

COOL Collections

Math

Genre

A **Nonfiction Article** gives information and facts about a topic.



Text Feature

Photographs and Captions

give more detail to an article and make it more interesting.

Content Vocabulary

lures
antique
memorabilia

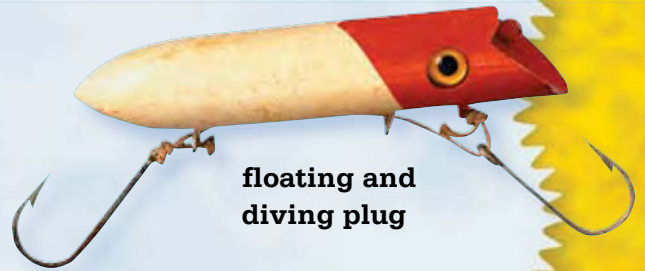
The Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies has a Web site devoted completely to collecting. “Smithsonian Kids Collecting” features amazing collections belonging to real kids. Here are two of their stories.



I have a collection of fishing objects. I began collecting about a year ago when I was looking through my grandfather’s old salt-water tackle box. There were lots of **lures**, weights, and plugs. After that I started looking through **antique** price guides and became very interested in all types of lures, nets, and fishing **memorabilia**. Some of my collection comes from objects that belonged to both my grandfathers.



The Charmer
from 1910



floating and
diving plug



deep diver plug

Fishing items are still easy to find today. You often find them at yard sales and flea markets. I have a split shot that you attach to your line (to take the lure deeper into the water) and a metal spinner which is rare to find. I found the metal spinner in the bottom of a creel (a wicker basket used to hold fish) that I bought for a reasonable price. I was very shocked to see the split shot because they're worth \$10–\$20. Also in the creel were these metal spinners and pin lube. You squirt a little bit of the pin lube in your reel, which causes it to loosen up and not stick. The metal spinner is used to attract fish. The shiny blades make it look like fish swimming away, which will attract large fish and then they'll eat your bait.

My grandfather's fishing license was from 1947. You often see them at flea markets ranging from \$10–\$30. My favorite lure is a rubber frog made in 1900 by Pflueger. I found my Civil War era fish hooks in a Civil War shop.

I have a lot of antique fishing poles in my collection like the bamboo rod owned by an "early Yeingst" who would fly fish for trout with it. I have a lure called the punkinseed that is manufactured by Heddon. I bought 13 lures for \$50 and soon I found out that the punkinseed lure alone is worth \$50. I got a good deal on it!



jig lures

silver coin of a Gupta horseman (below)



elephant and rhinoceros coins, 4th-5th century (left)



Indian Mughal gold coins from the 1620s

Gayatri Mani

I collect international stamps, coins, pens and pencils, erasers, comic books, birds' eggs, rocks, Indian clothing and jewelry. But I'm just going to talk about my money, stamps, and Indian book collection.

I've been collecting coins since I was about six years old. It started when we were taking my first trip back to India and I got a coin from Bahrain in a gift shop. I got a lot of my B.C. coins from my great uncle. I also have some from 974 A.D. and some pre-British coins, which are from the 1500s or 1600s, before the British took over India.

Whenever I got a new coin, my mom would make me study the capital of that country. I have coins from countries from every continent except for Antarctica.

My stamps are from all over the world too. I started collecting stamps because my aunt is from Indonesia and my grandparents live in India and my uncle lives in Germany. They used to write letters to me, so I would cut the stamps off the corners of the envelopes.



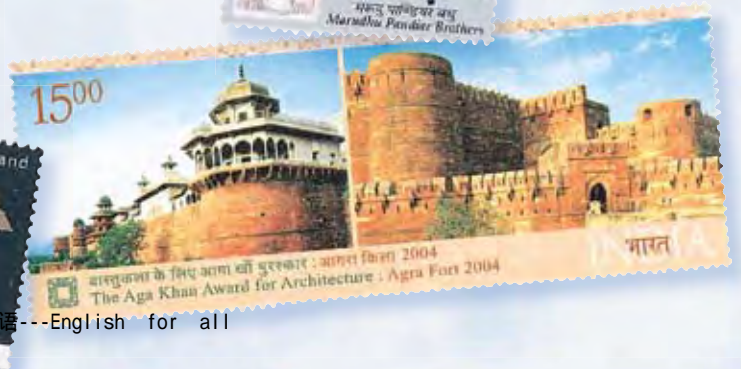
Indonesia stamps (left)



Indian stamps (left and below)

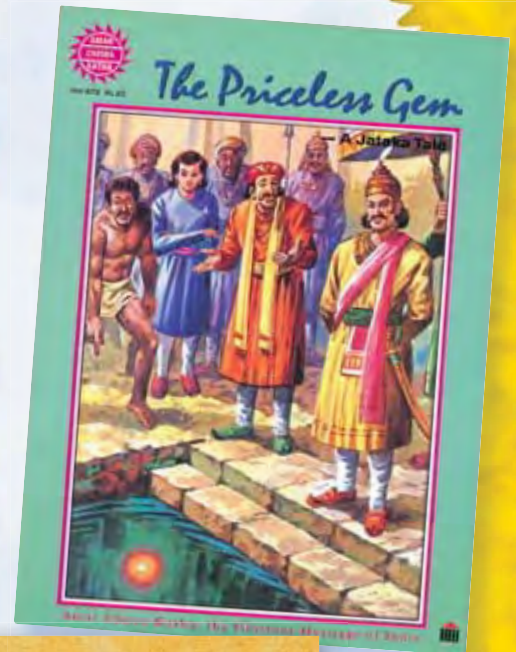
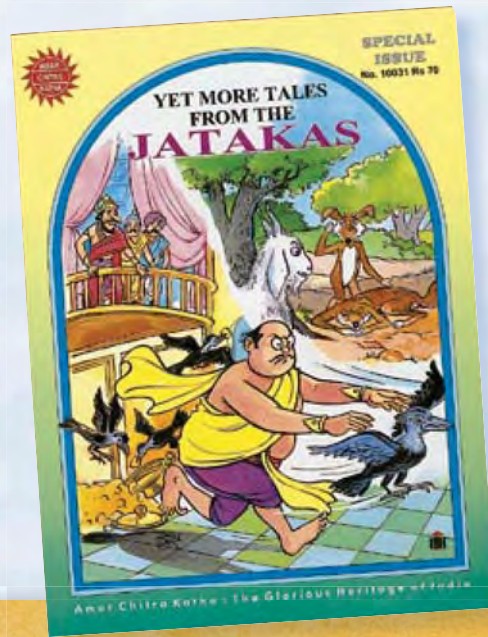


German stamp (right)



I also collect Indian comic books, which have stories about Indian mythology, which is a lot like Greek mythology. A lot of Indian comics are also like *Aesop's Fables*. They're called *Jataka Tales* and the *Panchatantra*. They have animal stories with morals at the end.

two popular retellings of Indian tales



Connect and Compare



1. Based on the photographs and captions, which of these collections would you like to read more about? Why?
Photographs and Captions
2. What kinds of things would you like to collect? Why? **Evaluate**
3. Do you think the collections in “Cool Collections” and Joe’s baseball card collection in *Honus and Me* are equally interesting? Explain. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Math Activity

Research what resources you would need to start a collection. Then write a budget and calculate how much money you will need for starting a collection.



Find out more about collections at www.macmillanmh.com

WRITE A POEM

Writer's Craft

Figurative Language

When you use **figurative language**, your readers get a clear picture of what you are describing. For example, personification is a comparison in which human qualities are given to objects or animals.

My favorite baseball sits on a throne as if it were a king.



The baseball is portrayed as encouraging me to succeed.

My Championship Baseball

by Troy B.

I have a baseball
that sits on a throne
above what my mother calls
the most cluttered desk in Kentucky.

I have a baseball
that has thirteen signatures
in smeared blue ink
of my teammates, my friends.

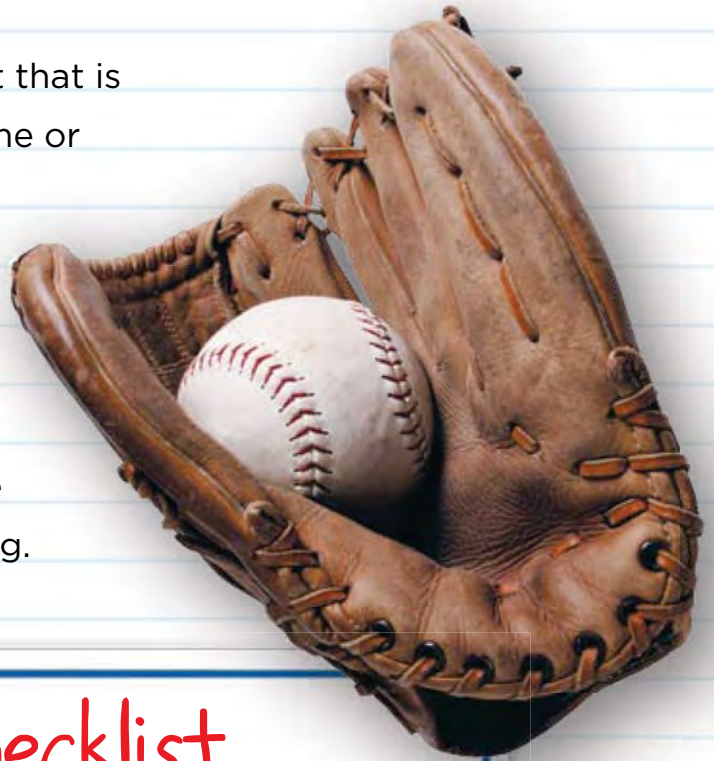
I have a baseball
that is made of cork and cowhide,
with grass stains and summertime dirt
stuck between the stitches of crimson string.

I have a baseball
that whispers to me, every time I feel down,
"You can do it!"
and reminds me that I did it before.

Your Turn

Write a poem that describes an object that is important to you. Your poem can rhyme or it can be unrhymed, like Troy's poem.

Choose colorful figurative language to describe your object. It might help to imagine that you are creating a photograph of the object with your words. Use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Is it clear what object I am describing? Did I include **figurative language** to create a vivid picture?
- Organization:** Do the details I chose fit into the poem like pieces of a puzzle?
- Voice:** Do I capture the way I feel about this object? Does the poem sound like only I sound?
- Word Choice:** Did I include lively and vivid adjectives?
- Sentence Fluency:** Does my poem have natural rhythm? Do the words flow smoothly?
- Conventions:** Did I use the words *more* or *most* properly in my poem? Did I check my spelling?