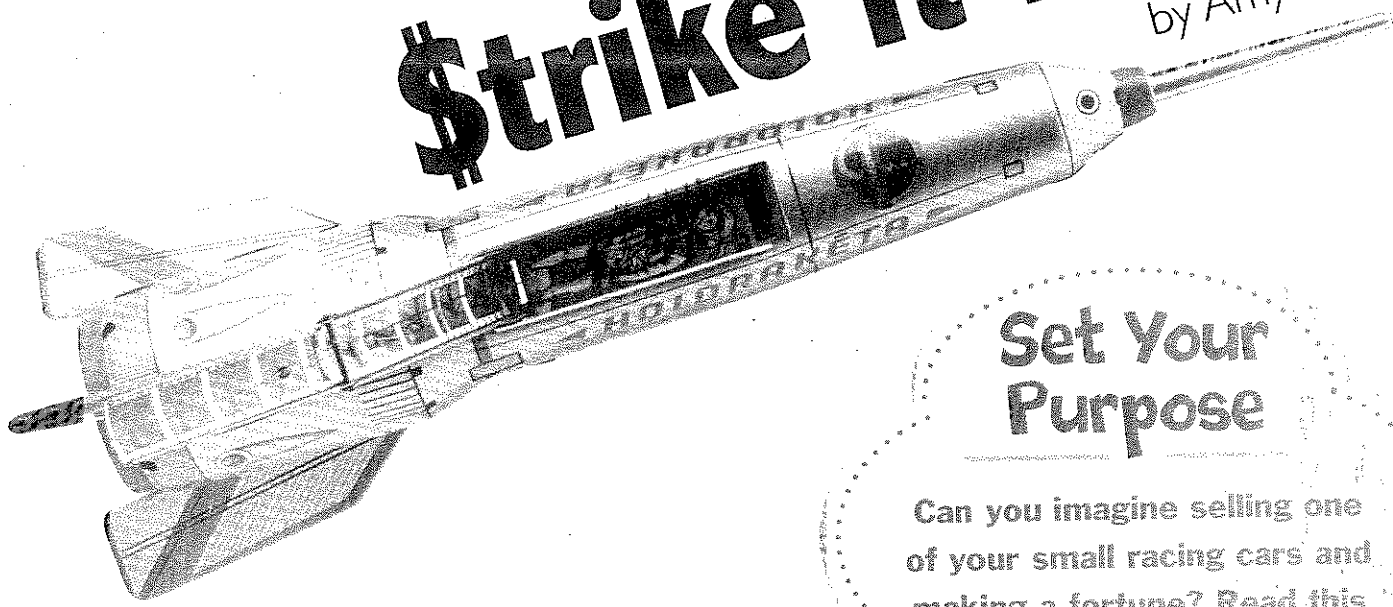


Collectors

\$troke It Rich!

by Amy Deckard

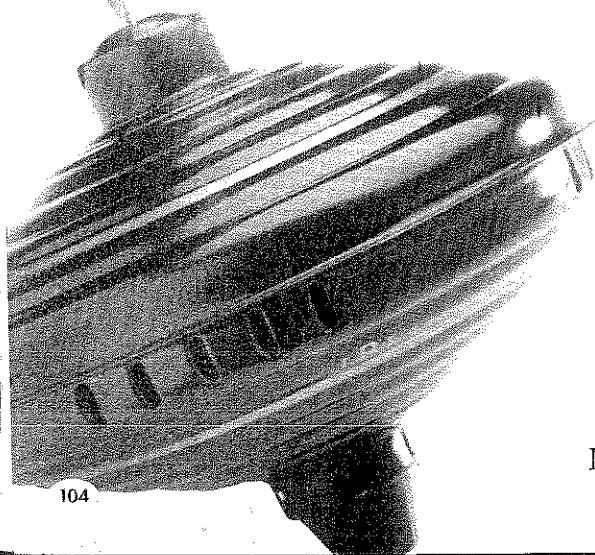


Set Your Purpose

Can you imagine selling one of your small racing cars and making a fortune? Read this article to find out how some toys are selling for thousands of dollars.

How can a small plastic toy that once cost 30 cents be sold for more than \$4,000 forty years later? It is because not many were made, and now lots of people want them. This plastic toy is a **collectible**.

Collectibles are objects that people like and want to keep for a long time. A true collectible is **rare**, or hard to find. Comic books, plastic miniature toys, baseball cards, and dolls are a few examples of collectibles. Some people collect objects to **earn** a living. But for most people, collectibles are a **hobby**. "People want to collect things that make them happy," said Mark McMahon, owner of a collectibles shop in New York City.

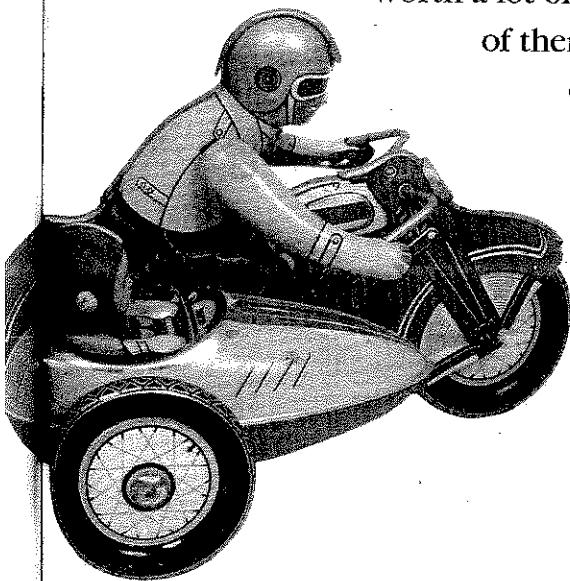
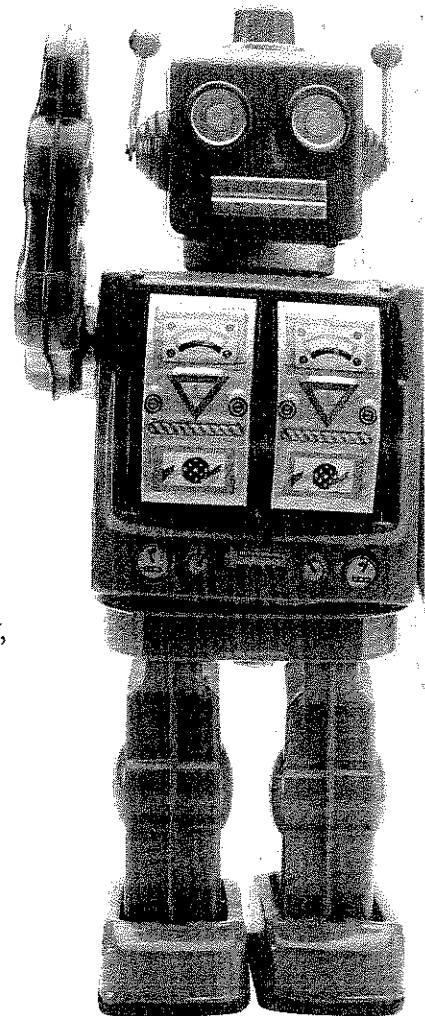


The small stuffed animals called Beanie Babies® are collectibles. One Beanie Baby is particularly **valued** by collectors. It is Brownie the Bear. Brownie was one of the first Beanie Babies. In 1993, a few hundred thousand of these bears were created. They were sold for \$4.95. A year later, the company that made Brownie retired him, so no more Brownies were made. In 1995, Brownie was being sold for as much as \$600. One year later, Brownie could have cost a collector \$1,300.

Rare comic books can also be extremely valuable. Recently, a New York comic shop sold a copy of the comic book that introduced Superman. The price was \$150,000! In 1938, when the comic book first hit the shelves, it cost only 10 cents.

To be truly valuable, a collectible item must be in great condition, almost like brand-new. For example, a copy of the comic book that introduced Lois Lane is worth \$2,000 if it's in perfect condition. The same comic book with one page torn might be worth only \$175.

The toys and games you play with today may be worth a lot of money someday—so take good care of them! You never know what the next hot collectible will be!



Think About It

Were you surprised to find out how much Brownie the Bear is worth? If you owned Brownie the Bear, would you sell it or keep it?

Check Your Understanding

Fill in the letter with the best answer for each question.

- What happened when a particular Beanie Baby was no longer made?
 - It became valuable.
 - People were no longer interested in it.
 - It was sold in card shops for several more years.
 - A year later, more were made.
- Why are some old comic books so valuable?
 - They are made out of a very rare paper.
 - Comic books are sold only in New York.
 - Very few of them still exist.
 - The first comic books sold for 10 cents.
- What happens if a collectible is scratched or damaged?
 - It makes no difference.
 - It becomes more valuable.
 - It becomes less valuable.
 - It is exchanged for another one.
- Why do most people start collecting?
 - to have a hobby
 - to earn a living
 - to meet new people
 - to find something they need
- Which statement best describes a collector?
 - Collectors like to spend a great deal of money.
 - Collectors are bored and need to keep busy.
 - Collectors only want money.
 - Collectors have fun collecting objects and sometimes make some money selling them.

Vocabulary

Find each vocabulary word in the selection. The words and sentences around it will help you figure out its meaning.

Fill in the letter with the best definition of the underlined word.

- This old plastic toy is a collectible.
 - objects that are given away
 - objects people like and want to keep
 - objects that are delivered by mail
 - objects that are spread out
- A true collectible is rare.
 - hard to find
 - easy to find
 - well-liked
 - shared with many people
- Some people collect objects to earn a living.
 - spend
 - waste
 - lose
 - gain
- For most people, collectibles are a hobby.
 - favorite activity
 - way to shop for objects
 - way to make good grades
 - sporting event
- One Beanie Baby is especially valued by collectors.
 - thought important
 - lazy
 - talked about
 - cheerful

Name _____

Date _____

Word Work

Synonyms are words that have the same meaning. For example, *hard* and *difficult* are synonyms.

Fill in the letter with the synonym of the underlined word.

- Another word for hobby is
 (A) fun. (C) a chore.
 (B) pastime. (D) games.
- To collect is to
 (A) wonder. (C) sell.
 (B) gather. (D) enjoy.
- Something that is rare is
 (A) beautiful. (C) unusual.
 (B) new. (D) old.
- Another word for valuable is
 (A) free. (C) expensive.
 (B) condition. (D) secret.
- Another term for extremely is
 (A) popular. (C) unsafe.
 (B) somewhat. (D) very great.

A **suffix** is an ending that changes the meaning of a base word. Knowing the meaning of a suffix helps you figure out the meaning of the whole word. The suffix **-ible** means "capable of." Here are some suffixes and their meanings.

-ible capable of **-ness** the quality of
-ful full of **-ish** to some degree

Read each word. Add a suffix from the box above to the word in dark type. Write the word that completes the sentence.

- collect** A rare Beanie Baby is a _____.
- hope** I'm _____ that I can find one to buy.
- fool** To pay too much money for an old toy is somewhat _____.
- care** Please be _____ with that comic book.
- soft** Children love the stuffed bear because of its _____.

Write Now

Does the selection "Collectors Strike It Rich!" make you want to collect something special? Think of something you might like to collect. It doesn't have to be anything you buy. You could collect rocks from places you've been or stamps from letters your family receives.

- Plan to write a letter to a friend to tell him or her about your new collecting hobby. First, brainstorm ideas for a collection, using the idea web shown. Then choose the one you like best.
- Now write your letter to your friend. Try to persuade him or her to start collecting the same thing, too.

