What is a museum?

**museum** noun
mu·se·um | \myú-zē-əm\

1. a building or space where interesting and valuable things (works of art or historical or scientific objects) are collected and shown to the public.
2. an institution that conserves artifacts and other objects of cultural, historical or scientific importance and makes them available for public viewing.

Museums collect letters, photographs, diaries and journals, clothing, art, tools, household appliances — anything you can think of! There is even a museum dedicated to pez dispensers. Don’t believe me? Check it out - [http://www.burlingamepezmuseum.com/](http://www.burlingamepezmuseum.com/)

**collection** noun
col·lec·tion | /kaˈlekʃ(ə)n/

a group of unique objects, usually housed in museums or archives, used for exhibitions, education, and research.

Some collectors may only be interested in one thing. Stamp collectors only collect stamps and train collectors only collect trains. Other collectors may be interested in a particular theme. In that case, someone who is interested in 18th century Delaware will only collect items from that time period. Or if a collector wants a collection about the 1984 Summer Olympics, they will only collect items related to that theme.

What do you collect?

Why? What do you like about the items you collect? What makes them special?

Museums are great places to learn and explore. No matter your interests, there’s a museum just for you! That’s because there are many different kinds of museums – history, science, art, children’s, even zoos and aquariums are a type of museum.
Have you ever been to a museum? What types of museums have you visited?
Use the list below if you need help.

• Historical Museum
  Illustrate historical people and events or a specific time-period. They have images, documents, statues, artifacts, and much more.

• Fine arts
  Contain all types of paintings, drawings, sculpture, architecture etc.

• Science and Technology
  Display and collect all the things that are representative of the evolution of history, science, and technology such as fossils of dinosaurs.

• House Museum
  A house that has been transformed into a museum. It can be the birthplace of a famous person, a house where something of historical importance happened or an untouched example of a house built during a specific time period.

• Archaeological Museum
  Displays Archaeology artifacts – objects found at historic sites. Usually made or used by people in the past.

• General Museum
  Display artifacts from many subjects – art, science, history.

The Delaware Historical Society has two museums – the Delaware History Museum and the George Read II House & Gardens. Use the list above to describe the type of museums the Delaware Historical Society maintains.

• The Delaware History Museum is _______________________________________

• The George Read II House & Gardens is _______________________________________

The Delaware Historical Society maintains a History Museum about Delaware from 1638 to present day and a Historic House Museum, including a Federal-style mansion and formal gardens; the former home of George Read II – son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.
Who works at Museums?
It takes a team of people for any museum to work. Below are just two of the very important jobs needed to take care of and display museum collections.

**historian** noun
his·to·ri·an | / hiˈstôrēәn /

a person who researches, studies, writes, and teaches about the past.

**curator** noun
cu·ra·tor | / kyůr-,ə-tər, ‘kyər-, kyů·rə-, ‘kyůr-ə-, ‘kyər-

a person in charge of caring for a museum’s collections, creating exhibitions and exhibits, and teaching the community about the collections.

Why do you think the work of historians and curators is important?

If there weren’t people to teach about history and preserve historic objects and documents, what do you think might happen? Why might that be bad?

What do Museums do with their collections?
The Delaware Historical Society has 3.5 million items in our collections. Our collections are used for historical research, creating lessons and field trips, and creating exhibitions and exhibits. Items in a museum collection can be used to tell a story about a person, time, or event.

**exhibition** noun
ex·hi·bi·tion | / eksaˈbiSH(ə)n /

a public showing of a large selection of unique items, often united by theme.

**exhibit** noun
ex·hib·it | / ɪgˈzɪbɪt /

a public showing of an object or small group of objects.

Museums showcase objects from their collections by creating exhibitions and exhibits. The Delaware History Museum has two exhibitions.

- *Discover Delaware* is a general history of Delaware.
- *Journey to Freedom* is about the African American experience in Delaware.
Sometimes museums create smaller exhibits on special topics like Historic Toys and Games...

Or...

Special Delawareans like Louis Redding, the first African American lawyer in Delaware, who helped desegregate Delaware schools.

Desegregate: to stop the practice of having separate schools and other facilities for people of different races.

Exhibits aren’t only found in museums. You can create an exhibit too!
Create an Exhibit

1. Choose your topic

What story do you want to tell with your exhibit?

Choose something you or your family is interested in. Do you have a hobby? A favorite sport’s team? An amazing rock collection? Would you like to create an exhibit about a favorite book or musician? Anything would make a great topic for your exhibit!

2. Research your topic

What do you know about your topic? What do you want to know? What don’t you know? Some great places for research are books, libraries, museum archives, newspapers and magazines, and the Internet. You will become an expert on your topic!

While doing research historians and curators divide their sources into primary sources and secondary sources. When creating exhibits primary sources are always preferred but not required. A good mix of primary and secondary sources is best.

**primary source** noun

prɪˈmaːri ˈsərəs | / prɪˌmərē,ˈprɪm(ә)rē/ /ˈsɔrəs/

an artifact, document, image, or any other source of information that was created at the time under study

**secondary source** noun

sekˈɔndərɪ ˈsərəs | /ˈsekəndərē/ /ˈsɔrəs/

a source of information that was created after an event or time period by someone who did not experience the event or time period first-hand; a spoken or written account of connected events; a story

Since libraries are closed right now here are some great websites you can visit with your parents’ permission:

https://lib.de.us/
https://www.loc.gov/
https://www.britannica.com/
https://artsandculture.google.com/
https://www.bartleby.com/
https://udlibsearch.lib.udel.edu/

The last website is an amazing resource and it’s free! However you will need a username and password for access. Ask your teacher if they already have a username and password that you can use for www.udlibsearch.lib.udel.edu or email kitanis@udel.edu saying you are participating in the Delaware Historical Society’s Covid Chronicles and would like access to this resource.
3. Choose your artifacts

You can use 3D objects, photographs, documents, books, newspapers or magazine articles. Anything works, as long as it relates to your topic.

You can use artifacts and images you found online or in books, magazines, and newspapers.

You can also create artifacts by drawing objects or pictures or writing something.

4. Write labels for each item in your exhibit

Describe the basics about the object and then provide information about how it relates to the subject of the exhibit. Include:

- Name of the object
- Date the object was made
- Name of maker (“Maker Unknown or Artist Unknown” if unknown)
- Place where the object came from or was used
- Materials used to make the object
- The label can also have extra information that relates an object to its time period, style, or maker, or perhaps compares it with other objects.
- When using images from the Internet be sure to check the copyright for permission to reuse and always cite your source!

5. Set up your exhibit

Now that you have gathered your items and created your labels, it’s time to decide where to put your exhibit. You can create your exhibit on a table, a counter, a bookcase – anywhere. Remember to ask your parents’ permission first!

Create your exhibit online using Google sites, Google slides, or Google Drawings. You can also use the COVID Chronicles DE - Exhibit Template. For instructions on how to use this template check out the Resources page at the end of this packet.

Build an artifact display case.
See instructions from Luci Creative on the Resources page at the end of this packet.

6. Give Your Family a Tour of Your Museum!

Check out the next page for examples of the steps listed above!
Example 1

1. I am going to create an exhibit on COVID 19 and my life safe-at-home.

2. I started my research by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to learn more about Coronavirus 2019 at [https://www.cdc.gov/](https://www.cdc.gov/) and the state of Delaware COVID 19 website at [https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/](https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/). I also read news and informational articles.

3. I decided to include these items and information in my exhibit:
   - a copy of the CDC’s flyer about stopping the spread of germs
   - a copy of Governor Carney’s stay-at-home order
   - an empty bottle of bleach and hand sanitizer
   - an example of a mask that adults wear to the grocery store
   - news articles about COVID-19 in Delaware
   - pictures I took of empty grocery store shelves or empty public places
   - a book I have read while safe-at-home
   - a hobby I am working on while safe-at-home

4. Here is a sample label of one of the items in my exhibit:

**Stop the Spread of Germs**, 2020. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. cdc.org Mixed media informational poster, digital download. This image is a copy of a digital download from the CDC to help educate the public on how to stop the spread of germs. Brief instructions and accompanying images make the information accessible to most people. Additional downloads in multiple languages are available.
Example 2

1. I am going to create an exhibit about Harry Potter.

2. For research I am going to reread the first Harry Potter book. I am also going to search on the Internet for more information. One resource I found is https://www.wizardingworld.com/. There are informative articles about different topics in the books. I would like to visit a museum but since we are safe-at-home I found an online exhibit about Harry Potter - https://artsandculture.google.com/project/harry-potter-a-history-of-magic that will be useful.

3. I decided to include these items and information in my exhibit:

   - A picture of Harry Potter
   - Harry’s Hogwarts letter
   - A picture of Harry and his friends Hermione and Ron
   - Harry’s wand and broomstick
   - The Sorting Hat and Harry’s Gryffindor scarf
   - Harry’s owl Hedwig
   - Pictures of Harry’s professors
   - A picture of Hogwarts

4. **Here is a sample label of one of the items in my exhibit:**

   **Fan Art Image of Harry Potter**, 2017. Elodie Tihange, commons.wikimedia.org. Hand drawn on mixed media paper with colored pencils. This image shows Harry as a teenager. He is wearing his Gryffindor House scarf and holding his wand. The image represents the importance of Harry’s magic and Hogwarts to his identity.
How to use the DHS Exhibit Template

DO FIRST!! Make a copy of the Exhibit Template.

1. Select File
2. Select Make a copy
3. Select where you want to save the file.
4. Click Okay
5. Go to your Google Drive and open the Copy of the COVID Chronicles DE - Exhibit Template. You may have to Zoom out to see the whole template.
6. Remember to change the name of your exhibit by clicking on the name in the upper right hand corner of the template and typing the new name.
7. Now that your copy of the Exhibit Template is ready Design Your Exhibit!

Drag and drop exhibit elements into your exhibit area.

1. Choose your background.
   Adjust background to fit the exhibit space by clicking one corner of the image and dragging outward.

2. Choose your display cases or create your own.
   Adjust the size of the display case by clicking one corner of the image and dragging outward. You can create your own by inserting shapes into the template.

3. Upload your exhibit images.
   a. Click Insert just above this box.
   b. Choose Image.
   c. Choose Upload from Computer.
   d. Select the image to upload and click Open.

4. Drag your image to where you would like to place it in your exhibit space. Adjust the size of your image and display case to fit in your Exhibit space

Create your labels.

1. Click on a label to insert your label text.
2. You can insert a line or arrow to point each label to the corresponding exhibit object. Click insert (just under the name of your exhibit).
3. If you need more labels you can right click a blank label, copy and paste. Then move the pasted label to a new position.

Don’t forget to upload your exhibit to the COVID Chronicles For Children Portal!
INSTRUCTIONS

DIY Artifact Display Case

Supplies
- Cardboard
- Pencil or Pen
- Ruler
- Scissors
- White Paper
- Glue Stick
- Tape
- Smartphone or Flashlight

1. Get a cardboard box. A large cereal box works great.

2. Carefully tear open any glued layers so that you can unfold the box into a flat sheet.

3. With the pattern and dimensions included with these instructions, use a ruler to measure and draw on the flattened cardboard. It’s best to do this on the blank brown/gray side, if using packaging like a cereal box.

4. After drawing the pattern with a pencil, it’s helpful to clearly outline it with a dark black pen. Be careful to clearly note which lines are to be cut, and which ones are just to be folded.

5. Cut out the pattern and separate pieces with scissors. Scissors are sharp, so ask an adult to help you with this step.
6. You should have two pieces: the main box pattern and the square open front of the display case. Fold the main box pattern along the fold lines.

7. Turn the pattern upside down so that the packaging label is on top. Spread a glue stick over the pattern, and then put down a clean sheet of white paper.

8. With scissors, trim the white paper to the edge of the pattern.

9. Fold the pattern together into a box shape, as shown, and tape the edges together.

10. Tape the separate square open front piece and tape it to the front of the box.

11. Cut a small hole in the top of the display case for a flashlight or smartphone light.

12. Place small object into display case. Turn on light, and enjoy!