC offer)

Michael Crump

ISWSC Stamp Offer

P.O. Box 57

Yorba Linda, CA 92885-0057

E-mail: stampguy47@aol.com

http://www.geocities.com/iswsc1/iswsc_free.html

The Stampaholic

3 Putnam Court

Greenwich, CT 06830

<http://freeusastamps.tripod.com>

Family Write to relatives about stamp collecting. It will make them happy and they will probably write back using cool stamps.

Pen Pals Find another kid who likes to collect stamps and become pen pals.

World Pen Pals, PO Box 337, Saugerties, NY 12477

<http://www.world-pen-pals.com/>

Mention that you were referred by the APS and you'll receive dozen foreign canceled stamps!

Vacationers Ask friends who go on vacation to mail you a postcard.

Trade When you have more than one of the same stamp, trade with a friend to get new ones. Check for local stamps clubs in your area. Adults should also investigate (send a SASE):

Stamp Exchange Club Directory, c/o V. Pawlak, PO Box 1306,

Phoenix, AZ 85001-1306

<http://Members.aol.com/djs127>

Businesses Ask local businesses to collect incoming mail envelopes with stamps for you to get. Teachers: Approach businesses like utility companies with large mail volumes.

HOW TO REMOVE USED STAMPS FROM ENVELOPES

1. **DON'T PEEL IT!** Cut or tear the envelope around the stamp.
2. Float the stamp face up in room temperature water. Soak for one hour or until the stamp separates from the paper. (Note self-adhesive stamps take longer.) Then rinse the stamp to remove any left over gum.
3. Lay the stamp face down on white paper towels. Cover with more paper and press flat under something heavy for several hours until dry. (Use plastic to protect books.)

DID YOU KNOW?

- You can buy bags of inexpensive stamps from some dealers and at stamp shows.
- Some stamp dealers will mail "approvals." You get to look at the stamps, buy what you want, and return the rest – undamaged of course.
- For more tips on finding stamps and soaking stamps, see the APS brochures "10 Low-Cost Ways To Collect Start Collecting Stamps" and "Three Tips for Stamp Collectors."