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Java Object-Oriented Concepts

Lesson 3 - Collections and Maps





What are some of the limitations of arrays?

What do you wish you could do with arrays?



Objectives

- Understand the purpose of the Java Collections framework
- Understand the purpose of the Map interface
- Identify collection types and hierarchy
- Identify the methods of the Collection and Map interfaces
- Use an ArrayList and a HashMap



Java Collections

- A collection is simply a group of objects
- The collections framework is not part of the language
- These data structures offer more flexibility
 - E.g. add and delete dynamically



Look at the Javadoc

- Collection Interface
- add, remove, and friends
- size
- toArray



Iterators

- Allows a caller to iterate over (i.e. visit each element one by one) a collection of objects
- Useful methods:
 - o hasNext
 - o next
 - o remove (optional)



Map Interface

- Maps are made up of key/value pairs
- Useful methods:
 - o get
 - o put
 - o remove
 - o size
 - o values
 - keySet
 - o isEmpty
 - o containsKey



Generics

- Language mechanism that allows us to specify the types that are allowed in a collection or map
- Collections and maps were previously untyped
- Example:
 - Map<String, Student> = new HashMap<String,Student>();



Other Data Types

- Stacks FILO
- Queues FIFO

