



Be a Collection Manager

Sorting Activity

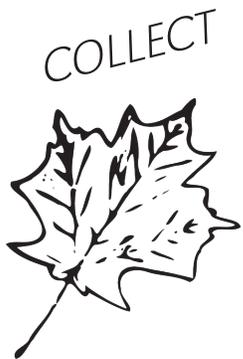
The University of Nebraska State Museum, has over 13 million objects (specimens) in the collection! These specimens are important for present and future scientific research. Collection Managers oversee the care and preservation of all these specimens. Before specimens become part of our collection, Collection Managers research the objects and properly sort, classify, catalog, and store them.

What you need:

1 collection container per person (egg carton, paper sack, reusable bag, etc.)

What you'll do:

This activity will have your child sort and manage their own collection!



1. Take a walk around your neighborhood or house and find 10 or more interesting items to put into your collection bag. You may need to talk to your child(ren) about which items are appropriate for them to handle and collect.
2. When finished, spread the contents of each separate collection bag out on a table or the floor.
3. Ask your child to sort their objects. Get them started with a question like, "What objects are alike? Put them in a pile together." Model what you want them to do by letting them see you sorting the objects you collected.
4. When they have sorted their objects into piles, ask them to explain their groupings to you.
5. Ask them to think of a new way(s) to sort the objects. Have them sort their objects at least two different ways. Depending on your child's age, you may need to help them think of ways to sort their objects, such as size, shape, color, material, or texture.
6. Compare collections. Did everyone use the same categories? Before the "Collection Manager" shares their collection, try to guess what characteristics they used to sort the objects.



SORT

SHARE

To continue sharing the collection, have your child display their items on a shelf or table in your home and give tours of their exhibit to the rest of the family.

Visit our Research Collections Virtually

Now that you have made your own collections, visit our Collections at the Museum virtually! You will find eight collections to explore, as well as a video about our Highway Paleontology program.

