

### FINDING VALUE IN YOUR FAVORITE THINGS







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# TRADE YAJ

#### Think about the item that you are saving up for right now. It could be a video game, a pet, or even a vacation.

Now, imagine that you can't use money to buy that item, but instead you must trade something you already own for it.

Believe it or not, there was a time in history when money did not exist. In order to get the things they wanted, people had to trade one good or service for another. This practice is called bartering. Bartering through the ages

Bartering has been dated back as far as 6000 BC – that's ancient, your great-great-great-great-grandmother wasn't even alive then!

People of the distant past would trade items such as food, weapons, tea, and livestock. Trading became more exciting once people began to travel and discover new goods to swap.

Even after money was invented, people still bartered. During the Great Depression in the 1930s – a period of time when Americans had hardly any money – people traded for things they needed, like food and clothing.





#### Chocolate milk for cookies

Even though most of us use money now, you probably have traded something with a friend or family member before.

Maybe you agreed to clean your brother's room if he let you borrow his bike. Or, you and a friend might swap old video games with each other...

#### Make it fair

The important thing to remember when bartering is that both people have to agree on a fair trade.

You might think that your chocolate milk is worth two of your friend's cookies – but your friend might think it is only worth one cookie.

Sometimes it is helpful to have a person outside of the trade tell you what they think each item is worth.

#### Trading on up

There are even websites set up for people to trade items. Online bartering makes it easier to find the things you want or need.

Some people have made really cool trades. You might have heard crazy stories – like this one about a teenager who started our bartering an old cell phone on Craigslist, and ended up with a Porsche convertible.

One man wrote a book about his online trading adventure. He started out with one red paperclip and traded up 14 times until he ended up with a house. And it only took him a year!

#### Sweet swaps

It's easy and fun to trade items with people you know.

One way you can practice bartering is by hosting a barter party. Tell your friends to bring toys, games, or clothes they don't want. Everybody can swap their items at your party and leave with something new.

So next time you have your eye on a friend's snack or your sister's CD collection, remember, you don't always need money to get the things you want!

#### Source: Googolplex



APRIL 1ST APRIL FOOL'S DAY

APRIL 6TH NORTH POLE DISCOVERED IN 1898

APRIL 22ND EARTH DAY





# Isn't one enough?

eeks, freaks and grandmas: What do they all have in common? A need to feed an obsession that millions of Americans enjoy... collecting.

I'm not a grandma, and if you're reading this, I'm assuming you're not either. But, I am a geek and a freak!

Anyway, let's begin!

#### Why we collect

There are as many different reasons that people collect as there are things to collect. From childhood memories to simply things that bring you joy, many people have a passion for this hobby.

#### Some examples of collectibles:

- Toys: action figures, Barbie dolls, tin toys, and old toys
- Statuettes: by manufacturing name, style, color, and quality
- China: matching sets, by manufacturing name, color, age, and location

My family – every last one of us – has something that we collect: china, guitars, movies, and toys. I collect many things.

One of the things I collect are statuettes of dogs and other animals. I have tons of little breakable paws and fins all over my desk in my room.

I also collect stuffed animals because...well I don't really know! I guess because I used to buy a lot of them when I was younger. I still get one or two here and there.

I also collect things that are sentimental to me.

I don't ever plan on selling anything I own, at least not now. The things in my collection are very sentimental to me and may or may not have value.



#### **Collections can increase in value**

Condition, condition! The better condition your collectibles are in, the more they're worth.

Some items are worth more in original packaging than opened. A large collection can be worth more if kept together than pieced apart, as long as you keep everything together – parts, accessories, and so forth.

If paint is chipping, items are not in original packaging, anything is broken, or not everything it comes with is there, your collectible will be drastically less valuable.

Before you buy something, decide if it's worth it...

#### Weigh price versus potential value

Before you buy, decide if it's worth it. I ask myself:

What is the cost? If the item is cheap to begin with, the value probably is not going to amount to very much. However, it's always possible the value will skyrocket anyway.

Is it a good deal? If something is expensive and you're not very sure if it's a good price, then I would suggest looking at online reviews of the item, maybe on YouTube, or do a Google search. I also would research how much similar items sell for.

Perhaps the item you're looking at is in a line of something, for example, video games that run through a story, episodes 1, 2, 3, and so forth, in a series. If the first one came out in 1996, then that first one is probably valuable.

Is it rare? If the collectible is rare, then it probably would be best to snatch it up no matter the price. But, do so only if you really enjoy that particular kind of collectible and feel good about spending the money.

Does it have sentimental value? It all depends on if it means something to you or not. If you don't particularly care for it and you feel that in a couple of years you'll outgrow it, it's probably best to pass on it.

Will it increase in value? It all depends on chance. If it's older and in mint condition, its chance of becoming more valuable is higher.

Is it an item you just can't live without? If you are seriously going to lay down on the floor and die if you don't buy it, you probably should save your life by getting it.

But, if it's very expensive you may have to do some extra chores to earn money for the extra happiness.

#### It's in the family

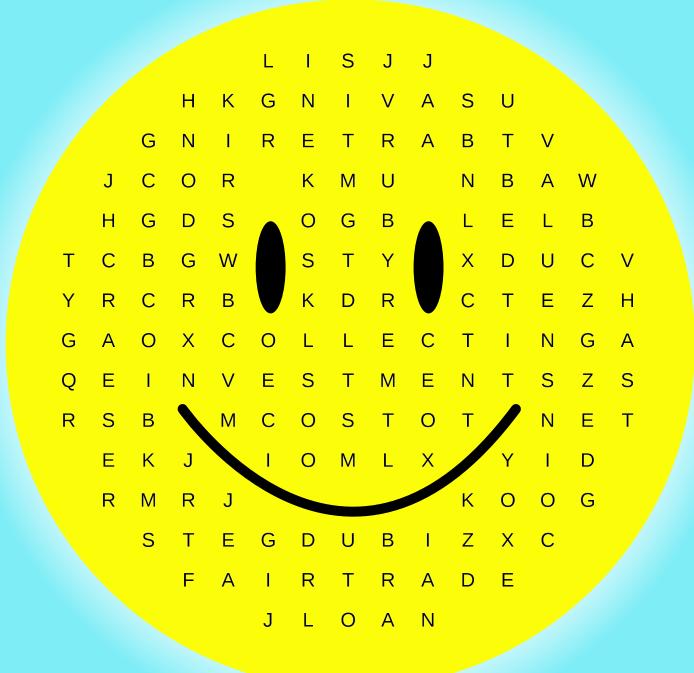
My sister collects guitars. Guitars are a completely different story from what I have been writing about!

If the guitar is in working condition, then, even if the paint is scuffed, it's still valuable. It can be refurbished. If it's in pieces, then, like any other thing, it's obviously not worth anything.

There are so many great things to collect! I would recommend collecting as a lifelong hobby, for all ages.

Source: Googoplex

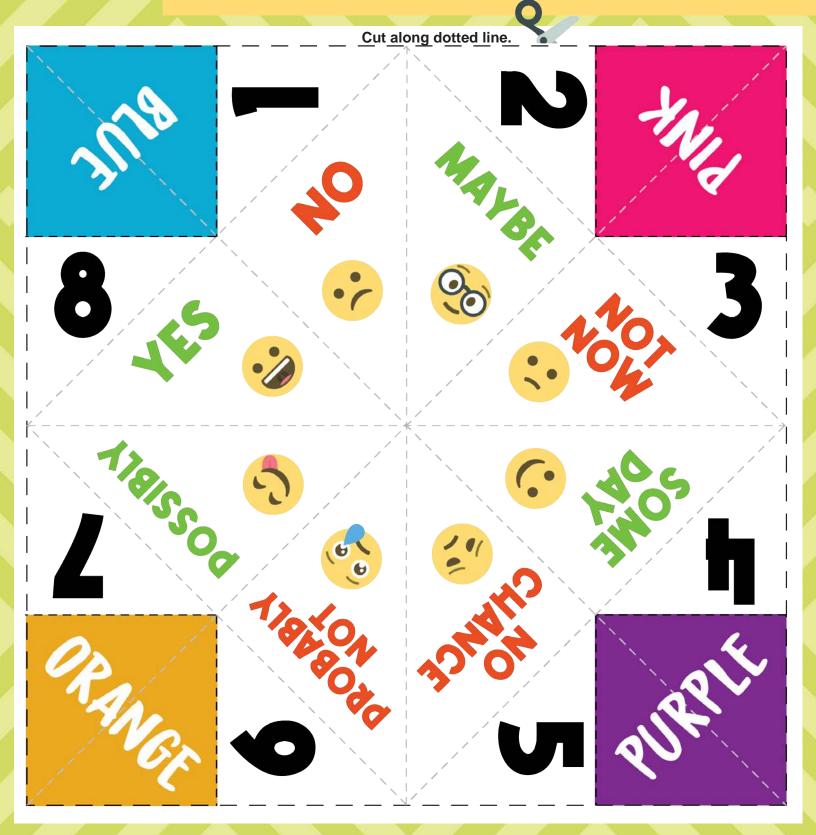
FUN FACTS MAY 5TH MAY 7TH MAY 9TH MAY 9TH MOTHER'S DAY CINCO DE MAYO SPACE DAY MAY 9TH MOTHER'S DAY



#### HAPPINESS IS BEING ABLE TO FIND ALL OF THE HIDDEN WORDS!

BARTERING BUDGET COINS COLLECTING COST DEBT FAIR TRADE INVESTMENT LOAN RESEARCH SAVING VALUE

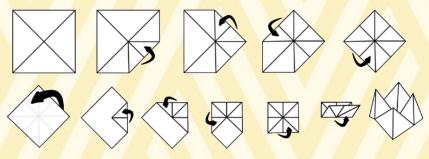
## MAKE YOUR OWN Cootle Cotcher



#### A COOTIE CATCHER IS ANOTHER NAME FOR AN OLD-FASHIONED FORTUNE TELLING GAME. WITH JUST A SQUARE PIECE OF PAPER AND A FEW FOLDS DECISION MAKING BECOMES A LITTLE MORE INTERESTING!

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED:

sheet of paper • scissors markers or crayons if you'd like to design your own



#### WHAT TO DO:

Print out the template on the previous page. If you choose to design your own, you can use it to trace the cutting and folding lines.

Cut out your square along the dotted line.

Lay your paper down with the blank side facing you.

Fold all four corners in so that they meet in the middle.

Turn the whole thing over and do the same fold all four corners so that they meet in the middle.

Now fold it in half so that the colored squares are on the outside. Insert your fingers and you're ready to go!

#### HOW TO PLAY:

Two or more people can play.

One person asks a yes or no question while the other inserts their fingers under the flaps.

Either the person asking the question or another friend chooses a color.

If pink is chosen, spell out pink as you open and close your catcher.

When you get to the "k", the challenger must pick a number.

Move the number of times chosen.

When you get to that number, have them fold up that flap to reveal their answer!

#### WHAT TREAT DO DADS LIKE BEST ON FATHER'S DAY?





JUNE 20TH FATHER'S DAY

JUNE 29TH FIRST IPHONE RELEASED, 2007

