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FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

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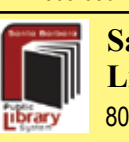
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www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres

 **South Coast Railroad Museum**
805-964-3540; www.goletadepot.org

This Month's Theme: Collection Fever

Have you ever noticed how people love to collect things?

If I shut my eyes, I can imagine our early ancestors sitting around the fire, showing off their prettiest shells or colorful rocks. Maybe they had a collection of unusual baskets or arrowheads or carvings. The funny part is that modern man likes to collect

shells, rocks, baskets, arrowheads, and carvings too, in addition to almost everything else you can imagine. Some people like to collect things so much it takes over all their spare time and sometimes their entire house! They have *Collection Fever*.



Richard and Marie Cline have been collecting colorful Oaxaca carvings for many years. They love the intricately painted, wooden sculptures and have traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico to visit the artisans in their workshops and learn about the history of these unique pieces of art. Each carving in their collection tells a story. Can you count how many armadillos are shown in the grouping below? Which one is your favorite?

Where do collections go?

Some people spend a large part of their lives adding to their collection. When the time comes to part with it, either because of age or because they have moved on to collecting something else, they need to decide what to do with their collection. For an expert collector, this is a very serious decision. Expert collectors have put a lot of time, love, energy, and money into their collection, so they want to make sure it is handed to someone who will put the time, love, and energy into maintaining their collection the way they did. For many collectors, this means finding a museum or institution that has the same kind of passion as they did for their items. When they find such a place, the collection is often given as a gift to the lucky museum or institution.

How can you see collections?

Santa Barbara County has many museums and educational institutions where the public can go and see all kinds of collections. Right now, the Wildling Art Museum is exhibiting its private collection of the art of America's wilderness through March 21 in Los Olivos. Some of the places you visit charge an entrance fee, but there are many opportunities to visit for free! With your Santa Barbara Educators' Passport any child, K-6 grade, and one adult can visit the member institutions for free! (If you don't have one, visit the library— which has a great **collection** of books—to pick up a booklet, or you can download a Passport at <http://www.sbert.org/index.php>). As an added Passport bonus, when you visit and complete an activity, you will receive a stamp and after collecting eight stamps, you will get a t-shirt. If you are a student who has participated over the years, chances are you have a **collection** of Passport booklets and t-shirts at home!

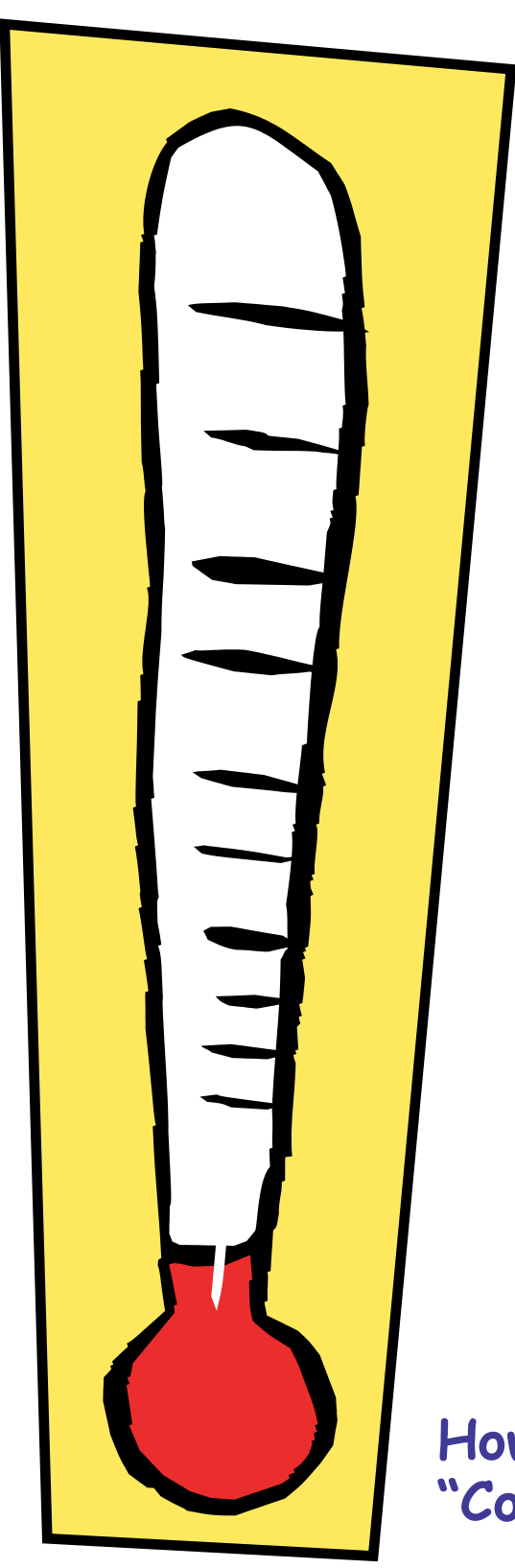
What is a collection?

If you have several similar things grouped together, that is a collection. Beginning (or novice) collectors may have just two or three items in their collection. If you think about it, I bet you could make a collection out of items you have in your room right now! Maybe you have a lot of toy cars, or dolls, or marbles, or stuffed animals, or computer games, or books on your favorite subject – if you like something, chances are you will have more than one.

Make a list of items for your favorite collection:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

More than five? You must really like collecting these items and probably look for new ones when you are out and about to add to your collection. That makes you an amateur collector (someone who collects as a pastime, for the fun of it). Expert collectors go one step further. They like to study and learn more about the items they collect. They keep notes about each piece; where it came from, who made it, what makes it special. They also protect their collection, so that pieces won't get damaged. They like to show off their collection, so everyone can enjoy them too.



How high is your "Collection Fever"?

 Wildling Art Museum 805-688-1082 www.wildlingmuseum.org	 Ty Warner Sea Center 805-962-2526 www.sbnature.org
 The Outdoor School at Rancho Alegre 805-686-5167 www.theoutdoorschool.org	 Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens 805-967-7369 www.fairviewgardens.org

Page by Holly Cline, Wildling Art Museum, Los Olivos