



Mini 4-H

COLLECTIONS



An Introduction to 4-H for Youth in Grades K – 2

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.

4-H Facts



The 4-H Symbol: A four leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf.

4-H Colors: Green and White

The 4-H Motto: To make the best better!

The 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,
My Country,
and my World.

Mini 4-H

Welcome to Mini 4-H! You are now a member of the Elkhart County 4-H family! We hope that you will have lots of fun learning new things in your 4-H career.

Mini 4-H is designed for youth in Kindergarten through Second grade. It will give you a taste of the 4-H program as well as help you to explore a variety of project areas.

Mini 4-H'ers may enroll in two different projects each year. This manual contains fun, age-appropriate activities to complete throughout the 4-H year. These activities will help you to learn about the project you have chosen. Additionally, the manual contains all instructions for the exhibit you will be preparing for the Elkhart County 4-H Fair in July.

There is no competition in the Mini 4-H program. Each child who completes a project for the Fair will receive the same green completion ribbon and certificate. Judges comment sheets are provided only as a way to help you do your very best on future projects.

Mini 4-H does not have regular monthly meetings. Try to attend the special activities planned especially for YOU! These will give you a chance to meet the project leaders, have some hands-on fun, and ask questions about your important Fair display. Mini 4-H is FUN! You will enjoy it.

Once you enter the third grade you can join a regular 4-H club that meets monthly. You must enroll each year of your 4-H career.

If you have questions about the Mini 4-H program, please call the Purdue Cooperative Extension Office at 574-533-0554. We will be happy to answer your questions.

As a Mini 4-H parent, please help guide and encourage your child through the activities. Work with them to help them to “learn by doing”. Activities are designed to help your child learn about the project they have chosen. It is not required that they complete all the activities. Choose those that interest you and your child.

What is a Collection?

A collection is a group of things that have something in common. We collect many things. Some things we enjoy collecting and other things we would rather not collect.

Do you like to collect things? Do you have special things that you look for when you are with your family or friends? Do you ever go on a walk and pick up things along the way? Many of us do...and that is one way collections start!

People collect things for many reasons. For some people, it reminds them of a favorite toy when they were young. Some people like to add to a collection given them by a parent or a friend, or they collect things they might need.

Most people collect things because it is fun. Collections can cost very little or thousands of dollars. Everyone can collect something!

Activity 1 – COLLECTIONS AT HOME

Materials needed for this activity: Pencil and Activity Sheet

What you will do:

1. Pick 2 rooms in your house.
2. Write down what you see. Go to the first room and list all the things that are similar as a collection.
3. Next, go to the second room and write down all the things that are similar as a group or a collection.

Room #1:

-
-
-
-
-
-

Room #2:

-
-
-
-
-
-

What did you learn?

What rooms did you pick? Why?:

Which room had the most groups of things?:

What is your favorite collection? Why?:

Activity 2 – What do you collect?

The fun thing about collections is you can collect anything. Some things that people have collected include: seeds, pencils, stamps, erasers, rocks, coins, books, dolls, pictures, animals, sports cards, sewing buttons, stuffed toys, bugs, friends and many more.

Materials needed for this activity: Pencil and Activity Sheet

What you will do:

1. Think of 5 things you collect. A collection should have at least 5 similar things in Mini 4-H.
2. List them.

Item #1

Thing:

How many do you have?:

Cost?:

Item #2

Thing:

How many do you have?:

Cost?:

Item #3

Thing:

How many do you have?:

Cost?:

Item #4

Thing:

How many do you have?:

Cost?:

Item #5

Thing:

How many do you have?:

Cost?:

What did you learn?

What is your favorite collection?:

Why do you like to collect these things?:

What other things do members of your family collect?:

Activity 3 – Where did it come from?

Materials needed for this activity: Pencil and Activity Sheet

What you will do:

1. List 5 things from your collection. These can be all from the same collection, or from different collections, if you have more than one collection.
2. Investigate! Where did they come from? Were they a gift? From whom? A souvenir from a special trip or event?

Item #1

Thing:

Where did it come from?

Item #2

Thing:

Where did it come from?

Item #3

Thing:

Where did it come from?

Item #4

Thing:

Where did it come from?

Item #5

Thing:

Where did it come from?

What did you learn?

Did you already know where you got your collection?:

Was it special because it was a gift?:

Why do you think they gave it to you?:

Activity 4 – Antiques

Many people begin collections because something has been given to them by a parent or grandparent. Suddenly you have a collection.

Antiques are a favorite thing for many adults to collect. Antiques are things that are old. They are valuable because they are old. You can get antiques from your family, friends, or buy them at special stores.

Materials needed for this activity: Pencil and Activity Sheet

What you will do:

1. Visit a museum, library or antique shop.
2. Find 5 antiques that you like.
3. List them below.

Item #1

Antique:

How old is it?:

Value?:

Item #2

Antique:

How old is it?:

Value?:

Item #3

Antique:

How old is it?:

Value?:

Item #4

Antique:

How old is it?:

Value?:

Item #5

Antique:

How old is it?:

Value?:

What did you learn?

What was the oldest thing you found?

What was the most expensive thing you found?

What was your favorite antique? Why?

Activity 5 – Begin Your Collection

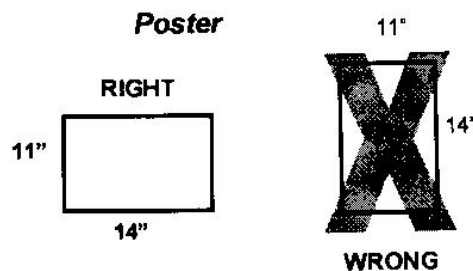
The fun thing about collecting is you can collect anything you like. It doesn't need to be expensive or important to anyone but you!

The best way to begin is to explore. What do you like? What do you see? Try collecting things that you find around the house or yard. Many people collect leaves, seeds, insects or rocks. There are many things you can collect. Use your imagination.

Good Luck Collecting!

What to Exhibit *Collections*

Make a Collections poster. Your poster must be exactly 11 inches x 14 inches, displayed horizontally (wider than it is tall) and attached to a stiff backing (like cardboard). You may use foam board. Foam board is already stiff and does not require additional backing. Your poster must be covered with clear plastic. This can be a poster sleeve. If you have made a three-dimensional item, you may use clear vinyl. Your poster must have a title.



NOTE: No oversize posters will be accepted for exhibition.
No un-mounted items will be accepted for exhibition.

1. You may exhibit a portion of your collection, 1-2 items. Extremely valuable collections can be displayed by taking a picture of your collection and attaching it to your poster. Projects may be three-dimensional but must be

firmly attached to the poster and covered with plastic so they can be hung on the wall for exhibition.

HINT: Please do not exhibit valuable collection items.

2. Title your poster: My Collection. Include with your display a short paragraph describing your collection.

NOTE: If you are unable to pick your project up on project Release Day, please make arrangements to have it picked up. All projects must be removed from the exhibit building on that day. There is no available storage space for unclaimed projects.

All posters must include: (both are found on page 12)

- **Record Sheet (attached to the back of the poster)**
- **Exhibit Tag (attached in the lower right front corner of the poster)**

Developed by Purdue Extension Elkhart County
17746 County Road 34 Ste E, Goshen, IN 46528, 574-533-0554

**Elkhart County Mini 4-H Collections Manual
Revised October 2024**

Exhibit Tag:

Mini 4-H
Name
City
Grade
School
Collections

Record Sheet

----- **Cut here** -----

Name:

Grade:

How long have you had your collection?

How many items do you have in your collection?

With whom have you shared your collection?

Who helped you with your collection?

Why did you start this collection?