

Collecting!

Kids are natural collectors, piling up treasures like seashells and Pokémon cards. Likewise, museum curators deal with many types of collections, from paintings to train engines. Curators organize collections for public exhibits, showcasing what they have learned about objects. By thinking like a curator, how would you organize one of your collections for a home museum? Here are some ideas to get your started.

Supplies Pencil, paper, and optional Post-it notes, index cards, markers

Directions

1. Brainstorm what you know about museums and jot down some notes.
2. Think about objects that you've collected. You may never have thought about all your stuffed animals, books, or puzzles as a collection, but they are. Or you may prize a collection of special objects already. Choose a personal collection and begin by putting all the objects together. If this is not possible, write or draw the object on a Post-it note or index card.
3. Look at all the objects together and start to think about how to organize them. There is no wrong way. You might choose color, shape, or size, for example. Move them around and test how they look as you re-arrange them.
4. After you're happy with the arrangement, think about what the objects mean to you, why they are important, how you got them. This is the story behind your collection. Share the story with others by labeling objects using Post-it notes or index cards and writing a paragraph to introduce the exhibit. Think of a title for your home museum.
5. Who's your audience? Do you want to share your museum with family and friends or is it just for you? You can take photos or videos or invite people to view in person.

Bonus Activities

- Think about what you learned about your collection as you curated it and write up your discoveries on an index card to add to the museum.
- Repeat this process with another collection.
- Invite friends and family members to create home museums and share them.