

In the last seven years, third-party companies have offered grading services for valuable comic books. Buyers and sellers recognize the expertise and integrity of these professionals and know that a comic book certified by a professional grader is the real deal. The largest grading company is Certified Guaranty Company (CGC). If you browse through auction catalogs and price guides, you will see comic books listed as "CGC certified" or "CGC graded."

For a fee, you can send your comic book to one of these companies for professional grading. After carefully inspecting your book for wear and tear and signs of *restoration*, the grading specialist will assign a grade, seal your book, and encase it in a *slab* or plastic holder. **Do not unseal the book, or you will invalidate the grading.** Collectors can sell a professionally graded comic book for three to 10 times the amount they would receive for the same nongraded comic.

A *restored* comic book is one that has had missing or deteriorated pieces replaced or mended so that it appears to be original. Serious collectors do not generally accept this restoration practice because the value of the repaired book is never as high as the original book of the same grade. The seller should always reveal to any potential buyer the restoration of a comic book.



Not every comic book is a good candidate for professional grading because the fees may be higher than the value of the book. The vast majority of comic books are not very valuable. Consider getting your book graded if it meets the following criteria, which may indicate that you have a valuable book that could sell for a big profit.

- Key issue: the first appearance, the story of a character's creation, or any other historical or artistic feature important to collectors
- Debut of a character
- Key first issue
- Deaths of major characters, heroes, or villains
- First work of comic creators who later became popular

## Collecting for Laughs or Loot

Before many comic book collectors even thought about putting an organized collection together, they just liked to read comic books. They tended to keep the comics after reading them, and soon they had a stack of books featuring their favorite superhero or favorite adventure or horror series. You may already own a stack of comics. You can call it a collection when you decide to treat your books with respect, organize them, and figure out what others are willing to pay for the issues.

In 1970, *Action Comics #1* in Mint condition was valued at \$300. In 2005, the same comic in Near Mint condition was valued at \$485,000. One year later it was valued at \$550,000—an increase of \$65,000, or 13 percent. Most investors would be happy with that return on investment, and every collector would be thrilled to own the comic book that featured Superman's first appearance and launched the Golden Age of comics.

You can find out the current value of your comics by studying price guides and auction catalogs. While you are looking for information about your own books, you will discover which comics are in high demand and what are the current values for rare comics. Those interesting facts (and high prices!) will inspire you to add to your collection and take care of it.



In 1969, this copy of *The Incredible Hulk* cost 12 cents on the newsstand. Today, in Near Mint condition, the comic is valued at \$60.

### Cataloging Your Comic Book Collection

Whether you want to collect comics for your own enjoyment or for a chance to make some money, you should keep good records of your collection. At the least, you will know the titles of your comics and how many books you have. If, however, you want to manage your collection and make a profit, you will need to note more specific information.

You can record your information on paper and keep it in a notebook, or create a spreadsheet on the computer. Some companies sell software programs for keeping track of comic book collections. If you note the information for each comic as shown in the following form, you will have a very good record of the description, value, and location of your books.

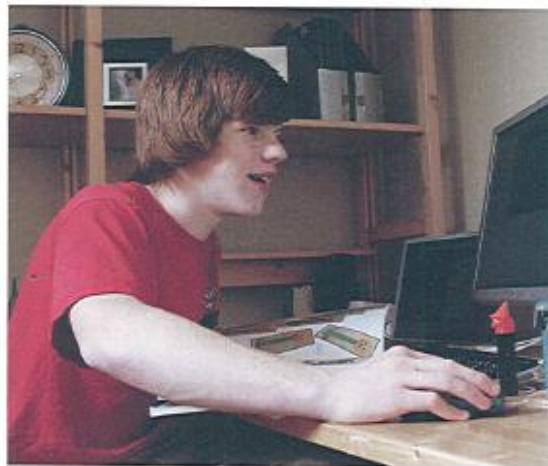
Here is a sample record from a comic book collection.

Item No.:	47
Title of comic:	Superman: King of the World
Publisher:	DC Comics
Issue No.:	1
Date of issue:	June 1999
Important information:	One-shot, regular edition
Grade or grade abbreviation:	9.2 NM
Additional information about condition:	Paper still fresh; corners square and sharp
Value:	\$4.00 as of November 1999
Purchase price:	\$3.95
Purchase date:	June 15, 1999
Purchase place:	Nutmeg Comics
Location of Issue:	B4 (box No. 4)

In this example, the comic was issued as a *one-shot*, which means only one issue of that title was published. Regular editions are not mentioned unless other editions of the title—such as collectors' or limited editions—are published.

Item No.:	
Title of comic:	
Publisher:	
Issue No.:	
Date of issue:	
Important information:	
Grade or grade abbreviation:	
Additional information about condition:	
Value:	
Purchase price:	
Purchase date:	
Purchase place:	
Location of Issue:	

Use a chart like this to help catalog your collections. You can modify it any way you like.





## Sports Cards: Collecting Athletes

In 1875, tobacco manufacturer Allen & Ginter of Richmond, Virginia, decided to boost tobacco sales by printing images of athletes, heroes, and other Americans on slender trading cards. The company put individual cards in its packs of cigarettes. The gimmick turned into a wildly successful marketing scheme and launched what is perhaps the first mass marketing of trading cards in the nation.

By 1887, when baseball cards became hot items, several other tobacco companies were packaging similar cards with their own products. Those companies produced some of today's oldest, rarest, and most sought-after sports cards. Ginter is known for the World's Champions series, which featured boxers, baseball players, sharpshooters, pool players, wrestlers, and Wild West heroes Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill Cody. New York's Goodwin & Co. launched an equally successful Champions series featuring baseball players, bicyclists, weightlifters, marksmen, and college football stars.

What began as an idea to help sell tobacco more than a century ago has grown into a multibillion-dollar industry that includes most major American sports. Today, baseball cards are still the most popular among collectors, followed by cards devoted to football, basketball, and hockey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of sports cards change hands in a huge nationwide network of card dealers, vendors, clubs, and individuals.



Not all cards are valuable, but they are still fun to collect.

## The Top Sports Cards

Here are a few of the most valuable sports cards.

### Baseball

1915 Sporting News #151, Babe Ruth, Boston Red Sox  
*Importance:* Babe Ruth's rookie card

1932 U.S. Caramel #26, Lou Gehrig, New York Yankees  
*Importance:* The first key Lou Gehrig card

### Basketball

1969 Topps #25, Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), Milwaukee Bucks  
*Importance:* The star's only recognized rookie card

### Boxing

1948 Leaf #1, Jack Dempsey  
*Importance:* First card in the set featuring the boxer

### Football

1933 Goudey Sport Kings, Red Grange, Chicago Bears

*Importance:* Good color features; appealing image

### Golf

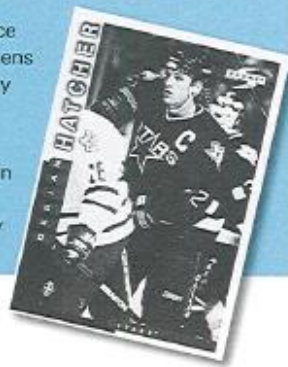
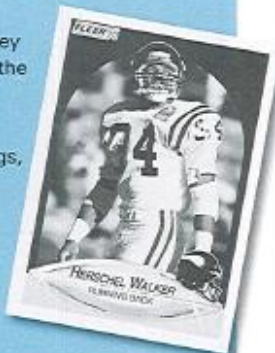
1998 Champions of Golf Master Collection, Tiger Woods  
*Importance:* Tough to find this card in Mint condition

### Hockey

1951 Parkhurst #4, Maurice Richard, Montreal Canadiens  
*Importance:* Richard's only recognized rookie card

1979 O-Pee-Chee #18, Wayne Gretzky, Edmonton Oilers

*Importance:* Gretzky's key rookie card



Key cards are the most expensive, desirable, or important cards.

## Grading Sports Cards

A sports card is graded based on its condition—a factor often more important in setting its value than the player on the card. In Poor condition, a card typically will be valued at least 20 percent lower than the same card in Good condition. No slack is given to older cards—a card 40 years old is judged by the same standards as one from the last sports season.

Besides the creases, folds, tears, and angled or off-centered photos that drastically reduce a card's value, minor flaws can hurt value, too. Depending on their seriousness, the following flaws may lower a card's value by one to four grades: bubbles (lumps in the surface), gum and wax stains, diamond cutting (slanted borders), notching, paper wrinkles, scratched-off cartoons or puzzles on the back, rubber-band marks, surface impressions, and warping.

The corners of a single card could be rated in different categories. These are the major categories of corner wear.\*

**Sharp.** The corner is sharp, but shows slight wear. On a dark-bordered card, this wearing shows as a dot of white.

**Fuzzy.** The corner comes to a right angle, but that angle shows a little fraying. A slightly dinged (nicked) corner is considered the same as a fuzzy corner.

**Slightly Rounded.** Fraying at a corner has led to a rounding of the edge. The corner may show layering where the card's paper stock is split.

**Rounded.** The corners are rounded and there is some layering.

**Badly Rounded.** The corners are completely rounded and the layering is severe.

\*From *Beckett Almanac of Baseball Cards and Collectibles No. 7* ©2002 Beckett Publications. Reprinted with permission.

Most card injuries begin at the corners. Experts who rate cards give five different grades to the conditions of a card's corners. The more rounded and worn the corners, the lower the grade.



Different professional grading companies have their own numeric codes for evaluating the conditions of sports cards, but all are based on general guidelines from Mint to Poor.

**Mint.** A card with no flaws or wear; it has four perfect corners. The card has excellent centering of the picture. It has retained its original gloss (shine), smooth edges, and original color borders. There are no printing defects (spots or lines), or color or focus imperfections.

**Near Mint.** The card has one minor flaw. Flaws that would lower the card's rating: one fuzzy corner or two to four corners with slight wear, nearly perfect centering, minor print spots.

**Excellent.** The card has four fuzzy but not rounded corners. The centering is no worse than 80/20 (the card's picture is off-center, with up to 80 percent of the border shifted to one side of the picture and 20 percent or more on the opposite side). There is minimal loss of the original gloss, with rough edges, slightly discolored borders, and minor print spots.

**Very Good.** The card has been handled but not abused. Its corners are slightly rounded and slightly layered. There is slight notching on the edges. The card shows significant gloss loss from the surface, but no scuffing. The card shows moderate discoloration on the borders. The card may have a few light creases.

**Good, Fair, Poor.** The card is worn or has been mishandled or abused. The corners are badly rounded and layered. There is scuffing, and most or all of the original gloss is gone. There are seriously discolored borders, moderate or heavy creases, and one or more serious flaws.

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Mint condition

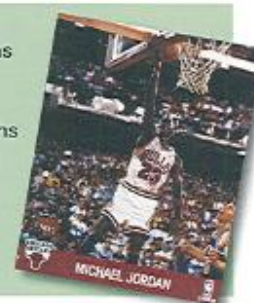


Very Good condition



Poor condition

Many hobbyists have widened their collections to include items such as cereal boxes, autographed programs, and game-day tickets. However, autographs can sometimes *reduce* a sports card's value. If you want to collect an autograph, ask the player to sign a spare card or another item.

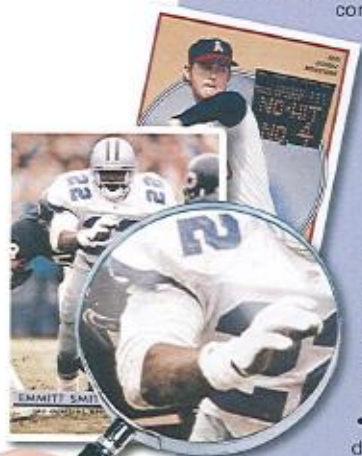


Value is also based on supply and demand. For those who collect only Mint-condition cards, the supply of older cards may be quite small. Each year some cards are thrown away, lost, or otherwise destroyed, reducing the supply. Until recently, only serious collectors realized the need to preserve cards to hold their value.

➤ Demand depends on the interest of individual collectors, fads, trends, and other factors. It is governed mostly by the age of the card, the number of cards printed, the player shown on the card, the attractiveness and popularity of the set, and the card's condition. In other words: The older the card, the fewer the number, the more famous the player, the more attractive the set, the better the condition—the higher the value.

## The Real Deal

Many collectors have felt the sting of unknowingly buying trimmed, recolored, or counterfeit cards. Spotting fakes can be hard, so take these precautions and consult pricing guides for other tips.



- Carefully inspect a card's dot pattern. Cards are printed on high-speed presses that use dots of ink to make the picture. Use a 16x (16-power) magnifier to inspect the printing, especially the black areas and any dark text. If possible, compare the card to a known genuine sample. Fake cards usually are rescreened, indicating they have been copied (making a card's solid-ink areas look blurry under a magnifier). Also beware of blurry or faded photos.
- Recolored cards typically have damaged or chipped edges or surface dings. Look at the edges, under magnification, for ink bleeding. This happens when ink used to recolor a chipped edge or spot "bleeds" from the surface of the card's paper onto the edge itself. It is hard for someone to recolor a card without leaving the telltale evidence.
- Retouched cards might have poorly shaved edges. The edge often appears too smooth, too rough, or too closely trimmed. Detecting a shaved edge can be tricky.
- A card's edge is sometimes its most telling feature. Tampered cards may have *beveled* edges. Under magnification and from the side, a beveled edge will show an outward slant that is not used in the original trimming of a card.

## Collecting Sports Cards: Trading and Buying

Some people collect complete sets of cards for an athlete's entire career. Others focus on a particular team or collect the first, or rookie, cards of players who have gone on to become standouts in their sport. You can buy cards in different combinations—as individual cards or as a pack, box, or set. Let your own interests (and your budget) guide your decisions as you put your collection together.

Serious collectors get cards from various sources: other collectors or dealers, sale or auction ads in hobby publications, local hobby stores, sports collectibles shows or conventions, or the Internet marketplace. Professionals suggest that collectors try all five sources, but be a smart shopper. Just as department stores unload summer clothes in the fall, card dealers do the same. They often clear out a current year's cards at reduced prices after the end of a particular sport's season.

At card shows or conventions, hundreds of vendors display thousands of cards from various sports. You can learn a lot about sports-card collecting at these events, such as how to figure out the value of cards, how to organize your collection, and how to sell for a profit.

Learn more about collecting sports cards or about specific cards by browsing the Internet (with your parent's permission). Log onto a good search engine and key in terms of interest, such as "football cards" or "Miami Dolphins"—using words that describe the cards or information you seek. There are countless Web sites devoted to the history of collecting, to a particular era, or to specific players.



Monthly collectibles magazines found on most newsstands offer state-by-state listings of related conventions and shows.

### Storing and Organizing Your Cards

Sleeves come in different sizes. Be sure your cards fit snugly in their sleeves so that they stay put when handled.

Now that you know how the condition of a card affects its value, you understand the importance of caring for your sports cards. Use protective sleeves to hold cards. Buy only sleeves made of polyester film and advertised as "acid free," because acid and other chemicals can harm paper items over time. You can find these protective products in hobby and collectibles shops and on the Internet (with your parent's permission, of course).

Use common sense when storing your collection. Keep the cards in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and fumes. Do not store your collection in an attic, garage, or damp basement.



These storage sleeves make viewing easy.

### Cataloging Your Collection

Whether you store your cards in albums or boxes, you will have a hard time finding a specific one if you do not keep records. If you take the time to list your cards—on paper or on the computer—you will avoid buying or trading identical cards in the same condition. Plus, if you do decide to sell a card, you will know what you paid for it and its current market value.

Here is a sample record from a sports card collection.

<b>Item No.:</b>	638	<b>Card No.:</b>	55
<b>Sport:</b>	Baseball	<b>Date of issue:</b>	February 2, 1999
<b>Team:</b>	New York Yankees	<b>Condition:</b>	Good
<b>Player:</b>	Babe Ruth	<b>Value:</b>	\$2.50 as of August 1999
<b>Position:</b>	First base	<b>Purchase price:</b>	\$1.00
<b>Series:</b>	Yankees Hall of Fame	<b>Purchase date:</b>	March 4, 1999
<b>Information:</b>	Theme: Power Hitters	<b>Purchase place:</b>	Deke's Sports Cards
<b>Brand:</b>	Fleer	<b>Location of card:</b>	A4 (album No. 4)

<b>Item No.:</b>		<b>Card No.:</b>	
<b>Sport:</b>		<b>Date of issue:</b>	
<b>Team:</b>		<b>Condition:</b>	
<b>Player:</b>		<b>Value:</b>	
<b>Position:</b>		<b>Purchase price:</b>	
<b>Series:</b>		<b>Purchase date:</b>	
<b>Information:</b>		<b>Purchase place:</b>	
<b>Brand:</b>		<b>Location of card:</b>	

Organize your records to track the information you want to know. You can use a form like this one or buy computer software for cataloging sports cards.

The cards you collect reflect your personality. They show what athletes you admire, what sports you enjoy, what playing positions interest you, and they might even reveal what goals you have for your future.

### For Love or Money: Keeping or Selling Your Cards

Sports card collecting is a personal pastime, but the sports card industry is big business. Players earn money for having their pictures featured. The sports leagues in which they play get royalties for the use of the league names and logos. Card companies make money producing and selling cards. Sometimes, collectors make a lot of money, too.

In 1909, Pittsburgh Pirates shortstop Honus Wagner created a ruckus about his image being used on a sports card. One story claims he demanded his image be removed from tobacco-sponsored cards because he believed the cards encouraged children to use tobacco. Another story says Wagner was upset because he thought he should be paid part of the profits that his cards earned. To avoid Wagner's legal action, the card company destroyed nearly all of his cards. Today, Wagner cards are among the rarest. In 2000, a California collector paid \$1.1 million for a Near Mint 1909 Wagner card.



Sports cards like this 1953 Topps #317 Hank Aaron often are paired with other collectibles in a handsome display, making the hobby more interesting and fun to show off.

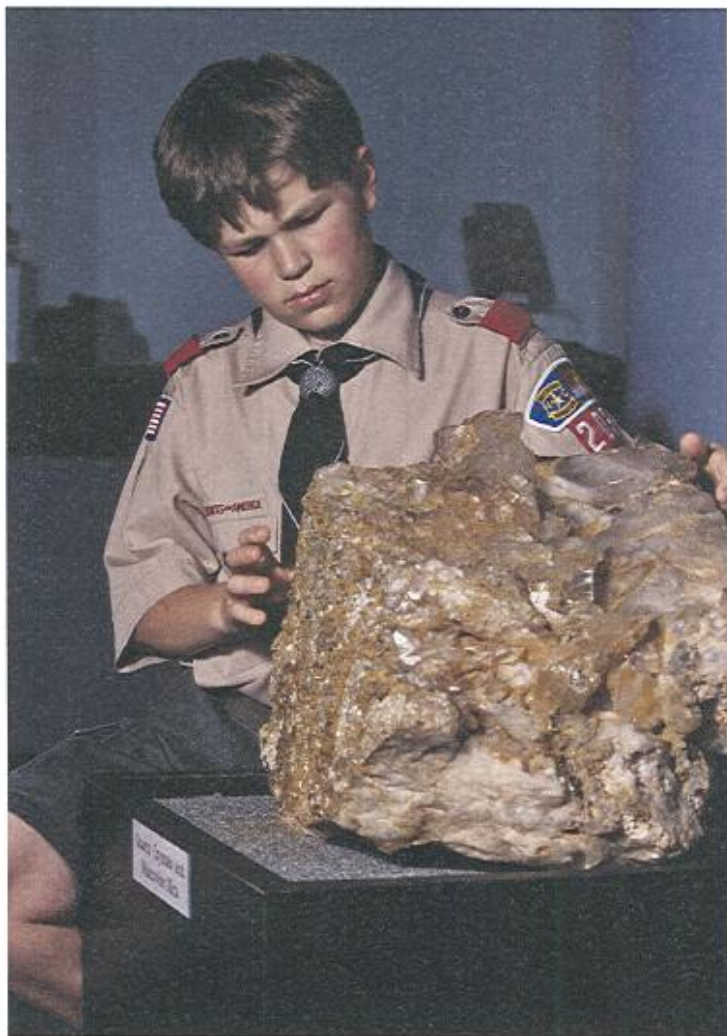
Even though you might like to make a profit by selling your sports cards, remember to enjoy this hobby. Buy what you like—in the best condition you can afford. Take care of your cards and keep good records, but always have fun.

Here are some other valuable baseball cards. The values are estimated market prices for cards in Mint or Near Mint conditions.

- 1952 Topps #311 Mickey Mantle—\$66,887
- 1933 Goudey #106 Nap Lajoie—\$55,152
- 1914 E145-1 Cracker Jack #103 Joe Jackson—\$22,800
- 1949 Leaf #8 Satchel Paige—\$12,000
- 1951 Bowman #305 Willie Mays—\$9,860
- 1954 Bowman #66A Ted Williams—\$7,853
- 1938 Goudey Heads Up #274 Joe DiMaggio—\$7,663







## Rocks: Collecting Chunks of the Past

Rock hounds have long been fascinated with rocks because they are evidence of the physical forces that have altered the face of our planet. Wind and water ravage Earth's surface, wearing down mountains and reducing pebbles to sand. Meanwhile—below Earth's surface—the temperature rises so dramatically that rock melts. These processes, which scientists believe may have been happening for billions of years, are never-ending. People collect rocks that reveal Earth's natural history even as the rocks of the future are being formed.

As a beginning rock collector, you can decide to base your collection on a number of factors, like color, shape, texture, or anything that strikes your interest. As your interest in the rocks' origin and identification grows, you can begin to learn more about different rock classifications.

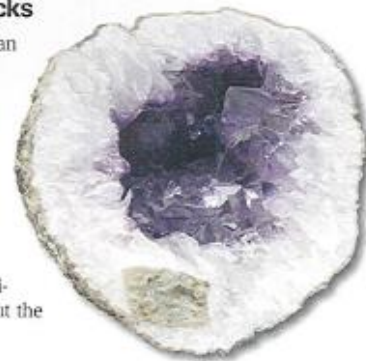
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A *rock hound* is an amateur collector of rocks and minerals.

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### Finding and Collecting Rocks

You do not have to go much farther than your driveway to start a common rock collection. Better sites, though, are where you find cuts in rocks made by humans: quarries, mines, and road building and construction sites. The best sites are where rock has been recently exposed, such as valley floors and the bottoms of mountain streams. If you plan to identify the rocks from their texture and mineralogical features, try to collect samples about the size of your fist.





If you will be rock hunting on private property, get the landowner's or land manager's permission. Do not disturb wildlife, livestock, fences, or other property. Remember, it is illegal to collect rocks in state parks, national parks, or national monuments. You may collect rocks immediately outside these areas only if you have permission.

Consider joining a rock and mineral club, or subscribe to a rock and mineral magazine, to learn what others collect and how to expand your own collection. Besides having information about local rock and gem shows, many rock clubs and societies offer workshops on topics such as cleaning and organizing specimens and understanding rock formations and crystal structures.

Rock and gem shows are excellent places to buy or trade specimens. Many natural museums have rock and mineral displays, and also sell starter kits in their gift shops.

**Tip:** When you are out rock hunting, collect extra specimens that you can trade with other rock hounds to fill gaps in your collection.

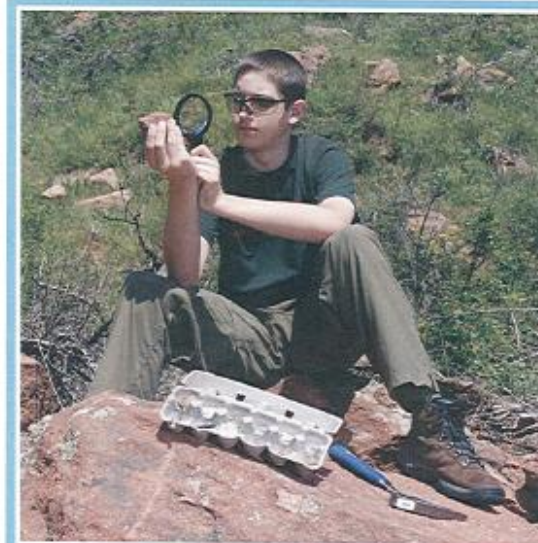


Many rock hounds try to collect all the related rocks from the area in which they live. Others collect *micromounts*—very small mineral specimens that are usually the size of a fingernail.

### Rockhounding Tools

Every beginning rock collector should try to get two pieces of specialized equipment: a geologist's hammer and a hand lens. Use the hammer to break off rock specimens and trim them to display size. Hammer with the blunt end and chisel with the pick end. You can purchase a geologist's hammer in scientific supply houses or specialty stores.

Once you have a rock in hand, you will need a lens or pocket magnifier to identify the specimen's mineral grains. Six-power to 10-power magnification is best. Advanced collectors use an optically corrected lens. Beginners can start with hand lenses, which may be purchased in jewelry stores, optical shops, or scientific supply houses.



If you plan to chisel or hammer rock to get individual specimens, wear safety glasses. Striking rocks with a hammer may knock off sharp chips that could seriously injure your unprotected eyes.

While rock collecting, you may need some or all of this equipment: field guide to rocks and minerals, geologist's hammer, chisel, small hand trowel, magnifying glass, compass, map, pocketknife, hard hat, safety glasses, gloves, knapsack, camera, newspaper to wrap rocks, adhesive tape to make a temporary label, felt-tip marker.

## Safety Tips



- Never enter an abandoned mine. Walls frequently collapse.
- Wear a hard hat when hunting below a rock face.
- If chiseling rock for specimens, wear protective eyewear.
- Wear gloves and sturdy boots or shoes.
- Always carry a compass and a good map, and know how to use them.
- Whether you are collecting alone or with a friend, always make sure someone knows where you are going.
- Never throw rocks off a ledge—someone might be right below.

If you keep your specimens on trays, place a small card with identifying information beneath each rock for quick reference.

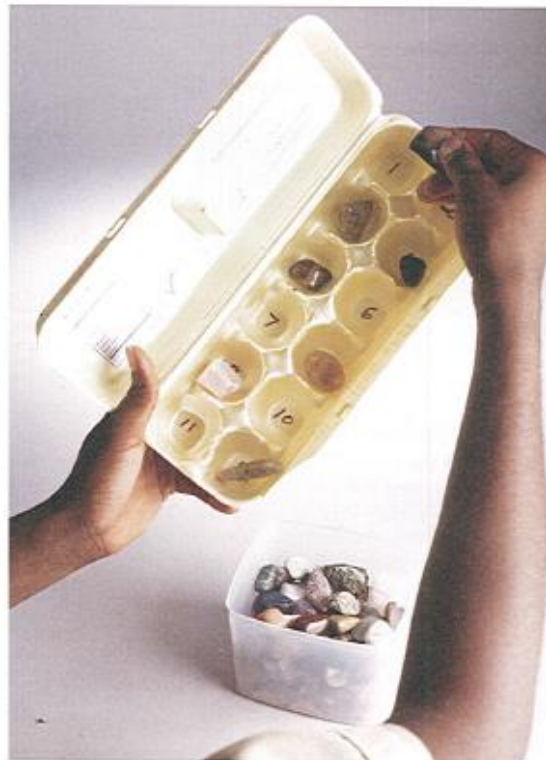
## Cataloging and Displaying Rocks

Record specimens in a field notebook as you collect the rocks. Although fully identifying a sample can wait until later, you should immediately date and label your rock and note the location where you found it. Use a piece of adhesive tape and a marker to make a temporary label. Many collections become mixed up because collectors fail to do this.

Just as in any field of collecting, a labeling system is critical. Many rock collectors dab white water-soluble paint or lacquer on a corner of each specimen, then write a reference number on the paint with a black felt tip pen. For tiny samples, mark the numbers on the container in which you keep the specimens.



Most rocks rarely require special treatment. Soak your specimens in cold water and (if they are not too delicate) clean them with an old toothbrush. Allow them to air dry. You can simply store a rock collection in shoe boxes or corrugated cardboard boxes or display it on shelves.



Egg cartons make excellent containers for smaller rock specimens. If you want something fancier, use cases that have individual compartments and glass lids.



For more information on identifying rocks, see the *Geology* merit badge pamphlet.

In your own notebook, record the specimen's number and name, date you collected the rock, description of the collection site, and other relevant data. If you bought the rock, note the seller's name, purchase price, and purchase date.

### Evaluating Your Collection

Determining the value of a nonprecious rock or mineral collection can be difficult because there are no price guides available as there are for other kinds of collectibles. Often the price of common rocks such as granite or limestone is quoted per pound. To get a general idea of the value of your rocks, go to rock and mineral shows or to rock shops to find out what people are charging for similar specimens.

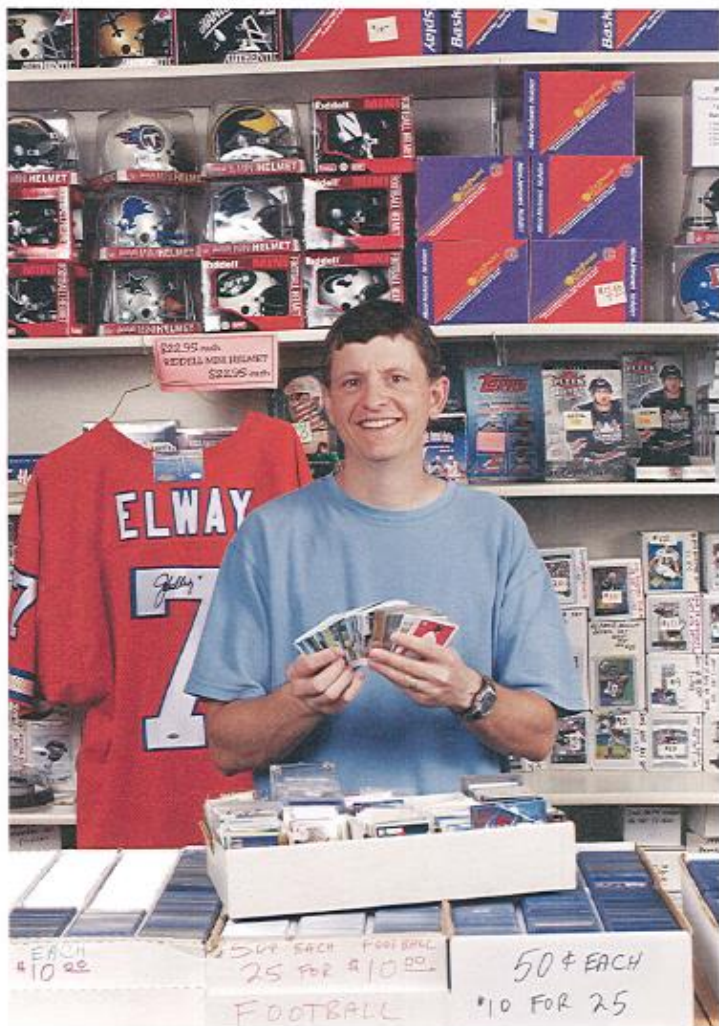
Dealers and other collectors might be interested in buying some of your rocks if you have a rare one found only in a remote part of the world. Perhaps you have some unique crystals that are special for their clarity, shape, and color. In any case, you would have to negotiate a price based on your knowledge of comparable rock sales.



You can find buyer's guides for gemstones. Also, if you have precious or semiprecious gemstones (opals, corundum sapphires) in your collection, you can take them to a gemstone appraiser to find out what the stones are worth (for a fee). The appraiser is trained to grade the gemstones in terms of appearance, quality, rarity, weight, and other factors that make it unique.

Most rocks and minerals you find "in the field" have little cash value, but they are important for what they represent in your collection. As you show your collection to other rock hounds, you will discover that your rocks are worth something: first, when they admire your samples; and second, when they ask to trade specimens or offer you money for a rock they need in their own collection.





## Careers: From Hobby to Profession

Some people use their hobby to relax after work. Others work at their hobby. You can take many different career paths that relate to your interest in collecting. For certain occupations—such as dealing in comics-related merchandise—you can jump right into a business if you have a collection to sell, a place to store it, money to travel and buy more inventory, ways to sell merchandise (Web page or auctions on the Internet, storefront, booth at a show), and some understanding about financial record-keeping and tax laws.

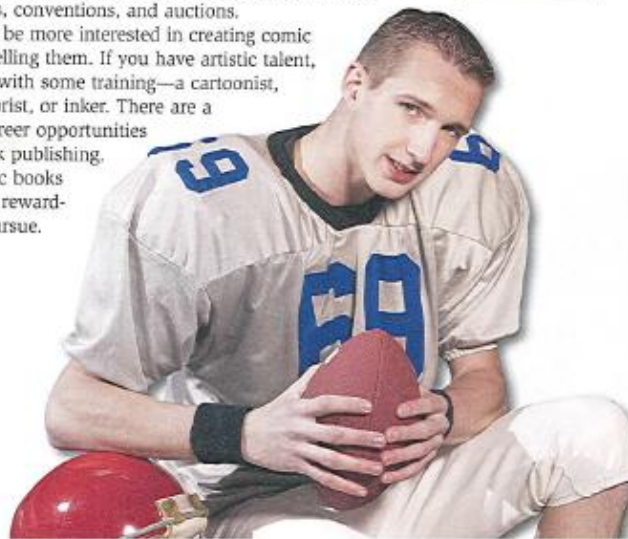
Many dealers are self-taught. They may have a deep knowledge and obvious enthusiasm about their products from years of passionate collecting and research. They have also built a network of potential clients and contacts from attending club meetings, conventions, and auctions.

You may be more interested in creating comic books than selling them. If you have artistic talent, you can be—with some training—a cartoonist, penciller, colorist, or inker. There are a number of career opportunities in comic book publishing. Grading comic books also can be a rewarding area to pursue.

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Your interest in collecting sports cards may lead you into playing sports, sportscasting or sportswriting, or creating sports card packaging and promotions.

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One Scout started his collection with a few hand-forged nails from his grandfather's barn. As his collection grew, he built a career supplying hardware for authentic restorations.

Rock collectors with a strong scientific curiosity may pursue careers as mineralogists, petrologists, geologists, or teachers. Rock hounds with a particular interest in gemstones may become gemologists (trained in gemstone identification and grading), appraisers, diamond cutters, lapidaries (artisans who work with precious and semiprecious stones and minerals), bench jewelers (professionals who make, repair, and adjust jewelry), or jewelry designers.



Robert Haag, also known as the Meteorite Man, used to go with his parents on prospecting trips to the Arizona desert. He became a rock hound and studied geology in college. Today, he travels the world collecting meteorites to buy, sell, and trade. In a vault beneath his home in Tucson, he keeps a treasure of meteorites, including pieces of the moon and Mars.



A whole industry exists to support the buying, selling, and display and preservation of collectibles. Auction houses, galleries, and museums employ auctioneers, appraisers, curators, and conservators. People hired for these positions often specialize in one area, such as pottery and porcelain or prints and paintings.

You can turn any collecting interest into a related career. For example, your candy dispensers collection may inspire you to become a toy manufacturer, candy-maker, pop culture historian, hobby magazine writer, brand manager, or product placement specialist.



### Education and Training

A collector is a narrowly focused expert, and that is sometimes enough to get started. Often, however, more schooling and training are necessary because so much is at stake. Find out from people in your collection network what they had to study, specialized schools they had to attend, skills they had to learn, and professional organizations they joined to prepare for their career.

Talk to your school counselor about some of the positions mentioned above and discuss which colleges or trade schools might offer the courses and training you will need. As you consider your future, start a new collection—your own career choices.

## Resources for Collecting

### Scouting Literature

*Archeology, Basketry, Coin Collecting, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Geology, Graphic Arts, Indian Lore, Journalism, Leatherwork, Metalwork, Painting, Photography, Pottery, Pulp and Paper, Railroadng, Reading, Sculpture, Sports, Stamp Collecting, Textile, Theater, Wood Carving, and Woodwork* merit badge pamphlets

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail Web site (with your parent's permission) at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

### Books

- Baker, H. K. G. *Cool Collectibles for Kids: A Kid's and Parent's Guide to the Hobby of Collecting*. Silverleaf Press, 2007.
- Beckett, James. *Beckett Almanac of Baseball Cards and Collectibles*, 2006 ed., Vol. 11. Beckett Publications, 2006. (Beckett writes price guides for all the major sports cards.)

Berg, Barry. *The Art of Buying and Selling at Flea Markets*. Hobby House Press, 2003.

Collector Books. *Garage Sale Flea Market Annual: Current Values on Today's Collectibles, Tomorrow's Antiques*. Collector Books, 2006.

Farndon, John. *The Practical Encyclopedia of Rocks and Minerals: How to Find, Identify, Collect, and Maintain the World's Best Specimens*. Lorenz Books, 2006.

Gerber, Ernst. *The Photo-Journal Guide to Comic Books* (2 vols.). Diamond Comic Distributors, 1995.

Hake, Ted. *The Official Hake's Price Guide to Character Toys*, 6th ed. House of Collectibles, 2006.

Lemke, Bob, ed. *2007 Standard Catalog of Baseball Cards*, 16th ed. Krause Publications, 2006. (Krause also publishes catalogs covering other sports.)

MacDonald-Taylor, Margaret. *A Dictionary of Marks*, 5th ed. Barrie and Jenkins, 1992.

Newell, Patrick. *Cool Collectibles: Military Collectibles*. Children's Press, 2000.

Nigro, Nicholas J. *The Everything Collectibles Book: How to Buy and Sell Your Favorite Treasures, From Fabulous Flea Market Finds to Incredible Online Deals*. Adams Media, 2002.

Overstreet, Robert M. *The Official Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide*, 37th ed. House of Collectibles, 2007.

Prisant, Carol. *Antiques Roadshow Collectibles: The Complete Guide to Collecting 20th Century Glassware, Costume Jewelry, Memorabilia, Toys, and More From the Most-Watched Show on PBS*. Workman Publishing Company, 2003.

Rickards, Maurice. *Encyclopedia of Ephemera*. Routledge, 2000.

Sorrell, Charles A. *Rocks and Minerals: A Guide to Field Identification*. Golden Guides for St. Martin's Press, 2001.

Stearns, Dan, ed. *Standard Catalog of Die-Cast Vehicles*. Krause Publications, 2005.

Summers, B. J. *Antique and Contemporary Advertising Memorabilia*, 2nd ed. Collector Books, 2004.

Thompson, Maggie, et al. *2007 Comic Book Checklist and Price Guide: 1961 to Present*, 13th ed. Krause Publications, 2006.

Williams, Don, and Louisa Jaggard. *Saving Stuff: How to Care for and Preserve Your Collectibles, Heirlooms, and Other Prized Possessions*. Fireside, 2005.

### Organizations and Web Sites

**Association of Collecting Clubs and National Association of Collectors**  
18222 Flower Hill Way, No. 229  
Glathersburg, MD 20879  
Web site: <http://collectors.org>

**Collectors' Information Bureau**  
P.O. Box 306  
Grundy Center, IA 50638  
Telephone: 319-824-6981  
Web site: <http://www.collectorsinfo.com>

**Ephemera Society of America**  
P.O. Box 95  
Cazenovia, NY 13035-0095  
Telephone: 315-655-9139  
Web site: <http://www.ephemeriasociety.org>

**International Scouting Collectors Association**  
Web site: <http://scouttrader.org>

**Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art**  
32 Union Square East, Suite 600  
New York, NY 10003  
Telephone: 212-254-3511  
Web site: <http://www.mocccany.com>

**Printed Ephemera Collection at Library of Congress**  
Web site: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/rbpehtml/pehome.html>

**Smithsonian Institution**  
P.O. Box 37012  
SI Building, Room 13, MRC 010  
Washington, DC 20013-7012  
Web site: <http://kids.si.edu/collecting>

**United States Club List**  
Web site: <http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/clublist.html>

### Magazines and Publishers

**Beckett Media**  
Web site: <http://www.beckett.com>

**Comics Buyer's Guide**

Web site: <http://www.cbgr.com>

**DC Comics**

Web site: <http://www.dccomics.com>

**Donruss Sports Trading Cards**

Web site: <http://www.donruss.com>

**Fleer Trading Cards**

Web site: <http://www.fleer.com>

**Gemstone Publishing**

Web site: <http://www.gemstonepub.com>

**Marvel Comics**

Web site: <http://www.marvel.com>

**Rocks & Minerals**

Web site:  
<http://www.rocksandminerals.org>

**Topps**

Web site: <http://www.topps.com>

**Tuff Stuff** (a multisports collectibles magazine)

Web site: <http://www.tuffstuff.com>

**Upper Deck**

Web site: <http://www.upperdeck.com>

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