Collectibles
The Art & Science of Collecting
Ohio 4-H Collectibles Project

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Member Project Guide

This beginning-level project is designed for members 12 and older who have little or no experience with collectibles. Younger members should take this project under the guidance of a willing adult. This project may be repeated if a specialization is selected, new goals set, and additional sources and activities used to supplement this project book.

Project Guidelines
1. Complete the Planning Your Project section of this guide (Steps 1 through 5).
2. Explore all Interest Areas (each of the six Activities in the Collectibles Sampler constitutes an Interest Area).
3. Take part in at least two Organized Project Activities.
4. Become involved in at least two Leadership/Citizenship Activities.
5. Complete the Project Record on page 9 and continue on additional sheets of paper.

Collecting provides self-actualization, self-enrichment, recreation or renewal of self, feelings of accomplishment, enhancement of self-image, self-expression, social interaction and belongingness, and lasting physical products of the activity (Stebbins, 1982).
Planning Your Project

Step 1. Interest Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Started</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Initials</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete the Collector's Checklist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rank your interests from the Collector's Checklist that are within your budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Select and complete at least two (2) of the (6) activities in the Collectibles Sampler to learn more about the process of collecting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research the collectibles of your choice (see Step 2, Digging Deeper).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Choose, assemble, and display a collection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Select and record which collectible(s) you will have judged. Never display valuable collectibles for a fair exhibit. Prepare an educational display instead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maintain a record of all items collected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Studies show that most children are already collecting things before adolescence (Olmstead, 1991).
Collector's Checklist

Check any items you are interested in collecting, or suggest your own in the spaces marked "Other."

☐ Action Figures
☐ Advertising Items
☐ Almanacs
☐ Americana
☐ Antiques
☐ Arrowheads
☐ Art
☐ Art Glass
☐ Artifacts
☐ Atlases & Maps
☐ Autographed Sports Balls
☐ Autographs
☐ Baseball Cards
☐ Baskets
☐ Beads
☐ Bells
☐ Belts
☐ Books
☐ Bottles
☐ Brass
☐ Belts & Buckles
☐ Buttons
☐ Cameras
☐ Carriages
☐ Cars
☐ Cartoon Figurines
☐ Cartoons
☐ Cassettes
☐ Clocks
☐ Clothing & Costumes
☐ Coin-operated Banks
☐ Coins & Tokens
☐ Comic Books
☐ Commemoratives
☐ Compact Discs
☐ Cookie Cutters
☐ Coverlets
☐ Cross-Stitching
☐ Cups
☐ Currency

☐ Decoys
☐ Disneyana
☐ Doll Houses
☐ Dolls
☐ Door Knockers
☐ Drawings
☐ Egg Cups
☐ Egg Rocks
☐ Elvis Memorabilia
☐ Embroidery
☐ Exposition Ribbons
☐ Farm Collectibles
☐ Figurines
☐ Firearms
☐ Fishing Tackle
☐ Flasks
☐ Fobs
☐ Football Cards
☐ Fossils
☐ Games
☐ Garage Signs
☐ Genealogy
☐ Glassware
☐ Goblets
☐ Gold & Silver
☐ Golf Cards
☐ Golf Clubs
☐ Graphics
☐ Hats & Caps
☐ Hockey Cards
☐ Inkwells
☐ Insects
☐ Jars
☐ Jewelry
☐ Jukeboxes
☐ Lamps
☐ Leaves
☐ Letter Openers
☐ License Plates
☐ Magazines
☐ Marbles
☐ Matchbooks
☐ Medallions
☐ Medals & Badges
☐ Medieval Items
☐ Menus
☐ Microscopes
☐ Militaria
☐ Miniatures
☐ Model Cars
☐ Model Planes
☐ Model Rockets
☐ Model Ships
☐ Model Trains
☐ Movies
☐ Movie Advertising
☐ Movie Memorabilia
☐ Music Boxes
☐ Oriental Fans
☐ Oriental Rugs
☐ Origami
☐ Ornaments
☐ Paintings
☐ Paper Dolls
☐ Paperweights
☐ Papier-mâché
☐ Pennants
☐ Pens & Pencils
☐ Perfume
☐ Pewter
☐ Phonographs
☐ Photographs
☐ Plates—Limited Edition
☐ Playing Cards
☐ Political Buttons
☐ Pop Cans
☐ Postcards
☐ Posters
☐ Pottery
☐ Prints

☐ Quilts
☐ Records
☐ Restaurant Toys
☐ Rings
☐ Rocks & Minerals
☐ Salt & Pepper Shakers
☐ Seashells
☐ Sewing Tools
☐ Sheet Music
☐ Singing Group Memorabilia
☐ Snow Globes
☐ Soda Memorabilia
☐ Souvenirs
☐ Spoons
☐ Stamps
☐ Stocks & Bonds
☐ Stoneware
☐ Sugar Bowls
☐ Tapestries
☐ Teddy Bears
☐ Telescopes
☐ Theater Programs
☐ Thimbles
☐ Tools
☐ Toothpick Holders
☐ Toy Animals
☐ Toy Banks
☐ Toy Cars
☐ Toy Soldiers
☐ Toy Tractors
☐ Video Tapes
☐ Vintage Radios
☐ War Memorabilia
☐ Watches
☐ Weather Vanes
☐ World Coins

☐ Other (specify)
☐ Other (specify)
☐ Other (specify)
☐ Other (specify)
Rank those collectibles from the Collector's Checklist that you feel are within your budget.

1) __________________________
2) __________________________
3) __________________________
4) __________________________
5) __________________________

Step 2. Activities: Digging Deeper
To find out additional information about collectibles of interest to you:

- Discuss options with family, friends, and your 4-H advisor.
- Read books about your collectible(s) at the library before you collect anything. Books about collectibles will cover price and condition information, preservation and care, display, and other useful information.
- Visit shops, shows, and auctions that promote your collectible.
- Begin collecting cautiously and sensibly. Continue to review information about your collectible by reading periodicals, visiting shops and shows, and discussing any purchases with your family.
- Check your county's project guidelines (if any) for additional requirements, especially if you choose to participate in county project judging or prepare an exhibit for the fair.
- If you choose to have your project judged, what collectible(s) will you select? Describe them in the space provided.

Sample Learning Experiences
County project judging
Demonstration
Field trip
Speech
Interview
Project exhibit
Project meetings
Tour
Mall show
Collectibles workshop
Collectibles event

Collectibles support the collector's self-esteem during problematic times (Olmstead, 1987).
**Project Record**

List all items collected as shown below. This is a basic list, which can and should be modified. Copy this page as needed. Use a separate page for each type of collectible (coins, stamps, rocks, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Date acquired</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tyrannosaurus rex</td>
<td>12 May 97</td>
<td>$4.50</td>
<td>Bought at COSI; British Museum Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan to Do</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>What I Did</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ex.) Show</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>I visited a local baseball card show to get an idea of current market prices on cards of my favorite players.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Step 4. Leadership/Citizenship Activities

Place a checkmark next to the activities you wish to do, or plan your own activities in the space provided. Do at least two. Keep track of your progress by marking the date and month you complete each activity. Leadership/Citizenship activities may be added or changed at any time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan to Do</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
<th>Leadership/Citizenship Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Assist in setting up or cleaning up for a collectibles show or event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Help someone with her or his collectibles project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Help organize a workshop or show in your community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Encourage a friend to join 4-H and take a collectibles project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Teach someone something you have learned about collectibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Invite someone to talk to your club about collectibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arrange for members of your club to visit a collectible shop or show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Advise a member who is preparing a collectibles project for the county fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare and exhibit a display promoting 4-H or collectibles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Plan your own activity or activities below:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collecting is a means of striving toward a sense of closure or completion
(Danet & Katriel, 1991).
Step 5. Project Review
As soon as you complete what you have planned, arrange for a local project review. This review can take place with your parent, project advisor, or interested adult. Have this person review your project manual and log book with you. This review will help you evaluate what you have learned, as well as your growth as a 4-H member. Members who take part in this level of evaluation can receive special membership and project achievement awards, such as ribbons, pins, and certificates.

In addition, you may want to take part in county project judging. However, this level of evaluation determines how well you did on your project by assigning a project grade. Your achievements will also be compared against the achievements of others to determine the best in the project area and eligibility for state fair participation.

Children's collections in school settings can help promote students' higher-order thinking skills (Paley, 1990).
The Who

Once practiced by only the rich, the pleasure of creating a collection of value and enjoyment can be experienced by many today. This collectibles project is for everyone and can be tailored to fit anyone’s budget. This 4-H project offers large numbers of people more chances to become involved. 4-H members can have the creatively satisfying and personally enriching experience of forming a real collection, within their means and suited to their own lifestyles.

The following factors do not restrict creating a valuable and interesting collection:
- socioeconomic status
- race
- gender
- rural or urban status

The What

You can collect almost anything you want within your budget. See the Collector’s Checklist on pages 6–7 for suggestions. Filling out the checklist, ranking your interests, and “digging deeper” are the major steps in setting your goals for this project.

The When

Anytime is a good time to collect or enjoy looking at your collectibles—as long as you keep up with all your other obligations. Some collectors pay attention, however, to what is called “market conditions.” They buy when the market is “down” (items are relatively lower in cost) and sell when the market is going “up.”

The Where

You can find and see collectibles at museums, stores, auctions, shows, and many other places.

The Why

Many of you are already collectors or are interested in the hobby of collecting. You may already know why you are collecting. If the reason is for fun or relaxation, then you’ve selected a great hobby. If you are collecting mainly for profit, research indicates that many risks are involved. In rare instances, collecting can become an obsession. If collecting takes time away from important concerns, it can cause hardships in your future. However, if you keep collecting fun and relaxing, easily affordable, and in perspective, you are going to have a wonderful time. Collecting is a highly recommended hobby and has many therapeutic benefits.

Investment is a good motive, but not at the sacrifice of well-being or social obligations (Olmstead, 1991).
You can also learn a number of things as you proceed with your collectibles project:

**Organizational skills**
- classifying your collectibles
- displaying your collectibles

**Decision-making skills**
- selecting your collectibles
- deciding when to buy or sell

**Responsibility**
- protecting and caring for your collectibles
- respecting the property of self and others
- appreciating quality

**Caution**
- learning to recognize fakes (counterfeits)
- ensuring the authenticity of your collectibles
- learning the importance of dealing with reputable sellers

**Critical thinking skills**
- examining and comparing the types and condition of collectibles
- learning objective analysis skills when searching for and selecting your collectibles
- focusing thinking skills and interests

**Research skills**
- researching the history, value, and conditions of collectibles
- gaining familiarity with periodicals, books, price guides, research facilities, exhibitions

**Constructive use of leisure time**
- enjoying your collectibles and the hobby of collecting
- avoiding negative use of leisure time

**Long-term planning skills**
- setting goals
- setting self-imposed goals

**Financial and business skills**
- bookkeeping and math skills
- investing and understanding the market potential of your collectibles
- learning the intrinsic and market values of your collectibles
- learning supply and demand methods of marketing your collectible (wholesale versus retail)
The How

Before you begin collecting, review the who, what, when, where, and why of collecting as outlined in this chapter. Then, take a moment to consider what you're currently selecting and have selected. Consider the following factors:

Care

Without protecting and caring for your collectibles, both their condition and value will depreciate (decrease). Because each collectible requires different care, be sure to research what is best for your collectible. Don't be misled by some advertising. Though, most collectibles can be protected very inexpensively. Be prepared to care for your collection even before you begin collecting.

Caution

Watch out for fake collectibles! Read books about your collectibles and be aware of counterfeits. Deal only with reputable sellers.

Condition

The condition of your collectible is determined by its degree of wear—whether it is "like new" or worn. Many books and guides are available to help you determine the condition of your collectibles or those you are considering to add to your collection. Be sure to consult them. They may save you a lot of headaches and money by knowing your collectibles better. Before you begin your collection, you must learn about the conditions of your collectible.

Cost

This is your hobby. Pay for it with your earnings. Ask family and neighbors about safe jobs you could do to earn your own money to support your hobby.

Display

After some time, you will be proud of your collection and want to show it to others. If your particular collectible is small enough, you can display a number of items in an attractive shadow box or curio cabinet. Because larger items require more space, you will only be able to show a few of them at a time. Don't fill the house up with them, and do be cautious in what you display. You don't want your collectibles to become damaged or lost.

Record Keeping

Keep lists of your collectibles. Use the Project Record on page 9 as a guide to answer the important questions, "What have I got?" and "How much was it?" This is the best way to keep your collection organized and under control. Otherwise, you may overlook or lose items. Accurate records also make good business sense and will help you track profits or losses. If you don't keep good records, how will you know if you made a good sale or trade?

Value

The value of your collectibles is determined by a variety of factors. Many good price guides are available at most libraries and bookstores. Some are issued yearly, some monthly, quarterly, etc. Some are more conservative (listing prices lower than others), while others are more liberal. The basic truisms about the value of your collectible is usually that it's worth "what you could sell it for" if you put it up for sale today. You must learn about the value of your collectibles before you begin collecting.
Collectibles Sampler

Select and complete at least two (2) of the following six (6) activities.

Activity 1: Autographs .................................................. 17
Activity 2: Coins ....................................................... 20
Activity 3: Figurines .................................................... 24
Activity 4: Leaves ....................................................... 28
Activity 5: Rocks and Minerals ................................. 31
Activity 6: Sports Cards ............................................. 33
Activity 1: Autographs

How would you like to build a collection of autographs of your favorite celebrities, authors, and sports stars? It’s easy to begin! All you need are ordinary letter-writing materials.

Use 3-inch by 5-inch unlined index cards for this activity—they are inexpensive and easily available. Either standard or legal size envelopes will work nicely.

Materials needed:
- 3-inch by 5-inch index cards and small file box
- Envelopes
- Stamps

Other materials recommended:
- Access to information that provides addresses of celebrities
- Scrapbook

1. Selecting the Stars
Which celebrities would you enjoy writing to and asking for their autographs, perhaps even their autographed photographs? There are lots of people to consider—movie stars, political figures, singers, authors, poets, scientists, TV stars, sports stars. Make a list of your favorites on a sheet of paper.

2. Locating the People on Your List
Look over the list that you’ve selected. Think of places where that individual might receive mail—his or her home, studio, ballpark, office. Some may be rehears-

3. Writing a Letter of Request
You will need to write a short note to each of the celebrities you have selected. Introduce yourself, let them know you are an autograph collector, and tell them that you would enjoy having a copy of their autograph. Let them know that you are enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) (see Step 4 to learn how to create an SASE) and an index card for their signature. Express your thanks to the celebrity for their cooperation (whether or not they do cooperate) and sign your name. Be sure that your note is easily readable. Have someone look it over for you. In the lower left-hand corner of the index card that you will enclose, write (in small letters) the celebrity’s last name. This will help you later on when you file any returned autographs. Sometimes, celebrities’ signatures are unreadable!

Celebrities are generally very busy people, so don’t be hurt or angry if they don’t respond. However, because many do respond, you’ll end up with some very exciting mail from time to time.
4. Creating an SASE
To create an SASE, complete the following steps.
Follow along visually with the diagram on the right:
a) Enter your name and address on an envelope, as if you were going to mail yourself a letter.
b) On the back of the envelope, in the lower left-hand corner, write (in small print) the celebrity’s last name. Again, this will help you keep track of any autographs you receive from celebrities.
c) Place a stamp for the correct postage on the envelope (overseas letters usually cost more).
d) Fold this envelope into thirds.
e) Insert this first, folded envelope (addressed to you) into a second envelope. Remember to include your letter of request and index card in the second envelope.
f) Address the second envelope with the name and address of the celebrity.
g) Write your name and address in the upper left-hand corner.
h) Place a stamp for the correct postage on the second envelope.

5. Receiving the Autographs
When your autographs arrive, place them carefully into your file box. If you cannot read the celebrity’s signature, look at the lower left-hand corner of the back of the envelope and the index card. Their last name should be in one of those two places so you know for sure whose signature you’ve received. Placing a celebrity’s last name on both the envelope and the card when you send your request is a good idea. That way, if your celebrity decides to use a different envelope or a different card to sign, you have two chances of identifying the autograph.

6. Displaying Your Collection
Use a scrapbook to display your autographed cards. If you can locate the kind that has plastic sleeves for photographs, all the better. Take a blank card with you to the store to be sure 3-inch by 5-inch cards fit easily into the plastic sleeves.

7. Learning More
To learn more about autograph collecting, visit your library or bookstore.

8. Reporting Your Activities
Report your activities in the Project Record on page 9.
Alphabet Talk

The following message got scrambled. On the blank lines below, put the words in the correct order, using the letter before each word to sort the words alphabetically. "A" is first, "B" is second, and so on. Good luck!

H. World     K. An     F. In     C. Write
U. Display   O. National   A. You   Q. And
X. Proudly   N. Royalty   W. Autographs   D. To
T. Galore.   B. May   I. And   R. Super
G. The   P. Heroes   S. Stars   V. Your
J. Request   M. Including   E. Anyone   L. Autograph

---

AUTOGRAPH

J. Edgar Hoover

J. Edgar Hoover
DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Hello Bob!

Stan Randel

S. Randel

---
Activity 2: Coins

We will be choosing the Lincoln Memorial cent series for this activity because the pennies are inexpensive and easily available. The series begins in 1959 and is our current penny.

Materials needed:
- Pennies

Other materials recommended:
- Paper coin tubes
- Lincoln Memorial cent coin album
- Access to books about coins, their conditions, and their values

1. The Gathering Stage
Lincoln pennies can be found in pocket change. Begin by searching those pennies in your pockets. If you have no money at all, arrange to earn some to pay for your hobby. Next, ask family members if they will trade their pennies (5 or 10) for a nickel or dime. If you are purchasing something, be sure to check your change for pennies. An easier option is to purchase rolls of pennies from your bank (but don’t become a pest by visiting them too often).
2. Organizing Your Pennies

Look over the pennies that you've collected. Look at the dates on each one. Lay them out from left to right in order of the oldest to the newest by their dates. Look closely for a mint mark just beneath the date. If you find a 1973 penny, for example, with a "D" mint mark, then put that penny to the right of the plain (no mint mark) 1973 penny. After you have collected a number of pennies, a portion of your first collection might look something like the above photograph.

You will surely be missing a large number of coins in the complete Lincoln Memorial series, which includes over 100 different pennies. These pennies are different mainly because of the different dates and mint marks. However, certain years have pennies with no mint marks; others have both large date and small date varieties. Most years have "proof" pennies, which are specially made, while other varieties are very rare and more expensive. Most of the Lincoln Memorial pennies are easily found. Check your library or bookstore for a book that has a complete, updated list of all the available Lincoln Memorial cents.

3. Updating Your Collection

Next, work on making your collection as complete as possible. Using your complete list of all Lincoln Memorial cents, remove from the list any pennies that you find. Keep your family and friends informed of your current list (also called a "want list") and ask them to look through their pocket change for you. Always be on the lookout for pennies in better condition than the ones you now have. You will want your pennies to be the nicest looking with the least amount of wear—signs of wear include discoloration and rub or scratch marks. Continue upgrading your pennies so that your collection has the nicest example of each penny.

4. Displaying the Series

By this time, you will want to think about how to store your pennies. Paper coin tubes can do the job for you and are usually available free or for a small charge from your bank. For more expensive coins, a 2-inch by 2-inch coin envelope or holder works well.

You may wish to display your coins. Individual coin holders or albums, usually made of paper with a transparent window on both sides, are widely available. You will want to avoid albums made from PVC (polyvinyl chloride), which damages coins. For most collectors, a Lincoln Memorial cent coin album works perfectly. Some toy, hobby, and department stores carry coin albums; or, you may need to visit or write to a coin dealer or supplier to purchase one. Coin albums are fairly inexpensive.
Once you have acquired an album, press the pennies carefully into the correct openings. Use a tissue to avoid smudging your pennies as you place them in the album.

5. Coin Conditions
Below is a list of common categories for describing coin conditions. How would you rate the pennies in your collection?

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{MS} &= \text{Mint state, or uncirculated (UNC = uncirculated)} \\
&= \text{No trace of wear} \\
\text{AU} &= \text{About uncirculated} \\
&= \text{Traces of light wear, but more than half of mint luster shows} \\
\text{XF} &= \text{Extremely fine} \\
&= \text{Shows wear throughout, but all features are sharp and clearly visible} \\
\text{VF} &= \text{Very fine} \\
&= \text{Shows moderate wear, but all major details are basically clear} \\
\text{F} &= \text{Fine} \\
&= \text{Most of design is visible, and the word “Liberty” is complete} \\
&= \text{(except 20 cent and seated dime)} \\
\text{VG} &= \text{Very good} \\
&= \text{Well worn usually with any three letters of “Liberty” complete} \\
\text{G} &= \text{Good} \\
&= \text{Most details are flat with overall design and most lettering visible} \\
\text{AG} &= \text{About good} \\
&= \text{Heavily worn but identifiable by date and type} \\
\text{F} &= \text{Fair} \\
&= \text{Only identifiable by type of coin}
\end{align*}
\]

Note: Damaged coins (bent, holed, scratched, corroded) are worth less.

6. Learning More
To learn more about coins, coin conditions and coin values, visit your library or bookstore. Many excellent books are published on U.S., world, and ancient coins.

7. Reporting Your Activities
Report your activities in the Project Record on page 9.
Word Search

The list of coin collecting words at the bottom of the page are all mixed up in the letter box. Some are even backwards diagonally. See if you can find them all.

ALBUM
QUARTER
LUSTER
HEART
DATE
TUBE
PENNY
LINCOLN

DIME
CENT
RARE
MINT
GRADE
DENVER
VALUE
PROOF

HEAD
DOLLAR
COINS
MARK
HOBBY
HALF
DESIGN
WEAR

LIST
HEALTH
GOOD
SET
NICKEL
LEGEND
HAND
Activity 3: Figurines

In the following activity, we'll outline the procedure for collecting figurines. Although we use dinosaurs in this activity, feel free to select a figurine of your choice—bears, cartoon characters, whatever you like!

Because the cost of collecting some figurines is fairly high, we ask you to select a fairly inexpensive type of figurine. Dinosaurs will be our example, but the choice is completely up to you.

**Materials needed:**
- Figurines
- Access to books, catalogs, price guides about your figurines
- Access to books about dinosaurs if you wish to fill out the matching game

**Other materials recommended:**
- A place to display your figurines
1. Selecting a Type of Figurine
The first step is to decide what types of figurines you like. Figurines are made of a variety of materials—porcelain, metal, plastic, wood, pewter. Look around in stores and check prices. Talk with your family and friends to find out what they enjoy and why. After carefully reviewing the many types of figurines available, list those that interest you the most and are within your budget.

2. Ranking Your Top Choices
Next, rank your top three choices in order of your most favorite to your least favorite.

1) 

2) 

3) 

Now, let’s look more closely at your favorite choice.

What did you list as your most favorite?

What is the price range for one figurine (for example, does one figurine cost anywhere from $2.00 to $8.00)?

How many figurines are in a set?

Is there more than one set available?

How much will an entire set cost?

Who makes your favorite figurine?

3. Think Before You Shop!
Investigate your figurine collectible before you start buying. Find out about quality and price differences of your figurines. Although many manufacturers make "dinosaur" figurines, for example, only a few make fairly accurate figurines. Most manufacturers simply make "dinosaur-like" plastic models or just "monsters," most of which look more like dragons and other fictitious creatures than any dinosaur that actually existed. Be sure you know a great deal about your choice of figurine before you begin collecting them. If you already started collecting before starting this project, review what you have and learn more before continuing your collection.

4. Learning More
To learn more about figurines, dinosaurs, or other subjects, visit your library or bookstore.

5. Reporting Your Activities
Report your activities in the Project Record on page 9.
Dino-Match
Which prehistoric animal is which? It's up to you to match them correctly. Place the letter of the dinosaur (or other prehistoric animal) picture with the correct name.

a. __ Stegosaurus
b. __ Dilophosaurus
c. __ Diplodocus
d. __ Ceratosaurus
e. __ Utahraptor
f. __ Apatosaurus
g. __ Tyrannosaurus
h. __ Brachiosaurus
i. __ Triceratops
j. __ Plateosaurus
k. __ Gallimimus
l. __ Euoplocephalus
Activity 4: Leaves

For the leaf collection activity, we have chosen a variety of leaves commonly known and easily available in the midwestern United States. Leaves can be found in most places, including your backyard, a park, or the woods.

**Materials needed:**
- Leaves
- Leaf press (large catalog or book)
- Scrapbook

**Other materials recommended:**
- Access to books on identification of trees, leaves, and nature in general

1. **Deciding on a Leaf Press**
To begin, we will need to prepare or decide on a leaf press. This can be a large catalog or book. With a catalog, you place the leaves flat between the pages. A better leaf press can be created by using sheets of paper (often newsprint) sandwiched between layers of cardboard (or even plywood), which can be held tightly together by straps. See page 30 for a photograph of a sturdy leaf press.

2. **Gathering Leaves**
Review a leaf identification guide to become familiar with simple and compound leaves. Select a time of year when leaves are mature and before any major damage is done by withering, insects, fungi, and other natural causes. Take your catalog or book for pressing leaves with you and visit the closest safe place to your home where leaves may be found. Collect a variety of types, trying to find as many different shapes as possible.

Place each leaf in its own separate spot between different pages in your catalog. Place your leaves carefully, laying them flat for pressing later on.

3. **Identifying and Pressing Your Leaves**
Once you return from your leaf hunt, check each leaf against your leaf identification book and try to determine its type. Place a slip of paper with each leaf into your leaf press (catalog, large book, or typical press) with the name of each leaf for future reference. Apply pressure to your leaf press to help dry the leaves. This can be done by tightening the straps on a typical press or, for catalog presses, by placing heavy objects (such as other books) on top of the catalog.

4. **Reviewing Your Collection**
After about a week, open your press and view the leaves. They should retain all of their original color and shape, and yet be dry. If you make reasonable efforts to protect them, these leaves should not discolor or wither. Decide which leaves you wish to keep based on completeness, variety of type, and quality of the leaf (no holes, tears, or other signs of damage). Double check the leaves for proper identification. Ask others to review your leaves.

5. **Displaying Your Collection**
Select a scrapbook with the peel and seal type clear plastic pages. Carefully place your leaves into your scrapbook, making sure that the edges of the leaves do not bend or curl. Place a piece of paper beside the leaf describing the type of leaf, its scientific name, and where and when it was found.
6. Illustrated Leaf Lingo

- Simple leaf
- Compound leaf
- Petiole
- Smooth
- Toothed
- Lobed
- Pinnate
- Palmate
- Veins
- Opposite
- Alternate
- Needles

7. Learning More
To learn more about leaves and trees, visit your library or bookstore. Many excellent publications are available.

8. Reporting Your Activities
Report your activities in the Project Record on page 9.
Crossword Check

Let's check how much you remember about leaves. Solve the crossword puzzle below.

Across
4. A leaf that contains two or more leaflets is called a __________ leaf.

6. These grow in many places and are often identified by their leaves.

7. A means of drying leaves without damaging them.

Down
1. A common leaf press used by 4-H members.

2. The best time to collect leaves is when they are __________.

3. What you must do with your leaves with the assistance of a good leaf guide book.

5. The base of the leaf stem.
Activity 5: Rocks and Minerals

We’ll be choosing a wide selection of rocks and minerals to learn about their different shapes, textures, origins, colors, weights, and details. Rocks are the oldest collectibles with most of them being many millions of years old.

Materials needed:
- Access to books about rocks and minerals
- Notebook
- Labels
- File box
- Index cards

Other materials recommended:
- Egg cartons
- Old toothbrush
- Magnifying glass

1. Gathering Rocks
Rocks can be found almost anywhere—in your backyard, at a park, in the woods. A few rocks, such as diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and sapphires, are extremely rare and valuable. Begin by visiting the closest safe place to your home where rocks may be found. Collect any rocks that catch your eye, trying to find as many different shapes, colors, and textures as possible. Try to find examples of igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic, granite, and other types of rocks to add variety to your collection. (Be sure to refer to a well illustrated rock and mineral book first).

2. Identifying and Labeling Your Rocks
Once you return from your rock hunt, check each rock with a rock identification book and try to determine what each is. Arrange your rocks into different categories to compare them. Suggested categories include size, shape, texture, weight, and color. If convenient, return rocks that you don’t wish to keep to the place where you found them. Clean off a spot (usually the least attractive side) on each rock you are adding to your collection. Put a small label or sticker on it and place a number on the label. Using one index card for each rock you wish to keep, record the same number on the card with the date, place of find, and rock type. Also keep a notebook with information in it from all your rock hunts.
3. Displaying Your Collection
Decide which rocks you wish to store together and place them into an egg carton, clear plastic box, or plastic film canister. A shoe box works well for storing and displaying larger rocks. If you don't want your rocks to rub against each other, wrap each one in a piece of tissue paper or separate them with pieces of cardboard.

4. Learning More
To learn more about rocks and minerals, visit your library or bookstore. Many excellent books are published on all facets of geology and rock collecting.

5. Reporting Your Activity
Report your activities in the Project Record on page 9.

Scrambled Rocks
The words below are confusing, but they all have something to do with rocks and minerals. Can you decode them?

1. ogseiun 2. nidomad 3. peahsripi 4. oskrc 5. aelts 6. ridyasetnme


Activity 6: Sports Cards

We will be choosing recent cards for our activity because they are easily available and relatively inexpensive. We will begin by focusing on an individual sports star based on your personal preferences.

Materials needed:
- Sports cards
- Access to books, catalogs, and price guides about sports cards

Other materials recommended:
- Card holders, displayers, or protectors of your choice

1. Selecting a Sport
Select a sport that currently has a large number of different card series, such as baseball or football.

2. Purchasing a Pack of Cards
Purchase one pack of sports cards of your choice (usually $1.00 or less). Do not place the pack or individual cards into a pocket or other place where the corners or edges may be bumped or bent. The value of sports cards depends on two major factors. First, what is the demand of the card—how popular is the card and how plentiful or rare are they? Second, what is the condition of the card—are the corners bent or fuzzy looking or does the card look brand new?

3. Determining the Course of Your Collection
Compare the cards you just purchased with information in price guides and catalogs. Find out more about your cards, their values, the players, and the sport. You may now wish to do one of the following:
1) focus on a favorite player or two and select their cards only
2) continue collecting packs
3) collect entire sets by factory box or pack collecting or trading with others
4) do a combination of the first three
5) design your own system of collecting

It's up to you—what you enjoy and your budget. It's important not to get carried away with significant purchases of cards, however.
4. Protecting Your Collection
Protecting your cards is important for two reasons: 1) to keep them attractive for yourself and others to enjoy, and 2) to maintain their value for future selling or trading. Bent, discolored, or otherwise damaged cards are not as enjoyable to look at and their values are lower than new-looking cards. A variety of card protectors are available. First, individual soft and hard plastic sleeves are available, usually the same size as the card itself. Second, albums with pages having card pockets allow you to carry a large number of cards. Also, plastic boxes the size of a card and 1/2-inch, 1-inch, and 2-inches high are fairly common, inexpensive, and hold 25, 50, or 100 cards. Visit a sports card show, hobby shop, or department store to view the different types of storage devices available to you.

5. Learning More
To learn more about sports cards, the sport, the players, card conditions, and values, visit your library or bookstore.

6. Reporting Your Activities
Report your activities in the Project Record on page 9.

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**Break the Code**
A necessary message is just below, but it's been coded for secrecy. Can you break the code? Each number equals a specific letter—some are already decoded to help you get started. Good luck!

1=R  2=I  3=O  4=C  5=P  6=N  7=Y  8=Y  9=E

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5  1  3  7  9  4  7  2  6
8  3  1
4  1
2

9  1  8
2  5  3  1  7  6  7
2  6
9  9  5  2  6

7  9  2  1
9
Pledge:  
My Head to clearer thinking,  
My Heart to greater loyalty,  
My Hands to larger service,  
And My Health to better living  
for My Club, My Community,  
My Country, and My World.