

# Arts & Lifestyle

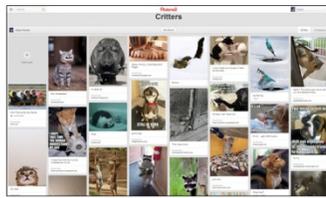
# Collection Connection



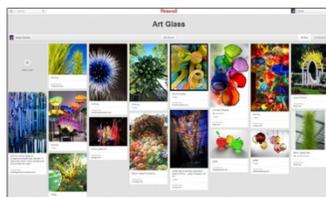
Joshua Mueller, world record holder for the largest collection of Converse shoes sitting among his collection.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Joshua\\_Mueller's\\_largest\\_collection\\_of\\_Converse\\_Air-Stars.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Joshua_Mueller's_largest_collection_of_Converse_Air-Stars.JPG)



Beautiful glass eggs can be found in many different sizes, styles and colours. They are often sold at paper weights.



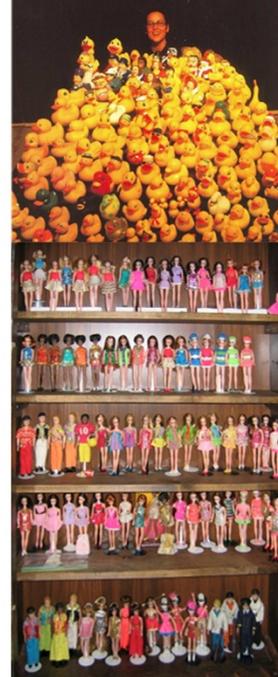
Displays of collections are often used as part of the interior decoration of a room. *Martha Stewart Living* magazine features a decorative collection in almost every issue.



Hang on the wall



In Shadow Boxes  
 A Shadow Box is like a deep frame, sometimes with glass, sometimes without, that is used for displaying three-dimensional objects. It is an especially useful way for displaying miniatures or small valuable objects. Shadow boxes can be purchased already assembled from many frame stores or you can make your own.



Saskatchewan

Reference Book & Activity Guide

## 4-H MOTTO

Learn to do by doing.

## 4-H PLEDGE

I pledge

My HEAD to clearer thinking,

My HEART to greater loyalty,

My HANDS to larger service,

My HEALTH to better living,

For my club, my community and my country.

## 4-H GRACE

(Tune of Auld Lang Syne)

We thank thee, Lord, for blessings great

On this, our own fair land.

Teach us to serve thee joyfully,

With head, heart, health and hand.

This project was developed through funds provided by the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). No portion of this manual may be reproduced without written permission from the Saskatchewan 4-H Council, phone 306-933-7727, email: info@4-H.sk.ca. Developed in May 2013.

Writer: Diane Tinnish



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada



AGRICULTURE COUNCIL  
OF SASKATCHEWAN INC.

# Table of Contents

---

## Introduction

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Goal .....  | 1 |
| Objectives .....                                  | 1 |
| Materials/Equipment Required .....                | 1 |
| How to Get the Most from the 4-H Experience ..... | 1 |
| Achievement Requirements .....                    | 2 |
| Note to Project Facilitators .....                | 2 |

## WHY?

|  |   |
|--|---|
| A Short History of Collecting .....                            | 3 |
| Why Collect? .....   | 4 |
| Collector Titles .....   | 5 |
| Activity 1: WHO is collecting WHAT, WHEN, WHERE and WHY? ..... | 6 |

## WHAT?

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Determining Collection Criteria .....                      | 7  |
| Collectibles .....   | 9  |
| Activity 2: Collect WHAT? Selection of a collectible ..... | 11 |

## WHERE?

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Where can we find items for our collections that fit our criteria? ..... | 13 |
| Other Places to Look Online .....  | 14 |
| Activity 3: WHERE? .....   | 15 |

## Displaying Your Collection

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Collections as Décor ..... | 17 |
| Activity 4: HOW? .....     | 18 |

## Collecting or Hoarding?

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Regifting for Beginners .....               | 20 |
| Activity 5: WHEN Collections go Wrong ..... | 22 |

## Activity 6: More About Your Collection

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Activity 6: More About Your Collection ..... | 24 |
| <b>WHO?</b> .....                            | 27 |
| Activity 7: WHO Collects? .....              | 28 |

## Activity 8: Share Your Collection

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Activity 8: Share Your Collection ..... | 29 |
|---|----|

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Activity 9: Share Your Time .....            | 30 |
| <b>Virtual Collections</b> .....             | 34 |
| Activity 9: Your Virtual Collection .....    | 36 |
| <b>Future Collections</b> .....              | 37 |
| Activity 10: WHERE do we go from here? ..... | 38 |

# Introduction

---

## Goal

The overall goal and product of this project is a 10- item collection of a specific object/collectible selected using criteria determined during project activities.

## Objectives

Upon successful completion of this project, members will be able to:

- Discuss and apply the basic principles of collecting.
- Select an item to collect and determine collection criteria.
- Have an awareness of their own tastes and preferences.
- Assemble a collection according to a set of criteria.
- Work cooperatively with other members on activities.

## Materials/Equipment Required

- Resource book and activity guide (provided)
- Computer with internet access
- Good-quality colour printer access
- Smart phone or digital camera
- Materials for storing/transporting and displaying YOUR collection

## How to Get the Most from the 4-H Experience

- Attend club meetings
- Complete activities
- Listen and ask questions
- Participate in discussions
- Be a team player

## **Achievement Requirements**

- A completed record book
- A collection of at least 10 items
- A method of displaying the collection
- A method of storing the collection
- A virtual collection on the “Pinterest” website

## **Note to Project Facilitators**

Adequate computer access is crucial to the successful completion of this project. The project facilitator in conjunction with the club may need to secure the use of computers for those members who do not have the required equipment at home, that is a computer with reasonably high speed Internet access and a good quality colour printer. Some possibilities could include a school computer lab after school hours or the public library.

# WHY?

---

## A Short History of Collecting

Collecting has a long history. The Ancient Egyptians started trying to collect a copy of every book in the known world at the time in the famous Library of Alexandria from about 300 B.C. The wealthy Medici family of Renaissance Italy is famous for amassing a huge art collection and many of today's most famous art galleries were started with donations of private art collections. Collecting as a hobby increased dramatically in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the industrial revolution brought about more affluence and leisure time for the upper classes. This is when antiques, china and decorative objects started being collected.



An ancient rock collection?

Antique furniture and decorative objects were one of the first modern collectibles. The term antique generally refers to items made over one hundred years ago. Other things like cars tend to be referred to as "classic" or "vintage" when they are more than twenty-five years old and "collectibles" can be just about anything that strikes one's fancy regardless of age. Items which were once everyday objects, such as painted tin containers, old calendars and advertisements may now be collectible since almost all those once produced have been destroyed or discarded.

Ordinary people started collecting smaller items as well in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and postage stamps were one of the most popular. Postage stamps could be collected for their historical and geographical aspects as well as for the many different subjects depicted on them from birds and animals to famous people especially royalty and everything in between. Coins have long been another popular item to collect focusing mainly on history and geography. Matchboxes and matchbooks were other popular collectibles in reach of the ordinary person. Salt and pepper shakers also lent themselves to large, fascinating but affordable collections.

Most collectibles are man-made commercial items, but some people collect natural objects such as rocks, and seashells. In the early days of collecting people were much less aware of the environmental implications of destroying things like birds' eggs and butterflies for the purposes of their collection. We now know that there are many things in the natural world that should be photographed rather than actually removed from nature.

Collections are limited by only three things – your finances, your storage facility and your imagination.

## Why Collect?

- It's fun.
- It's challenging.
- It's educational.
- To reuse things that might otherwise end up in the landfill.
- Some collections can be attractive additions to your decor.
- Some collections can be quite valuable and a good investment.
- Some people collect antiques and memorabilia out of affection for previous times and places.
- Some people collect because they enjoy the social camaraderie when sharing their collection with other collectors.
- Collecting is an activity that can give focus to your travels and shopping.
- Some people collect what they believe to be beautiful objects to satisfy a sense of personal aesthetics or taste.
- Others collect items that are weird or unusual to show individualism.
- Some collectors enjoy the sense of completion and feel a great deal of satisfaction once their collection is complete.



## Collector Titles

People who collect things are called by many names.  
Some of their names are as unusual as the items they collect.

|                 |                           |                 |                             |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| aerophilatelist | airmail stamps            | lexiconophilist | dictionaries                |
| antiquary       | antiques                  | notaphilist     | banknotes/paper currency    |
| arctophile      | Teddy Bears               | numismatist     | coins and medals            |
| audiophile      | music                     | oologist        | birds' eggs                 |
| bestiarist      | medieval books on animals | philatelist     | postage stamps              |
| bibliophile     | books                     | phillumenist    | matchbook covers/boxes      |
| brandophilist   | cigar bands               | philographist   | autographs                  |
| cameist         | cameos                    | phonophile      | phonograph records          |
| coleopterist    | beetles                   | plangonologist  | dolls                       |
| conchologist    | shells                    | receptarist     | recipes                     |
| copoclephilist  | keyrings                  | scripophilist   | old bond/share certificates |
| deltiologist    | postcards                 | succrologist    | sugar packets               |
| dipterist       | flies                     | tegestologist   | beer mats/coasters          |
| discophile      | records /cds              |                 |                             |
| errinophilist   | revenue or tax stamps     |                 |                             |
| ex-librist      | book plates               |                 |                             |
| fusilatelist    | telephone calling cards   |                 |                             |
| helixophile     | corkscrews                |                 |                             |
| heortologist    | religious calendars       |                 |                             |
| horologist      | clocks                    |                 |                             |
| iconophile      | prints and engravings     |                 |                             |
| lepidopterist   | butterflies               |                 |                             |
|                 |                           | vecturist       | transport tokens            |
|                 |                           | vexillologist   | flags                       |
|                 |                           | xylographer     | woodcuts /engraving         |



A lepidopterist

## Activity 1: WHO is collecting WHAT, WHEN, WHERE and WHY?

### What you will learn

The characteristics of a modern “collection”

### What you will need

Any of the following:

- Online encyclopedia such as *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online* or *World Book Online Reference Center* available FREE on your home computer with a membership at your local public library or at your school or a free trial online.
- Martha Stewart Living magazine.
- <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com>
- Think of any possible collectible (a noun) and then enter that word and “collecting” in the Google search box. For example, for “pencil collections” enter “pencil” and “collecting”.
- We all know at least one person who has some kind of a collection whether it is ball caps or coffee spoons. Locate a collection in your own community and interview the collector.

### Instructions

Research a collection and share your findings with the group.

What to include in your report:

- Collectible involved
- How the collection started
- How many items
- How does the collector decide what to include in the collection
- How is the collection displayed and/or stored
- Take a photo of a part or all of the collection using a camera or phone, print a photo from the Internet or photocopy from a magazine.



Joshua Mueller, world record holder for the largest collection of Converse shoes sitting among his collection.  
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Largest\\_collection\\_of\\_Converse\\_All-Stars\\_IPG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Largest_collection_of_Converse_All-Stars_IPG)

### Time

30-60 minutes research time and about 5 minutes each reporting back to the group.

# WHAT?

## Criteria

a principle or standard by which something may be judged or decided

<http://oxforddictionaries.com>

## Determining Collection Criteria

The most useful criteria for choosing a collectible include:

- **Budget:** What is the most I can afford to spend on one item for my collection? If you are collecting sea shells this is not as important as if you are collecting tea cups. This will dictate what you can collect at this time of your life. You may adore Faberge eggs but unless you can afford the tens of thousands of dollars that one of them costs you need to choose something more in your price range. Perhaps, glass eggs.



Faberge was a Russian jeweller who made eggs of precious metals and gem stones for the Russian royal family and nobility in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Beautiful glass eggs can be found in many different sizes, styles and colours for as little as a few dollars each. They are often sold as paper weights.



- Size: One typewriter may be quite easy to find a spot for but what about 20? A collector needs a good size house or apartment (and often considerable) storage space to collect large objects. Smaller collectibles make for a more manageable collection especially if you are living with other people. Aim for a collection that could be relocated in one large-size Rubbermaid tote. If you really want to start a cookie jar collection make sure that you plan ahead for adequate storage.



It is a lot easier to store and display a collection of toy John Deere tractors than the real thing!

- Narrow: If the collectible fits your budget and your space then you need to think of some criteria to narrow the scope of your hunt. For example, instead of collecting all coffee mugs, collect coffee mugs with birds on them or instead of all comic books, only Spiderman comic books. The most satisfying collections, that are also the easiest to manage, are limited by the collector's criteria. On the other hand, you don't want your criteria to be so narrow that you can't find anything that fits. For example, figurines of purple dogs.



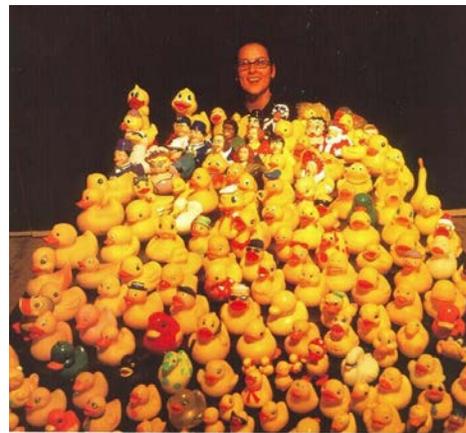
There are not a lot of purple dog figurines out there!

## Collectibles

There are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of collectible objects. Here is a list of just a few of the possibilities to inspire you. Don't know what it is? Look it up on the Internet.

|  |                           |                             |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Animals  | Cartoon and Animation Art | Glass Insulators            |
| Arrowheads   | Chia Pets                 | Glassware                   |
| Art  | China and Pottery         | Hats                        |
| Autographs   | Christmas                 | Hearts                      |
| Badges   | Coffee mugs               | Kaleidoscopes               |
| Bakelite   | Coffee spoons             | Keys                        |
| Bookmarks  | Coins and Currency        | Kinderegg Toys              |
| Bookplates   | Comic Books               | Knives                      |
| Books  | Computers, vintage        | License Plates              |
| Bottles  | Cookie Jars               | Lighters                    |
| Bottle Caps  | Cookie cutters            | Lamps                       |
| Brand name products  | Corkscrews                | Lunch Boxes                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avon</li> <li>• Campbell's Soup</li> <li>• Coca-Cola</li> <li>• Crayola</li> <li>• Harley Davidson</li> <li>• John Deere</li> <li>• Maytag</li> <li>• M&amp;Ms</li> <li>• Zippo lighters</li> </ul> | Dance                     | Maps                        |
| Business Cards   | Disneyana                 | Marbles                     |
| Buttons  | Dolls                     | Matchbooks                  |
| Cameras, vintage   | Dragons, Elves, Fairies   | Militaria                   |
| Cans   | DVDs                      | Miniatures and Figurines    |
| Cards (playing, post, trading)   | Engines                   | Movie Props and Memorabilia |
|  | Ephemera                  | Music boxes                 |
|  | Events                    | Musical instruments         |
|  | Fans                      | Novelty socks               |
|  | Fishing Tackle and Lures  | Nutcrackers                 |
|  | Found Photos              | Paperweights                |

- |                                      |   |                            |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Pens                                 | Salt & Pepper Shakers   | Tea Pots                   |
| Pencil Sharpeners                    | Sea Shells  | Telegrams                  |
| Petroliana (gas station memorabilia) | Sheet music   | Telephones                 |
| Pez Containers                       | Smoking Memorabilia   | Thimbles                   |
| Phonographs                          | Snowglobes  | Thrift Store Art           |
| Pins (all types)                     | Sports Memorabilia  | Timepieces                 |
| Political Items                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hockey</li><li>• Baseball</li><li>• Soccer</li><li>• Gymnastics</li></ul> | Tools                      |
| Posters                              | Stamps  | Toys                       |
| Radios                               | Stickers  | Tractors                   |
| Railwayana                           | Super heroes  | Typewriters                |
| Razors                               | T-Shirts  | Vending Machines           |
| Refrigerator magnets                 | Tea Cups  | Video games, vintage       |
| Rocks and Minerals                   |   | Vinyl Recordings           |
| Rubber Band Balls                    |   | Western Americana (cowboy) |



Ana Baravelli of Brazil has been collecting rubber ducks since she was a child. Her first ducks are from the 1970s.

We now know that is more environmentally friendly to collect living things like rare and beautiful butterflies with a camera and leave the real specimen in the wild.

## Activity 2: Collect WHAT? Selection of a collectible

### What you will learn

What it is that YOU would really like to collect?

### What you will need

The following chart, a pen or pencil and your imagination.

### Instructions

How do you decide what to collect?

What are YOU going to collect and why? It only makes sense to collect something on which you will enjoy spending your time and money. If you really love horses, why would you collect cat figurines? (Unless you love cats too.) Choose something that you care about. If you play a musical instrument, perhaps you would like to collect music note objects. If you like tiny things AND bicycles, perhaps you would enjoy collecting miniature bicycles. The possibilities are almost endless.

Perhaps you already have started a collection? If it is something you really like now is the time to fine tune your collection and then add to it. Or maybe you are collecting something someone else started for you or it is something about which you no longer feel passionate. Now is the time to choose a new collectible.

What are your collecting criteria? This is the most difficult part but a satisfied collector has definite criteria guiding their choices. If you decide to collect comic books, you need to first decide WHICH comic books or you will soon run out of both money and space.

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Collectible              |  |
| Budget: Maximum per item |  |
| Size                     |  |
| Other Criteria           |  |

*Be Specific!*

NOTE: If you are just starting your collection you will probably make modifications to your criteria over time with changes in your life situation. You may have more money or less money to spend, more or less space to store things or you may decide to no longer collect this particular item and that's okay. It's YOUR collection!

### Time

As long as it takes on your own, maybe 5 minutes, maybe two days and about 5 minutes each reporting back to the group

### Let's Talk

- Was it easy or difficult to choose a collectible?
- Why did you select those criteria?
- Are you happy with your choice?

# WHERE?

---

## WHERE can we find items for our collection that fit our criteria?

Once you have determined the criteria for your collection you are ready to start collecting or expand your collection. If narrowing the criteria was the most difficult part of collecting, the “hunt” for your collectible is the most fun.

The best places to begin your search are the most affordable places. An additional bonus to buying “used” or second-hand items for your collection is that your collection is helping reuse or recycle things that might otherwise end up in the landfill. Collecting can be good for the environment too!

- Garage sales
- Flea markets
- Thrift stores
- Other collectors. While they are looking for their own collectibles they can spot things that fit your collection as well.

“One person’s trash is another person’s treasure.”

Twentieth Century Proverb

The next most affordable source of collectibles:

- Dollar stores
- Pawn shops
- Asian markets. Asian manufacturers produce a huge quantity of low priced goods and these stores can be a gold mine for the thrifty shopper.

A good place to research your collectible as well as locate potential items is the Internet. Online purchases need to be made by an adult with a PayPal account or credit card so younger collectors will need assistance to buy something online. Buy only from vendors with a good “track record” on reliable sites like:

- eBay
- Amazon.com
- Kijiji



## Other Places to Look Online



- <http://www.ebay.com/chp/collectibles>

eBay is such a popular place for collectors to buy and sell items that they have created a specific “Collectibles” section with information on what people are collecting and how much they are paying, what’s hot and what’s not.

- <http://collectibles.about.com/od/auctionsandshopping1/u/buyingselling.htm>

About.com has accumulated a large “collection” of links related to buying and selling collectibles.

- <http://www.wikihow.com/Bargain-Shop>

WikiHow to do anything has a very comprehensive page on how to bargain shop which could come in helpful when searching for affordable collectibles.

- <http://www.bidstart.com>

A place to buy and sell conventional collectibles, e.g. books, coins, dolls, etc.



PayPal is one of the safest ways to shop online. Remember to always get an adult’s assistance with all online buying and selling transactions.

### Activity 3: WHERE?

Where can we find items for our collection that fit your criteria?

#### What you will learn

Some possible sources for collectibles that fit your criteria.

#### What you will need

The following list, pen or pencil, your group members, local phone book, newspaper, computer with internet connection



#### Let's Talk

Brainstorm ideas as a group. Make a list of potential sources for collectibles in your community. It will, of course, depend on what you are collecting. You won't be able to find arrowheads at the local Salvation Army Thrift Store but you can find a lot of other stuff. From the group list of places make a list of possible sources for your own collection.

During the next week or two acquire at least two items for your collection and share your finds with the group.

| Places I Might Find Items for my Collection |
|---|
|   |
|   |
|   |
|   |
|   |
|   |

Remember to keep an eye open for things that might fit the collectible criteria for someone else in your group.

Time: 30 minutes with the group.

# Displaying Your Collection

Some of the most popular ways to display a collection include:



On shelves



Hang on the wall



In Shadow Boxes

A Shadow Box is like a deep frame, sometimes with glass, sometimes without, that is used for displaying three-dimensional objects. It is an especially useful way for displaying miniatures or small valuable objects. Shadow boxes can be purchased already assembled from many frame stores or you can make your own.



Displays of collections are often used as part of the interior decoration of a room. *Martha Stewart Living* magazine features a decorative collection in almost every issue.

The Internet offers many ideas for collection displays:

<http://pinterest.com/lauramorelli/how-to-display-a-collection>

<http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/inspiration-collection-display-155609>

<http://www.countryliving.com/homes/how-to-get-the-look/displaying-collections-0309>

<http://www.decoist.com/2012-05-25/creative-tips-for-displaying-collections-with-style/>

<http://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/decorating/display-collections>

[-0000000059391/index.html](http://www.realsimple.com/home-organizing/decorating/display-collections-0000000059391/index.html)

<http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/3797/list/DIY-Projects--How-to-Display-a-Collection>

<http://www.styleathome.com/homes/interiors/15-ways-to-show-off-your-collection/a/679>

<http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/38668/list/10-Displayed-Collections-That-Make-Me-Drool>

## Collections as Decor

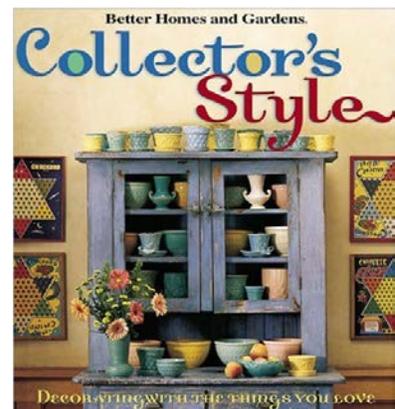
Many people decorate their homes around their collections, either by choice or necessity if their collection is particularly large. For some inspiration check out the following sources:

- <http://www.houzz.com/decorating-with-collections>
- <http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/312021/list/Collections--Create-Art-With-the-Things-You-Love>

This website features some nice ideas for using collections in very attractive decors.

- *Collector's Style: Decorating With The Things You Love*. 2002. Better Homes and Gardens Books. Not many other books have been written specifically about how to create attractive interior design with your collections but this one is especially beautiful and full of excellent ideas. Check it out at your local public library or perhaps your group can purchase a copy to share.
- <http://on.aol.ca/video/how-to-decorate-with-collections-32272590>

This short video clip is a bit dated but it's helpful to hear what a couple of decorating professionals have to say on the subject.



## Activity 4: HOW?

How are you going to display your collection to best advantage?

### What you will learn

Several different ways of displaying collections.

### What you will need

Your group, a computer with an internet connection.

### Let's Talk

Brainstorm ideas:

- On a shelf in your room
- Hang on the wall in the study/den/family room
- In a glass fronted shadow box
- 
- 
- 
- 

Decide how you will display YOUR collection at this stage. (It may grow too large for this method with time.) Take a photo with your smart phone or camera to share with the group.

How are you going to store and transport your collection when necessary?

Brainstorm ideas:

- Rubbermaid tote(s)
- Tackle box
- Suitcase
- 
- 
- 
- 

Decide how you will store or transport YOUR collection at this stage. (It may grow too large for this method with time.) Bring your collection to share with the group.

### Time

30 minutes to brainstorm and about 5 minutes each reporting back to the group

## Collecting or Hoarding?

What is OCD? OCD stands for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder which is a mental illness when someone can't stop themselves from doing something. This compulsion can be things like washing their hands, checking that the stove is turned off or needing to do things an exact number of times. This compulsion becomes a disorder or problem when it starts to interfere with the person leading a normal life. People who compulsively collect or keep things have a related but separate disorder.

Most hoarders fear that something bad will happen if they throw anything away. They compulsively hoard things that they don't need or use. If a person collects things with no discrimination and using no definite criteria, as discussed in Activity 2, and this collection starts getting too large, they are hoarding not collecting.



This is not a stuffed toy “collection” because the collector did not use any criteria when selecting and acquiring items for their collection and it is not displayed or organized in any meaningful way.

See some of these sites for more information on hoarding:

- <http://metropolitanorganizing.com/managing-modern-life/hoarding-services/collections-gone-wild/>
- <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/12/29/why-we-collect-stuff/when-collecting-becomes-hoarding>
- <http://www.ocfoundation.org/hoarding/about.aspx>

## Regifting for Beginners

Once your friends and family know you are collecting something, you may start to receive items for your collection as gifts. This is not always a good thing, especially if they aren't aware of your collection criteria and "I have to like it" is often a major criterion for most of us. One solution is to "regift the item". Here is a guide:

“ To give an unwanted gift to someone else; to give as a gift something one previously received as a gift. ”

Webster's New Millennium Dictionary of English

Regifting has gained in popularity since comedian Jerry Seinfeld first coined the term [almost twenty years] ago. According to the Macmillan English Dictionary, the increasing popularity of the word and its recent link to online auctions has made the phenomenon of regifting more acceptable. In fact, more than half of adults recently surveyed by Money Management International (MMI) find regifting acceptable. Even the etiquette experts at the Emily Post Institute approve of the practice in some circumstances.

If you are thinking about regifting, ask yourself the following questions:

- Is the gift regifiable? Never regift handmade or one-of-a-kind items. Signed books and monogrammed items are off-limits. Do you have to be told not to regift free promotional items? Some gifts that are good candidates for regifting include good (unopened!) bottles of wine, new household items and inexpensive jewellery.
- How is the condition? Only new, unopened gifts in good condition should be considered for regifting. Never give partially used gift cards. Don't give items that you have owned for a long time. A general rule of thumb: if you have to dust it off, it is not regifiable.



- Is this going to work? Successful regifters use common sense. If you are going to regift, be sure you know who gave you the item, so you don't return something to the original giver. Only regift items to people who are not likely to see the original giver.
- Do you have good intentions? Don't just give a gift to give a gift. Be sure that the recipient will appreciate the item. Remember, if you feel that an item is undesirable, the recipient probably will too. If you are regifting simply because you ran out of time, gift cards are simple to obtain and always well received.
- How does it look? When it comes to gift-giving, go for show! While gift bags in good condition can be reused, wrapping paper is a one-time thing. Always spring for a new card or gift tag.
- Can you handle it? If you don't plan to announce the gift as a regift, ask yourself if you can keep the secret. Never feel guilty about regifting once you've done it.
- Have you considered your options? An unwanted gift could be a welcome donation to a charitable organization. It is also an option to suck it up and keep an unwanted gift—after all, it was a gift.
- Finally, if you suspect that a gift you've received has been recycled, take comfort in the fact that MMI survey respondents regift because they know the gift is something the recipient would really like.

<http://regiftable.com/regifting101/>

## Activity 5: WHEN Collections Go Wrong

### Collecting challenges

#### What you will learn

Some of the possible problems associated with collecting.



#### What you will need

Your group members and a computer with an Internet connection.

#### Let's Talk

Possible Problem: Collecting becomes hoarding. What is hoarding and how does it relate to collecting? Discuss.

Possible Problem: Collection becomes too large too quickly. What do you do? (This is especially a problem if you have a small home or share your home with others.)

- Revisit your criteria. How could you narrow it further?
- Could you store it somewhere else?
- Donate it to a charity and choose a smaller collectible?
- 
- 
- 

Possible Problem: What to do with "gifts" or "mistakes" that don't fit your collection criteria. Brainstorm.

- Regift
- Trade with another collector
- Sell
- Donate to charity
- 
- 

See Activity 8 for a good way to use collection "mistakes" to benefit your community!

Research a “problem collection” using the same tools or sources as Activity 1 and share your findings with the group.

What to include in your report:

- Collectible involved
- How the collection started?
- How many items?
- What went wrong?
- How could this problem have been averted?

#### Time

60 minutes of group discussion, 30 minutes independent research and about 5 minutes each reporting back to the group.

## Activity 6: More About Your Collection

Learning more about YOUR collectible

### What you will learn

At least ten things about YOUR collectible

### What you will need

A computer with an internet connection and any of the sources listed in Activity 1.

### Instructions

Using the Internet, the public library, local experts, and the sources/tools from Activity 1, make a list of ten interesting facts about your collectible and share with the group. Start keeping a scrapbook, online or paper, of things you learn about your collectible.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

### Time

60 minutes of independent research and about 5 to 10 minutes each reporting back to the group.

**Example:**

Anne collects tea pots. Her criteria:

- Green.
- Less than \$100 each.
- She has to really like it.

She found these interesting facts about her collection:

1. Teapots were invented in China during the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368). Before then they made tea in bowls. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teapot>
2. Early teapots are small by western standards because they were generally designed for a single drinker and the Chinese historically drank the tea directly from the spout. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teapot>
3. From the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century tea was shipped from China to Europe as part of the export of exotic spices and luxury goods. The ships that brought the tea also carried porcelain teapots. Porcelain being completely vitrified will withstand sea water without damage, so the teapots were packed below deck whilst the tea stayed on top where it was drier. <http://www.teamastersceylon.com>
4. The majority of these teapots were painted in blue and white underglaze. <http://www.teamastersceylone.com>
5. Yixing teapots are made from zisha clay found only in the Jiang Su province of China. Aside from their aesthetic value, Yixing teapots are considered excellent brewing vessels due to several factors, including their mineral composition, which makes for a clay that holds heat well, and their porosity, which allows them to absorb the flavour of a given tea and season to that type. There are different colours of Yixing clay: brown, black, yellow, red, blue and green. <http://www.teaviews.com> Anne has a green one.
6. A woman in England has a collection of more than 6,000 teapots and has made her collection into a business by converting her home into a teapot museum. She specializes in novelty teapots. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newsttopics/howaboutthat/6334355/Woman-with-collection-of-6000-teapots.html>
7. Why green? Anne does not wear green much but she uses the colour a lot in her home. What is the psychology of the colour green?  
 “GREEN represents harmony, balance, refreshment, universal love, rest, restoration, reassurance, environmental awareness, equilibrium, peace.

Green strikes the eye in such a way as to require no adjustment whatever and is, therefore, restful. Being in the centre of the spectrum, it is the colour of balance - a more important concept than many people realise. When the world about us contains plenty of green, this indicates the presence of water, and little danger of famine, so we are reassured by green, on a primitive level.” <http://www.colour-affects.co.uk/psychological-properties-of-colours>



Anne found this teapot by  
Waschbear Designs on  
<http://www.etsy.com>. It's green and she  
really likes it but it is \$285.00 plus shipping  
from Switzerland

8. The item Anne would most like to add to her collection:
9. Anne found several interesting teapot boards on Pinterest but her favourite is “I collect teapots” with 1,367 tea and teapot related items.
10. Anne found two excellent collections of quotations and sayings about tea:
  - <http://www.quotegarden.com/tea.html>
  - <http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/tea>

# WHO?

---

## Collections Belonging to Celebrities

<http://www.universalcoin.com/articles/celebrity-collectors-and-their-private-collections.html>

## More Celebrities

<http://www.toptenz.net/top-10-unusual-celebrity-collections.php>

## Celebrity Collection also used as Decor

[http://www.architecturaldigest.com/decor/2010-12/celebrity\\_collections\\_slideshow](http://www.architecturaldigest.com/decor/2010-12/celebrity_collections_slideshow)

## Unusual Collections

<http://www.oobject.com/category/collectors-with-their-collections/>

## Really Unusual Collections

<http://www.neatorama.com/2008/05/14/neatoramas-guide-to-25-of-the-strangest-collections-on-the-web/>



Collectors, like their collections, come in all shapes and sizes.

## Activity 7: WHO Collects?

### Who else has a collection in your community?

#### What you will learn

Why, what and how other people collect.

#### What you will need

The following list, pen or pencil and a computer with an internet connection.

#### Instructions

The group leader will invite a person in your community to speak to you about their collection (which may require a visit to their home if the collection is large or not very portable). Prepare questions in advance to ask about their collection.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Check out some other collections and collectors online.

#### Time

15 minutes to prepare questions, 30 minutes for online research and 60 minutes for guest presentation.

## Activity 8: Share Your Collection

### What you will learn

How to share your collection as well as your time and talent with the community

### What you will need

- An audience with whom to share your collection
- A community fundraising project to benefit from your garage/yard/tag sale

### Instructions

- Choose an appropriate group in your community with which to share your collection, e.g. a seniors group, a school class, library program, etc. It will be important to keep the group a manageable size. Get your leader's assistance with approaching the group and making the arrangements for a visit.
- Prepare a short presentation and then let your collection speak for itself.
- Allow plenty of time for examination and questions.
- Enforce a "no touching" rule if necessary to protect your collection.
- Going in pairs or groups of three might be better than the whole group in one visit.



### Time

Allow about 30 minutes for your presentation, questions and looking as well as set up and take down time.

### Let's Talk

- How was your collection received?
- What was the best question you were asked?
- What would you do different next time?

## Activity 9: Share Your Time

One of the best places to look for affordable additions to your collections is at garage/yard sales and flea markets. They can also be excellent fundraisers for community projects if not over used. Your group can help raise funds for a worthwhile cause AND keep your eye open for possible additions to your collection!

- Choose a current community fundraising project that you would like to support, e.g. new arena, library renovation, new equipment for a playground, etc.
- You will require a suitable venue and sufficient time to collect enough material for a profitable sale. Plan well in advance.
- Prepare attractive advertising – posters, ads in the local paper, Facebook page, etc. to solicit donations of sale items from the community. You will also need signs for the actual day(s) of the sale.
- If you live in a larger community you may be able to have a sale of potential Collectible items only. Smaller communities will require a more general theme.
- It may be easiest to price items in groups rather than individually, e.g. a \$1 table, a 50 cent table, etc.

### Time

Several hours of planning in addition to the sale.

### Let's Talk

- How much did you earn for your charity/project?
- What would you do differently next time?
- Did anyone in your group locate a collectible for their collection at the sale?

### Garage Sale/Yard Sale/Flea Market/Tag Sale Pointers

- Having a yard sale can be torture of the worst imaginable kind, or a relatively easy way to declutter homes and make some extra cash. The key to having a successful yard sale is organization.
- Estimate how much time you think it will take to get your sale ready. Set your sale date for a convenient weekend afterward.
- Conventional small-town wisdom, where your buyer pool is limited, is to plan your yard sale for the first weekend of a month.



Buyers on fixed incomes will be the most flush at that time. It doesn't seem to matter as much in a larger city.

- Once you've set the date, go ahead and get a permit if your city or town requires it. You might forget once you get busy preparing for the sale.

### Advertise for Donations

- As soon as the fundraising project, date and locale are selected, start advertising for donations of items from the community.

### Collect the Merchandise

- Arrange for a place for donors to drop off merchandise in advance of the sale, preferably where the sale will be held. Be prepared to pick up donations as well.

### Advertise the Sale

- Place ads in your local newspaper and on Facebook or Kijiji. Serious shoppers plan in advance. If your sale starts on Friday, start your newspaper ad on Thursday. If the sale is Saturday, start the ad on Friday. Start your online ads a couple of days in advance. Don't forget your address, the date, and the starting times.
- Signs are just as important as newspaper ads. Use neon-colored poster board and thick, thick black lettering. Place them at main intersections near your neighborhood, and at all the turns leading to your sale. Point the way with thick, black arrows.

### Price the Merchandise

- If there are several of people in your group running the sale, the easiest method of pricing is have merchandise arranged by price, e.g. the 50 cent table, the loonie table, etc.

- If there are only two or three people taking care of things, you may need to pre-price the goods:
  - Pick up some neon-colored price stickers. Some come preprinted with various prices.
  - If you aren't using preprinted stickers, use a Sharpie®, or something similar, so the price is easy to read.
- If you aren't a regular yard sale shopper, go to several. Look at prices and watch the shoppers. If the merchandise looks pretty good, but most people walk away without buying, the prices are too high. If shoppers are carrying stuff around and seem excited, the prices are right.
- Price everything. Make it easy for your customers to buy. It's annoying to have to ask for a price on everything of interest, and some shoppers just won't bother. If you're selling something with some value, but you aren't sure how much, do a completed item search on eBay. Then, price it for a little less.
- Don't overprice.
- Don't expect to get what was originally paid for something unless they bought it at a yard sale.
- Be aware that people will expect to haggle. Think about the lowest amount you're willing to take, and then price 10-20% higher on things with value.
- Write the word "Firm" on tags of large items if you aren't willing to negotiate. Some will ask anyway, but not as many.

### **Set Up the Sale**

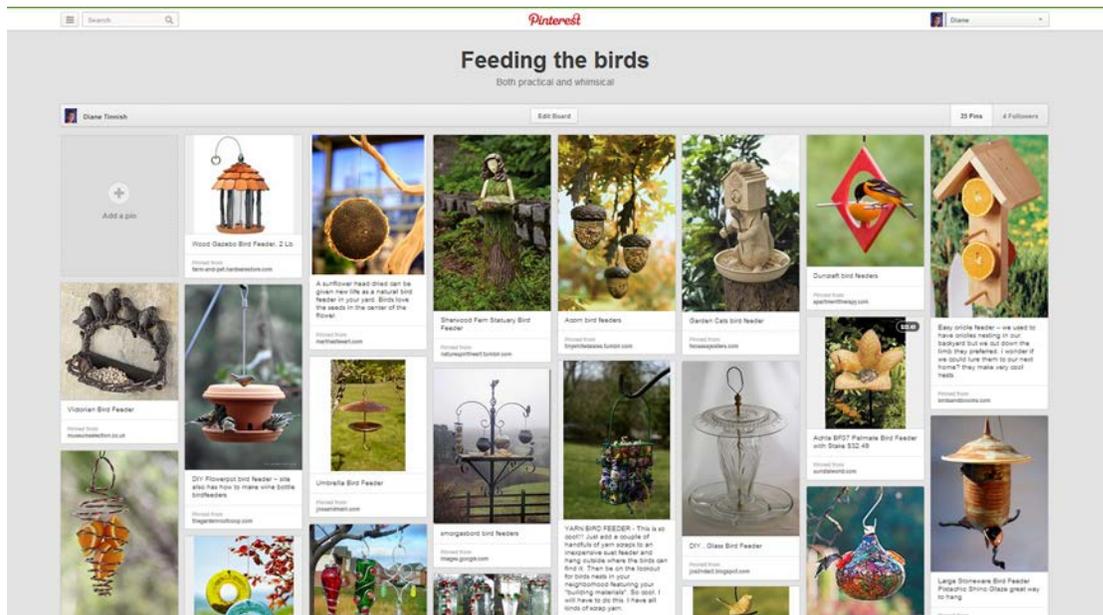
- If you're having the sale in a vacant venue, start setting up a few days in advance. If you're having it outside, have everything ready and get up early.
- Expect to have shoppers show up while you're setting up outside, well before your starting time. Send them away if they bug you, but know that early birds usually come to buy, and they still have all their money in their pockets.
- Other than folding tables, don't display merchandise on anything you don't want to sell. It seems to be understood that folding tables aren't up for grabs. Borrow or rent them.
- Arrange things logically. Put all the books in one place, all the clothes, all the dishes, etc.
- Display any valuable items close to the cashier where you can keep an eye on them.
- Try to remove anything not for sale in the building or area. If that isn't possible, rope them off and use "Not for Sale" signs.

**During the Sale**

- Make sure you have plenty of change, at least one roll each of loonies and quarters, and a handful each of dimes and nickels to start.
- Unless you have a designated cashier, with no other duties, who sits at a designated table, do not use a money box. Otherwise, you will accidentally leave that box unattended at some point during the hectic day.
- If you have no designated cashier, wear a fanny pack or apron with large pockets. The apron is best. You don't have to worry about a zipper and it helps shoppers identify the people in charge of the sale.
- Have some plastic grocery bags handy for shoppers who purchase multiple items.
- Say hello and smile. Wear name tags or special aprons so that shoppers will know who is running the sale when they have questions and get ready to pay.
- After you greet people, leave them alone and let them shop. They are on the hunt and don't have time to chat. If someone is really eyeing something, it's okay to drift that way in case of questions, but resist the urge to try to sell.
- Have a plan for sale "leftovers". Donate to the local thrift shop? Recruit someone with a truck to transport to a thrift store in a nearby city? No matter how much you sell, there will be leftovers.

# Virtual Collections

“Pinterest” is a pinboard-style photo-sharing website that allows users to create and manage theme-based image collections such as events, interests and hobbies. Users can browse other pinboards for images, ‘re-pin’ images to their own pinboards, or ‘like’ photos.

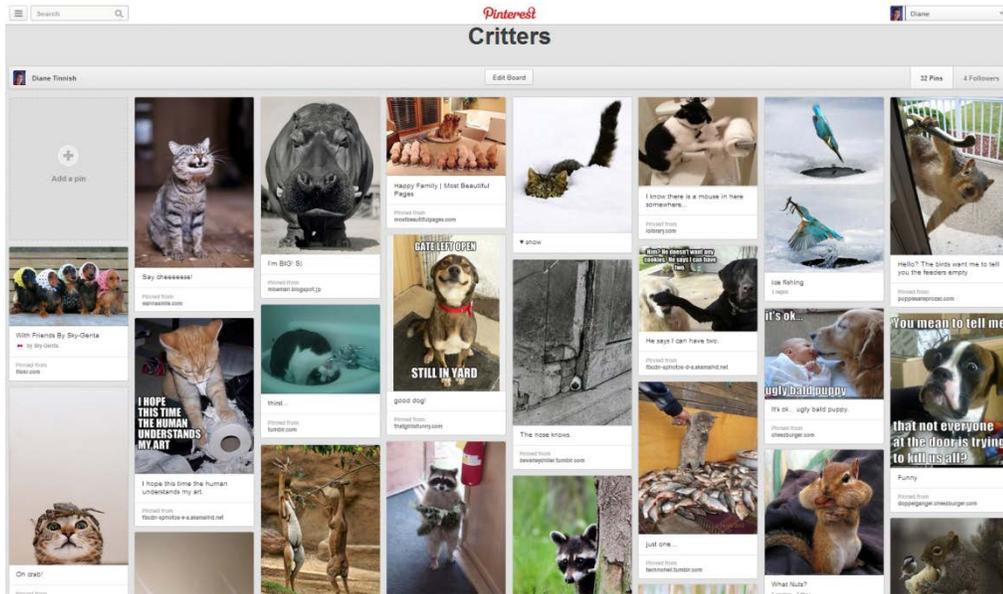


I (the author) have fed birds for a long time. I feed seeds and suet to a large variety of birds in the fall and winter as well as oranges to Orioles and nectar to Hummingbirds in the spring and summer. I prefer practical feeders because they need to be filled less often, however I can't resist the occasional whimsical feeder now and again as well. Here is the first screen of my virtual collection of bird feeders. My criteria are simple: I have to like them and they have to cost less than \$200 each. Almost all of these are commercially available online or provide construction instructions.

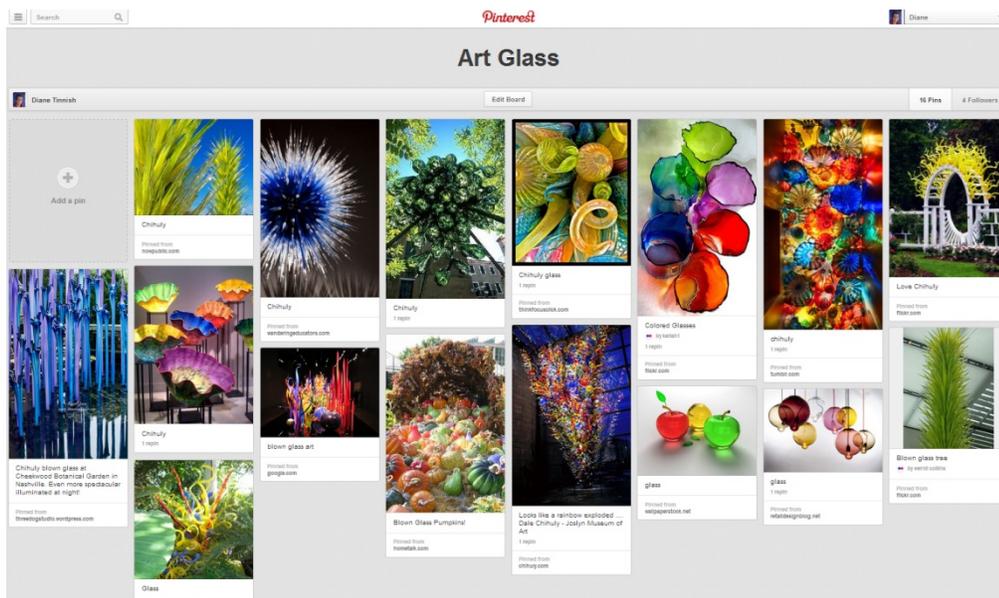


Clicking on this “pin” of a squirrel bird feeder takes me to the website where I can purchase (or get the price) for the feeder which is \$19.95 U.S. It is well within my virtual collection budget!

You will notice that the “Pinterest” website is really just a huge collection of image collections. The wonderful thing about these collections is that they cost no money and take up no space – even on your own computer.



This is the first screen of my collection of cute animal pictures/posters called “Critters”.  
Criteria: cute animal photos or posters or “memes”.



This is a new virtual collection of what I call “Art Glass”, beautiful objects made from blown glass by very talented artists like Dale Chihuly. I could never afford to collect his real work and most of his pieces are huge but I can collect the photos!

## Activity 9: Your Virtual Collection

### What you will learn

How to compile a “virtual” collection

### What you will need

A computer with an internet connection

### Instructions

Here’s the chance to create a collection where size and price don’t matter!

- Register on the “Pinterest” website: <http://pinterest.com>
- Choose a collectible and your collection criteria. Cost and size are not issues here!
- Create a “board” for your virtual collection.
- Start “pinning” pictures to your collection. e.g. bird houses, cookie jars, etc.
- You will find that your collection criteria are just as important with a virtual collection because it could grow to an unmanageable size in a very short time.

### Your Collectible

### Your Criteria

### Time

At least 60 minutes to create a “Pinterest” collection and 10 minutes each to share with your group

### Let’s Talk

- Why did you choose that item to collect?
- Why did you select those criteria?
- Which is more fun, a real collection or a virtual one? Why?



# Future Collections

---

What will be valuable in the future? Many people have gambled on that in the past and ended up with mounds of unwanted junk that they had predicted would be in demand. And on the other side of the coin, many times people find themselves saying “If only I had kept that \_\_\_\_\_! It would be worth a lot of money today!”

- What do you think will be valuable 50, 100, 200 years from now?
- Gold? It’s been a popular “collectible” for a long time.
- First generation electronics, e.g. iPod, iPad, Wii?
- Books, e.g. first edition “Harry Potter”?
- Paper currency?
- Video games?

It’s fun to guess but really impossible to predict the future so the best course of action is to just collect what you enjoy right now.



## Activity 10: WHERE do we go from here?

### What you will learn

Future collecting plans of group members

### What you will need

Your group members

### Let's talk

- Are you going to keep adding to this collection or are you happy with ten items?
- Is there something else you'd like to collect someday? What does that collection require that you don't have right now? More time? More money? Your own home?
- What is the most important thing you have learned about collecting from this project?

### Time

30 minutes with the group







Saskatchewan

3830 Thatcher Avenue  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7R 1A5  
306-933-7727 • 306-933-7730 (fax)  
[www.4-h.sk.ca](http://www.4-h.sk.ca) • [info@4-h.sk.ca](mailto:info@4-h.sk.ca)