

Stamps of New Zealand

Approach: Station

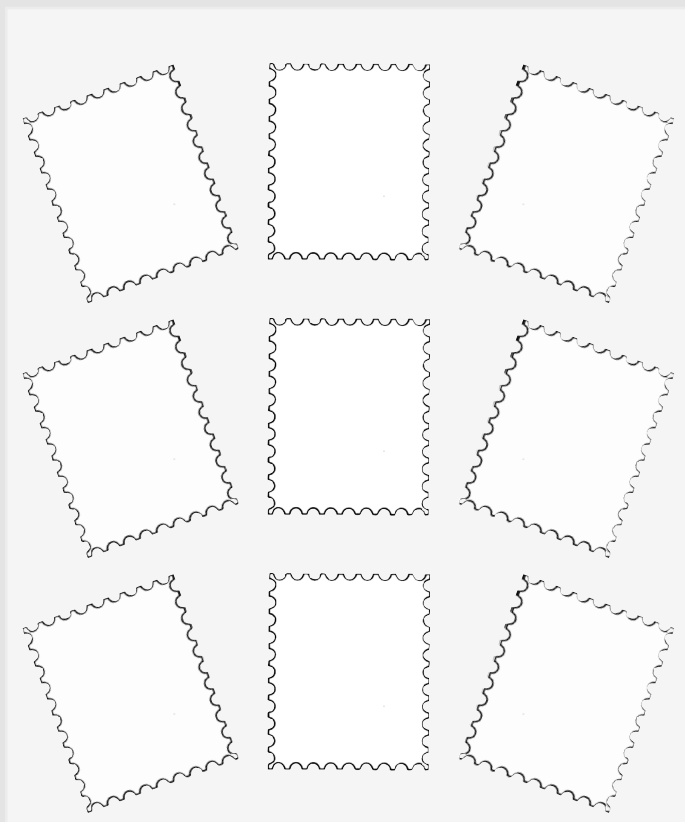
Level: Year 4 and year 8

Resources: None

Questions/instructions

Imagine that a new set of postage stamps is to be made, and that each stamp will have a picture of something which is **special** New Zealand. The stamps would show what is really **important** and **special** to New Zealand, and not other countries.

- On the stamps, write down your ideas of what the pictures would show.
- Write one idea on each stamp — **don't draw any pictures**
- The teacher is happy to help with spelling.



Number of stamp ideas:	% responses	
	year 4	year 8
9	49	73
6-8	14	16
3-5	26	8
0-2	11	3
Categories of ideas used:		
flowers/trees	25	38
birds/animals/fish	65	76
Māori people	9	14
specific NZers	23	33
other people	13	9
Māori culture/art/legends	10	26
NZ flag/map/symbols/icons	34	47
natural attractions	23	54
named cities/towns	9	22
building structures	31	44
rural life	5	14
sports events/teams	12	41
snapshots of NZ life	27	28
Number of stamps with distinctly Māori flavour:		
more than 2	1	4
1-2	16	32
0	83	64
Number of stamps judged important/special to NZ:		
7-9	3	20
4-6	11	32
1-3	52	39
0	34	9

Commentary

This task sought to investigate students' ideas about symbols and images that represent distinctive or unique features of the country and society within which they live. At year 8 about half of the students showed the ability to identify four or more strong ideas, whereas about 14 percent of year 4 students show similar ability. Very few students gave prominence to symbols or images that are distinctively Māori.