

STEM Maker Faire



CAPTIVATING COLLECTIONS



Collecting is a popular hobby enjoyed by people of all ages and all around the world. We would love for you to share a collection of items that are of scientific interest.

But, what is a *collection of scientific interest*?

Probably the best way to define it is to give some examples of what are and are not the types of collections we would like to display.

- Some examples of “scientific collections” include: insects, seashells, crystals, fossils, gemstones, bird egg replicas, plants, rocks, technology (eg. – radios that show the advances of technology). All of these increase our understandings of earth, life and / or the physical sciences.
- Some examples that probably wouldn't be of “scientific interest include: cookie jars, movie posters, buttons, key rings, model cars, action figures, etc. While these are wonderful collections, they are for enjoyment mostly outside the realm of science.

Whatever you choose to collect, one of the most important things will be for you to organize your collection so that the person viewing it can easily gather information from your display. This means that arranging and categorizing your items to show off their features will be an important job. You can learn a lot from others who share your interest in your particular collection. If you want to collect plant leaves, for example, do some research on others who collect leaves. You will find great ideas and tips for collecting, organizing and displaying your specimens.

It's not too late to start a collection. But be careful! You may get hooked and continue long after the STEM Maker Fair is over!

COLLECTION INFORMATION

Report on Scientific Collections:

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/smithsonian_kids_collecting/main.html

Smithsonian Kids Collecting

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/idealabs/amazing_collections.html

Insect Collections:

<http://entomology.unl.edu/tmh/ent115/labs/collecting.htm>

<http://bohart.ucdavis.edu/default.aspx>

Seashell Collections:

<http://www.conchologistsofamerica.org/home/>

Fossil Collections:

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/kids-only/earth-space/fossil-hunting/>

<http://www.fossilsites.com/>

Rock Collections:

http://www.minsocam.org/MSA/collectors_corner/index.htm

Remember to always follow local and federal laws as they apply to collecting things in nature.

Lots of great information. Get started today!

