DIY Adhesive Artistamps
Celebrate the birthday of the first American adhesive postage stamps!

Collect
• 4 packets of unflavored gelatin
• White vinegar
• Paint brush
• Paper
• Decorating materials
• Saucepan
• Stovetop
• Adult safety partner

Create the adhesive
1. Pour six tablespoons of white vinegar into a saucepan.
2. With an adult’s help, heat the vinegar over the stove until it is almost boiling.
3. Remove the saucepan from the heat and pour in the four packets of gelatin.
4. Carefully stir the ingredients together.

Make it sticky
5. While the mixture is still warm, use a paintbrush to coat one side of a few sheets of paper.
6. Set each piece of paper aside to dry.

Decorate your stamps
7. Once the papers have dried, cut them into smaller stamp sized pieces.
8. Decorate the non-coated side however you like. Consider making a stamp to honor a family member, your favorite pet, favorite place, or a cartoon character.

Stick it!
9. When you are ready to stick your stamp to something, simply moisten the back with a damp sponge or lick it!

What are artistamps?
Artistamps, or artist stamps, are non-governmental issued stamps that depict anything that the creator chooses to commemorate and are used as envelope decoration.

How did people send mail without stamps?
In February of 1842, a private New York City carrier issued the first adhesive postage stamps in the United States. Before adhesive stamps, most mail in the United States was sent “collect.” This means that the receiver of the mail would pay for the postage of deliveries instead of the sender.