**THE COLLECTION FRAMEWORK**

A data structure is a collection of data. The structure not only stores data but also supports operation for accessing and manipulating of data. Java provides several data structure that can be used to organize and manipulate data efficiently. These data structure are commonly known as the **collection framework**.

The Java Collection Framework supports two types of containers:

1. One for storing a collection of elements simply called a **collection**.
2. The other for storing key/values pairs, called **map**.

**Collections**

The Java Collection Framework supports three major types of collections: **Set**, **List** and **Queue**. An instance of Set stores a group of non – duplicate elements.

An instance of List stores an ordered collection of elements.

An instance of Queue stores object that are processed in FIFO fashion.

**THE COLLECTION INTERFACE AND THE ABSTRACTCOLLECTION CLASS**

The **Collection** interface is the root interface for manipulating a collection of objects. The **AbstractCollection** class is a convenience class that provides partial implementation for the Collection interface.