

Small Stamps BIG IMPACT

Essential Questions: How do stamps raise awareness? What environmental topics should be featured on stamps? How do stamps shape opinions?

Topics Addressed: Climate Change, Wildlife Conservation

In this Lesson: Students will learn about climate change awareness through stamps research and design.

Materials and Resources:

- Stamps on climate change can be found at www.arago.si.edu
 - Suggested Search Tips: Earth Day Issue, Wildlife, Coral Reef, Wetland, Great Plains, Forest, Plants, Animals, Tundra
- Lesson Extensions:
 - [Design It: Giving Voice to America curriculum](#)
 - Featured Exhibit of [Glorious Flight: The Jeannette C. Rudy Duck Stamp Collection](#)
 - [Artistic License—the Duck Stamp Story](#)
- Computer(s)
- Post-It notes

Instructional Notes:

Teachers can use any topic regarding climate change in this lesson. For the sake of giving examples, the topic of wildlife conservation will be used.

Step One: Inquiry and Mapping

- Begin a dialogue of what wildlife conservation means.
- Key questions to ask students: What do you know about wildlife conservation? What do you want to know about wildlife conservation?
- Create a visual map. Have students write down their answers to the previously mentioned questions on post-it notes and build a map linking the questions and answers together.

Lesson Extension: Have students explore [Glorious Flight: The Jeannette C. Rudy Duck Stamp Collection](#), [Artistic License—the Duck Stamp Story](#), and other wildlife conservation sources (refer to the Exhibit Hall) to garner more information to add to the visual map.

Step Two: Observing and Describing

- Choose a wildlife stamp from Arago.
- Example: [Wildlife Conservation: Whooping Cranes, 1957](#). The stamp can be blown up on a large screen.
- Have students observe and describe the stamp.
- Key questions to ask: What do they see? (use art vocabulary to describe the stamp) What is the big idea behind the stamp? What is the subject matter? What are their points of view? Who uses a stamp? What does a stamp represent?

Lesson Extension: Before starting this section, look into Lesson 3 of [Design It: Giving Voice to America curriculum](#) to give students a foundation in art vocabulary and design techniques.



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Step Three: Questioning and Investigating

- Key questions to ask: How are stamps raising awareness about wildlife conservation? Why is the subject of Whooping Cranes used in the stamp? Are they still endangered? When was the stamp designed? How was it important during that time?
- Investigate Whooping Cranes. Have students find information to share with the classroom.
- Have students add their information to the wildlife conservation visual map.
- Read the overview for [Kids Care commemorative stamps](#). The overview will help support the question of stamps as a vehicle for awareness.

Lesson Extension: Have students identify their personal issue within the framework of wildlife conservation or climate change for raising awareness. Students can design a stamp of their personal issue. Stamp Templates can be downloaded from [Materials](#) of the Design It curriculum.