

Silly Stamp Stories

This mad libs game is fun for all, but it works especially well as an icebreaker for groups. You'll use stamps to write introductions for each participant. When you're done, you can take turns reading them out loud.

What you'll need:

Three or more participants.

The game works best in groups of around 6-14. Smaller groups will need each person to write on the same pages more than once.

A bunch of stamps – at least 12 per person.

For best results, use a bulk lot of used stamps. These should be stamps you are okay with giving to the participants to keep.

A set of game pages (3 pages per set) for each participant

Pencils or pens

Mounts or hinges

How to play:

Phase 1

- The game leader should pass out the first page (only the first page) of the game to each participant.
- Invite all participants to pick twelve stamps out of the supply. This can be fun to search through a pile together!
- Follow the instructions on the bottom of the page – sign their name and mount each stamp next to a number on the page.

Phase 2

- Once all participants have mounted their twelve stamps, participants should sit together either in a line or in a circle/around a table. The game leader then passes out the second page.
- Each participant should follow the instructions on the bottom of the page – sign their name and pass it, along with their first page, to the person sitting next to them. (All participants pass in the same direction, depending on the seating arrangements.)
- Follow the next instructions on the bottom of the page – look at the stamp on the first page and choose an appropriate word to describe it on the second page. Some stamps will be easier to pick a word for than others. You might need to get creative!
- If you *absolutely* cannot think of a word for the stamp, skip to the next stamp and ask the next person in the rotation to fill in what you skipped.
- Once you've written your word, pass the pages together to the next person in the line (new pages should also be passed to you.)
- Repeat, each person filling one blank and passing it on, until all twelve blanks are filled.

Phase 3

- Return both pages to the original participant named at the top.
- The game leader will pass out the third and final game page.
- Each participant will follow the instructions on the bottom of the page – use each of the twelve words written on the second page to fill in the blanks on the third page.

If you'd like, you can all take turns reading your finished introductions to the group. Optionally, you can give awards for the silliest or the nicest introductions. You can also talk among the group about why you chose specific stamps, or why you described them how you did. Have fun and enjoy playing with stamps together!

Examples

	<p>Name an action happening on this stamp. Use the form of a verb ending in -ing.</p> <p><i>Flying</i> (the seagull is flying); <i>Sitting</i> (the umbrella is sitting); <i>Crashing</i> (the waves are crashing); <i>Walking</i> (the footprints indicate someone was walking)</p>
	<p>Name an action happening on this stamp. Use the form of a verb without -ing.</p> <p><i>Grow</i> (the pear grows); <i>Pick</i> (the pear is ready to be picked); <i>Eat</i> (a person will eat the pear); <i>Paint</i> (someone painted the picture of the pear)</p>
	<p>Name a thing on this stamp. What is pictured on it?</p> <p><i>Yogi Berra</i> (the person on the stamp); <i>Baseball</i> (the subject of the stamp); <i>Hat</i> (what he's wearing); <i>Clouds</i> (in the background)</p> <p>Note: For used stamps, you could also say <i>Postmark</i> or <i>Cancel</i>.</p>
	<p>Describe this stamp or the thing it pictures with an adjective.</p> <p><i>Blue</i> (the color of the stamp); <i>Serious</i> (Washington looks serious); <i>Patriotic</i> (Washington was the President of the US); <i>Inexpensive</i> (5c value); <i>Mint</i> (the stamp is unused)</p>
	<p><i>Furry</i> (the fox is furry); <i>Educational</i> (the stamp tells you this is a Red Fox); <i>Wide-eyed</i> (the fox is staring);</p> <p>Note: You can also use objective adjectives such as <i>Cute</i>, <i>Ugly</i>, <i>Boring</i>, or <i>Fun</i></p>
	<p>Name a place associated with this stamp.</p> <p><i>United States</i> (flag of the United States); <i>On a flag pole</i> (where the flag literally is); <i>In school</i> (a place you might say the pledge of allegiance)</p> <p>Note: For used stamps, you could also say <i>On a letter</i> (where the stamp is); or the name of a <i>Town</i> on a postmark.</p>
	<p>Name a person on this stamp or associated with the stamp or its subject.</p> <p><i>A gardener</i> (someone who works with flowers); <i>My mom</i> (someone who likes flowers); <i>The American Topical Associate</i> (a nonprofit organization)</p>
	<p>Use a superlative to compare this stamp to the others on the page.</p> <p>This will most likely be an opinion and will depend on both the specific stamp and the other stamps on the page.</p> <p><i>Least Expensive</i> (stamp is only valued 1c); <i>Prettiest</i> (opinion); <i>Scariest</i> (opinion)</p>

Name _____

1. _____

7. _____

2. _____

8. _____

3. _____

9. _____

4. _____

10. _____

5. _____

11. _____

6. _____

12. _____

Instructions:

Write your name at the top of this page.

Pick twelve stamps and mount them next to a number on this page. You may place them in any order.

1. Name an action happening on this stamp. Please use the form of a verb ending in -ing. (ex. Smiling, flying, helping, sitting)

2. Name an action happening on this stamp. Please use the form of a verb *without* -ing. (ex. Talk, hold, stare, decorate)

3. Name a thing on this stamp. What is pictured on it? (ex. George Washington, butterflies, numbers, the Grand Canyon.)

4. Describe this stamp or the thing is pictures with an adjective. (ex. Intricate, scary, rare, delicious.)

5. Name an action happening on this stamp. Please use the form of a verb *without* -ing. (ex. Talk, hold, stare, decorate)

6. Name a place associated with this stamp. (ex. Indiana, outer space, a rabbit burrow.)

7. Name a person on this stamp; or a person/group associated with the stamp or its subject. (ex. The President of the US, Mark Twain, your brother.)

8. Describe this stamp or the thing is pictures with an adjective. (ex. Smart, fancy, terrible, green.)

9. Name a place associate with this stamp. (ex. On a river, the Eiffel Tower, far away.)

10. Use a superlative to compare this stamp to the others on the page. (ex. Best, most expensive, ugliest, worst condition.)

11. Name a thing on this stamp. What is pictured on it? (ex. Superman, flowers, engraving, a postmark.)

12. Describe this stamp or the thing is pictures with an adjective. (ed. Cute, weird, old, cheap)

Instructions:

Write your name at the top of this page.

Group it with your page of stamps and pass them both to the person next to you.

The person these pages are passed to will fill in the blank with a word based on the stamp next to that number. Once a word is filled in they will pass the papers again.

Repeat until all 12 blanks are filled; then return to the person whose name is at the top of the pages.

My Stamp Collecting Introduction.

I'm (name) _____ and I collect stamps. It's a wonderful hobby! I like to spend time

(1.) _____ with my stamps, and I also (2.) _____ with other collectors.

My favorite stamps are ones that have pictures of (3.) _____ on them. I like these best because they are (4.) _____. When I find the perfect new stamp to add to my collection, it makes me want to (5.) _____!

I take good care of my collection. Most collectors keep their stamps in albums, but I prefer to keep my stamps in (6.) _____. I got this idea from (7.) _____. I think it is a very (8.) _____ way to store my collection, but everyone is different. I have heard some collectors even keep their stamps in (9.) _____.

If you'd like to see my collection, I would be happy to show you my (10.) _____ stamps! I have one stamp with (11.) _____ that is my favorite. Once you see it, I'm sure you'll agree that my collection is very (12.) _____!

Instructions:

Write your name at the top of this page and in the first blank of the story.

Use the page of words returned to you to fill in the blanks. Write the word on the page into the blank of the same number.

Read the finished story to introduce yourself as a stamp collector!