



Language of Stamps
French



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Background

StampIT is the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies youth outreach programme where children can discover a world of stamps through interactive games and activities.

StampIT provides a number of ideas for teachers to use stamps across the curriculum. In particular, 'Language of Stamps' is a series of resources for studying language and culture.

French resources

Le jeu philatélique is a StampIT board game which can assist in French language learning.



How to Play

The game is played with the stamp cards provided or a bag of French postage stamps – these can be purchased from various stamp dealers. Ask for kiloware bags of French commemorative stamps. Teachers could also sort out stamps which have pictures representing words they wish to focus on. An extension to any of the game versions could be to set challenges to find out more about the image featured on the stamp – see additional information on pages 6-11.

Version 1: *Le jeu philatélique* – with stamp cards provided

Important notes –

- When printing the stamp cards, print out two copies of each (36 cards in total, 18 pairs). Make sure the back of the cards are indistinguishable. [If you purchase a set, they come on 1mm thick plastic and have a flag/map design on the back as shown in picture below.]
- The game board has been designed to be printed at A2 size. When using real stamps, as in Version 2, they can be placed in the theme squares but when using the cards you can place them either on an area outside of the board alongside the correct theme or in the other categories (*autres catégories*) boxes. If printing the game board at A2, the '*autres catégories*' boxes have been sized to exactly fit the cards printed at 70mm x 100mm.
- If you print the board and cards at any other size, you can still play the game but the game board is then mainly used for reference rather than placing of your stamps or cards.



To Play –

Players form two teams – red and blue team. Essentially they play a memory card game. The cards should be mixed and spread face down on a playing surface. First player turns two cards face up. If they match, they take these cards. If they do not match, the player turns them face down without changing their position so others can try to remember where each card is.

If they matched, the player attempts to give the English translation of the word on the card and suggest the correct theme this stamp would belong to from the lists written on the game board – history, animals, flowers, art, food or other. (*Autres catégories* can be for any other theme.) Then place the paired cards in the appropriate coloured '*autres catégories*' boxes for the team who found that pair – in this instance these boxes are being used to store the cards for that colour team, whatever the theme. (See notes above regarding size of cards and game board.)

When all cards have been paired, the team with the most cards on their side of the board are declared the winners.

How to Play

Version 2: *Le jeu philatélique* – played with real French stamps

Important notes –

- The game board has been designed to print out at A2 size. When using real stamps, they can be placed in the theme squares if the board is printed at this size.
- If you print the board at any other size, you can still play the game but the game board is then mainly used for reference rather than placing of your stamps.

To Play –

Players form two teams – red and blue team. Each team takes turns to randomly pick a stamp from a bag or box. Looking closely at the stamp, try to say in both French and English what is pictured on the stamp, then place it in the correct theme box.

The game can end when all stamps are sorted into themes or after a time limit. The winners are the team with the most stamps correctly placed in the theme boxes.

This is a great game for sorting a stamp collection into themes!

Version 3: *Le jeu philatélique* – played with real French stamps and a dice

To Play –

Players form two teams – red and blue team. Each team takes a turn to roll a dice. The player then has to find a stamp from a box of French stamps which would fit into the theme corresponding to that number on the dice. The map on the game board indicates the numbers associated with the themes.

1 – history

2 – animals

3 – flowers

4 – art

5 – food

6 – other

You may wish to open the themes up to include related categories – for example flowers could be all plants; food could include food and drink etc.

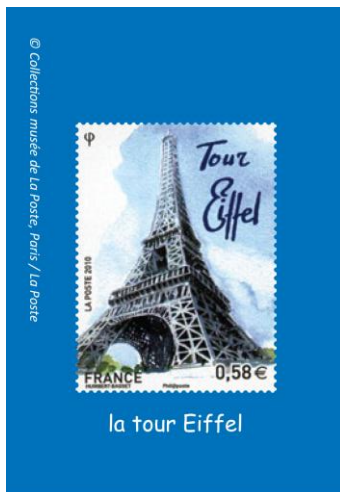
Looking closely at the stamp, try to say in both French and English what is pictured on the stamp.

The game ends when all stamps are sorted into themes or after a time limit.

Additional Information

An extension to any of the options, is to investigate more about the subjects portrayed on the stamps. Create a project around a chosen stamp, not only looking into the subject but also when and why the stamp was issued. The following information is for the stamp cards provided with this game.

L'histoire



La tour Eiffel - issued in 2010 and appears in a miniature sheet alongside other famous buildings in Paris. Three other stamps feature the Arc de Triomphe, Notre Dame Cathedral and Palais Garnier Opera House. A series of miniature sheets were issued celebrating European Capital cities.

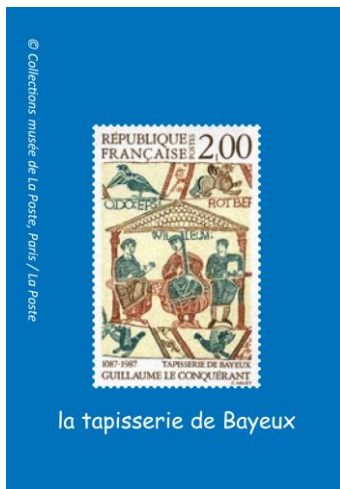
Suggested challenge –

Find out the following information about the Eiffel Tower:

Who designed it?

When was it built?

Why was it built?



La tapisserie de Bayeux – issued in 1987 to recognise the 900th anniversary of the death of William the Conqueror.

The Bayeux Tapestry is a 70m long embroidery telling the story of the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. William the Conqueror was the first Norman king of England and reigned from 1066 until his death in 1087.

Suggested challenge –

Find out about the Norman Conquest of England

Who was King Harold and what happened to him in 1066?



La château – issued in 2012 in a set of stamps entitled

‘Castles and Mansions’ which include – *Château Guillaume le Conquérant, Falaise; Château des Comtes de Foix; Château de Boulogne-sur-Mer; Château de Saumur; Château d’Anjony à Tournemire; Citadelle de Corte; Forteresse de Salses; Château d’If; Hôtel de Mauroy à Troyes; Maison Pfister à Colmar; Château du Taureau, Baie de Morlaix.* This stamp shows *Château de Pompadour.*

Suggested challenge –

Choose one of the castles listed above and find out more about who lived there, when and why it was built.

Additional Information

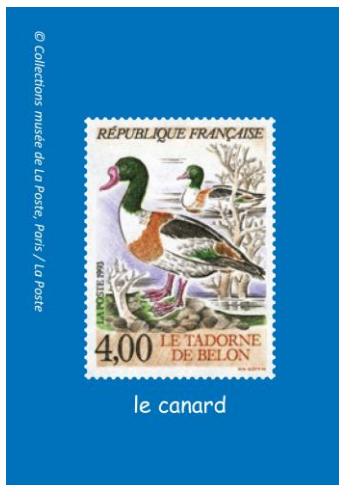
Les animaux



L'écureuil roux- issued in 2001 as part of an 'Animals of the Forest' set. The other stamps feature the roe deer (*le chevreuil*), stoat (*l'hermine*) and the west European hedgehog (*le hérisson*) which is also included in the stamp cards (see below).

Suggested challenge –

Find out more about the red squirrel and its distribution in France and Scotland.



Le canard – issued in 1993 as part of a 'Ducks' set of stamps. *Le canard* means duck but the species featured on this stamp is *le tadorne de belon* – the common shelduck. The other stamps feature the smew (*le Harle piette*), ferruginous duck (*le Fuligule nyroca*) and the red-breasted merganser (*le Harle huppé*).

Suggested challenge –

Find out more about the common shelduck and its distribution in France and Scotland.



Le hérisson – issued in 2001 as part of an 'Animals of the Forest' set. The other stamps feature the roe deer (*le chevreuil*), stoat (*l'hermine*) and the red squirrel (*l'écureuil roux*) which is also included in the stamp cards (see above).

Suggested challenge –

Find out more about the west European hedgehog and its distribution in France and Scotland.

Additional Information

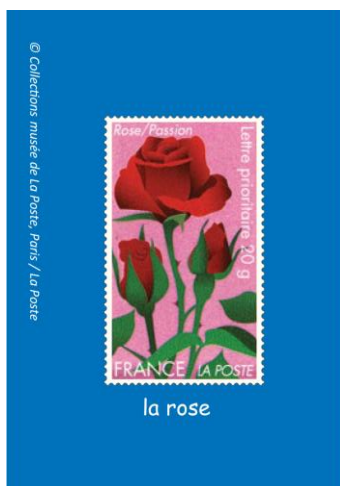
Les fleurs



L'iris – issued in 2012 in a set of flower stamps. The set includes peony, poppy, violet, dahlia, lily, tulip, carnation, daisy, lily of the valley, pansy and rose. The rose is also included in the stamp cards (see below). The iris is France's national flower, and a stylised version known as the *fleur-de-lis* is used for the country's national emblem.

Suggested challenge –

Where else do you find the fleur-de-lis?
What is the national flower of Scotland?



La rose - issued in 2012 in a set of flower stamps. The set includes peony, poppy, violet, dahlia, lily, tulip, carnation, daisy, lily of the valley, pansy and iris. The iris is also included in the stamp cards (see above).

Suggested challenge –

Which country has the rose as their national flower?



L'orchidée – issued in 2005 in a set of orchid stamps. The set includes the species – Paphiopedilum Mabel Sanders; Oncidium papilio and Paphinia cristata. The species Cypripedium calceolus is on this stamp with the French name – *Sabot de Venus* meaning shoe of Venus and the English common name is lady's slipper orchid.

Suggested challenge –

Find out the English translations of the other orchid stamps in this series:

- Orchidée papillon
- Orchidée “Mabel Sanders”
- Orchidée d'Aphrodite

Additional Information

L'art



La peinture – issued in 2013 in a set of stamps on paintings. The set includes paintings by Renoir, Cézanne, Monet, Van Rysselberghe, Lebourg, Pissarro, Boudin, Sisley, Van Gogh, Seurat and Gauguin. This stamp shows the painting ‘*Sur la plage*’ – On the beach, by Édouard Manet.

Suggested challenge –

Choose one of the artists listed above and find out more about them and their paintings.



La poterie – issued in 2015 in a set entitled ‘Art and Materials’. The set includes stamps with headings - *végétal, cuir, tissu, papier, métal, bois, verre, pierres précieuses, pierre* and *terre*. Examples of workmanship is shown on each stamp in the respective materials - plant, leather, fabric, paper, metal, wood, glass, precious stones, stone and earth/clay.

Suggested challenge –

Make a craft from one of the materials listed above.



La musique – issued in 1998 to recognise the 47th anniversary of the death of Henri Collet a French composer and music critic.

Suggested challenge –

Find out about other French musicians and composers. Find out about French popular music.

Additional Information

La nourriture

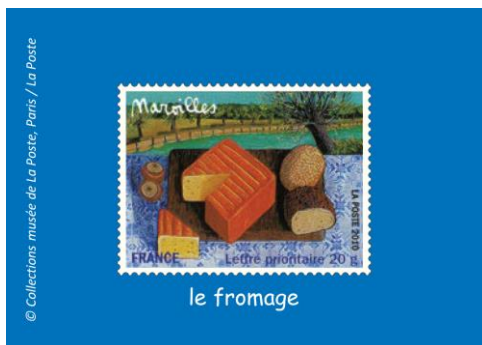


La crêpe – issued in 2003 in a set entitled ‘Regions of France’. The set includes stamps showing – *Les cabines de bain; La pêche au carrelet; Les vignobles de Champagne; Le camembert; Le foie gras; La pétanque; Guignol; Le cassoulet; La porcelaine* and *La crêpe*.

[Bathing cabins on the beach; the plaice fishery; the vineyards of Champagne; Camembert cheese; foie gras – a luxury food made from the liver of a duck or goose that has been especially fattened; a game of boules; Guignol – a main character in a French puppet show; a casserole dish; fine porcelain china and crepe pancakes.]

Suggested challenge –

Find out about the history of the crêpe pancake.



Le fromage – issued in 2010 in a set showing regional flavours of France. The set includes 23 stamps showing many different French dishes and foods. The stamp in this set shows bread (*le pain*) and cheese (*le fromage*).

Suggested challenge –

How many French cheeses and breads can you name?



Les petits pois – issued in 2008 in a set entitled ‘Holidays’. The set includes stamps showing ferns, a butterfly, leaves, coconut tree, park, golf putt, water lily, watering cans, kiwi fruit slices and peas!

Suggested challenge –

Choose one of the subjects from this set listed above and find out the French translation.

Additional Information

Autres catégories – This section is for other categories. When using real French stamps you will find many fitting into this category. In this game, the stamps in this category all have a philately theme.



La lettre – issued in 1997 in a set showing 'Les journées de la lettre' (A Letter's Days – i.e. the days in the life of a letter). It starts with this stamp showing an envelope writing a letter, followed by a smiling letter climbing up to a post box, then the letter as a van (see below), letters holding hands with a postman carrying a letter, a girl kissing a letter and the girl reading a very long letter.



Le timbre – issued in 2011 in a set of 'Greetings' stamps. The other stamps say: *j'aime écrire* - I love to write; *les mots c'est la vie* - words are life; *entre nous...* - between us...; *cette idée voyage* - this travel idea; *pour l'instant tout va bien* - for now everything is fine; *enfin de l'art* - finally art; *j'ai quelque chose à dire* - I have something to say; *mots d'amour* - words of love; *ceci est une lettre* - this is a letter; *ganderem lo moral* - keep your chin up; *vous êtes formidables* - you are amazing and this stamp very simply, *je suis timbré* - I am a stamp!



La philatélie - issued in 1997 in a set showing 'Les journées de la lettre' (A Letter's Days – i.e. the days in the life of a letter). It starts with a stamp showing an envelope writing a letter (see above), followed by a smiling letter climbing up to a post box, then this stamp showing the letter as a van, letters holding hands with a postman carrying a letter, a girl kissing a letter and the girl reading a very long letter.

Suggested challenge –

Design your own French stamp with a phrase or sentence on it written in French.

Acknowledgments

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