

These are the steps you need to take to enter a stamp competition

HAVE A GO – SHOW! Competitions for young stamp collectors



Step 1 – Let's Get Started

- Decide whether to do a **THEME** (like Animals or Football) or a **COUNTRY** (somewhere you have visited perhaps).
- Find out the **RULES** e.g. use an album sheet or good quality A4 paper.
- Find out how many **PAGES** are wanted – 1, 4, 8, 12, 16 etc
- Check when the **CLOSING DATE** is.
- Find someone to **HELP** you who knows about stamps.

Step 2 – Let's Get Stamping

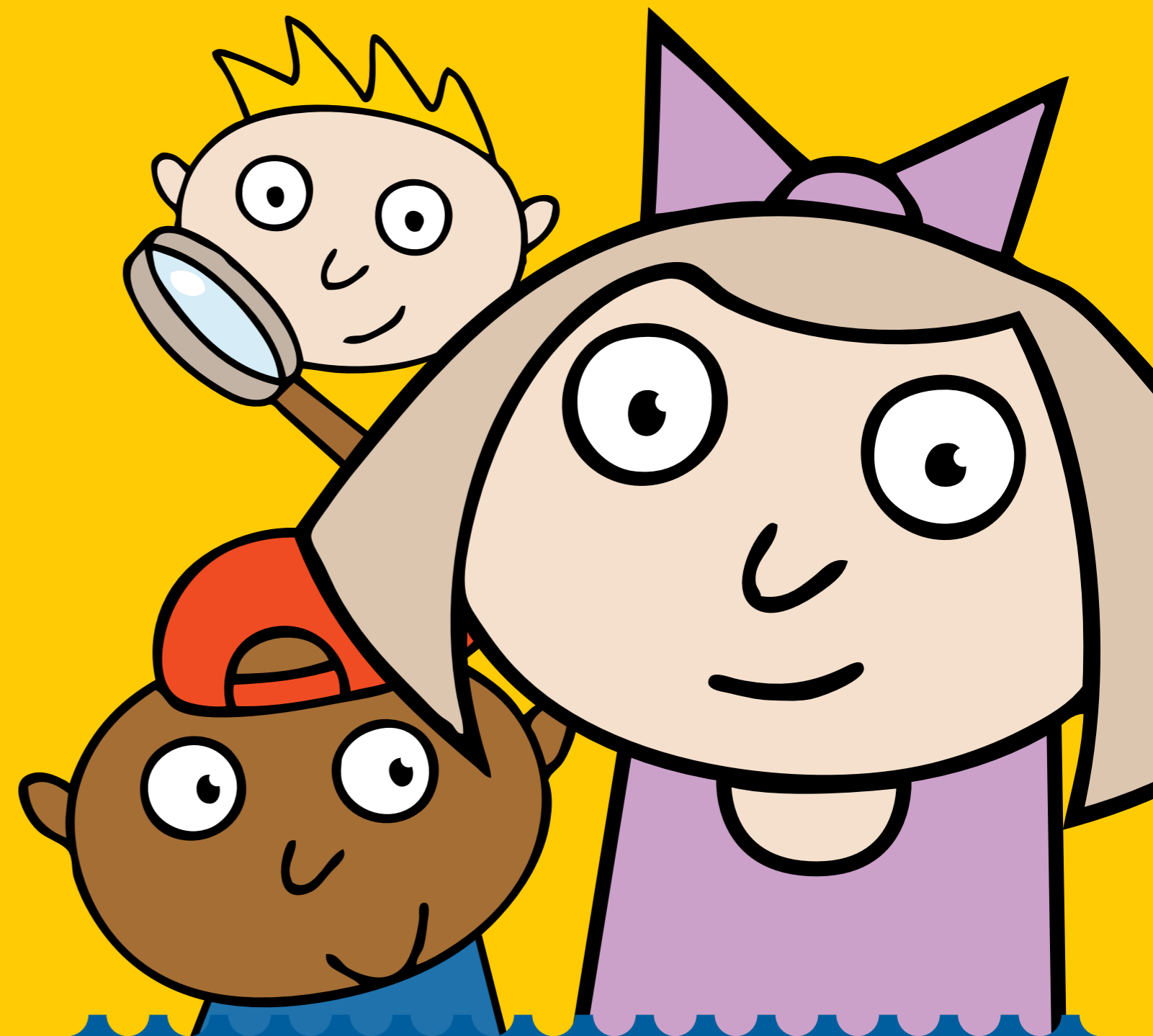
- Consider what **STAMPS** you already have and what others you will need.
- Try to find some **OTHER MATERIAL** too e.g. postmarks, covers, booklets or strips of stamps.
- Decide on a **TITLE** and **SECTIONS** (like chapters of a book).
- Try to tell a **STORY** with your stamps (the stamps are like the pictures).
- Find some more **INFORMATION** through books, the internet or stamp catalogue.
- Keep the information you write **BRIEF**.

Step 3 – Let's Get Stuck In

- Stamps should be in **GOOD CONDITION** (not damaged and with light postmarks).
- Try different types of **LAYOUT** in draft form.
- Don't overcrowd the pages.
- Decide on the **LETTERING** (computer, handwritten or stencils).
- Keep **HEADINGS** and **BORDERS** small.
- Avoid too much decoration
- Watch your **SPELLING**.
- Try to be **NEAT**.

Step 4 – LET'S GET SENDING

- Ask someone to **CHECK** your entry. You might need to **REDO** some pages.
- **NUMBER** the pages and put your name on the back of each sheet.
- Put each page in a clear **PROTECTOR** (plastic envelope). Do not fold them.
- Make sure you get your entry in well before the **DEADLINE**.



Now Let's Get Successful. Good Luck.

The UK Junior National Stamp Competitions

There are a number of stamp competitions held every year which are open to young stamp collectors across the UK. These give you the opportunity to show your collection to other people and you can win medals, trophies and prizes.

National One Page Competition

This is the best place to start for your first try at a junior stamp competition.

- Young people in Primary School, up to the age of 12 can create a one page mini-exhibit.
- The subject may vary each year. One recent competition was based on the philately of the living world which could include animals, birds, insects, the environment and much more.
- Stamps, covers and other philatelic items can be used.
- The page must have a title and either captions or a short write up that tells the story.
- There are three age groups – Up to 7; 8-9; 10-12 – with prizes being awarded in each age group.

Entries are displayed at the UK national stamp exhibition in London (Autumn Stampex).

The Stamp Active Competition

Once you have had a go at one page, you can progress to more pages.

- Each entry in the Stamp Active Competition can be of 4, 8, 12, 16 or 24 sheets.
- Each exhibitor may enter a maximum of two entries.
- Your entry can be of a theme (such as flowers, sports, animals, and so on) or of a particular country.
- You can include stamps, both used and unused, postcards, envelopes with stamps, stamps showing postmarks that apply to your theme, stamp booklets etc.
- In addition, you can now submit what is known as an 'open' entry. This will also be of a theme, but can include non-postal material (for example, such items as maps, photographs, sporting programmes). Such material should not occupy more than a quarter (by space) of your entry.

Entries are displayed at the UK national stamp exhibition in London (Spring Stampex).

Class A is 14 to 16 years of age, B is 12 and 13, C is 10 and 11, D is up to 9 years of age.

Prizes are awarded to the winners in each age group.



The British Youth Stamp Championships

This is the competition for the advanced collector who has gained experience in the other competitions.

The Championships are open to all young collectors up to the age of 21 normally resident in the United Kingdom. Entries can be submitted in one of two categories:

Traditional and Postal History – these entries are based on the stamps and/or postal history of a single country (or group of related countries);

Thematic – such entries should tell a story that follows a pre-determined Plan.

You can also enter an "Open" type of entry in this competition.

The number of sheets that can be entered depends on the age of the entrant (the age is taken as at 1 September). However, a minimum of 16 pages (sufficient to fill one frame) must be submitted, and it is highly recommended that entries be of multiples of 16 pages.

Entries are displayed at the UK national stamp exhibition in London (Autumn Stampex).

Where to get MORE HELP...

The Stamp Active Network has a WEBSITE with a Competitions section. Here you will find full details of the national stamp competitions including the RULES, ENTRY FORMS and EXAMPLES of winning entries from past competitions.

The website also has a more detailed guide on HAVE A GO – SHOW! You can download a copy from the Stamp Active website.

