

# A Step-by-Step Guide to Making Your Own Museum Exhibition

## Ideas for your exhibition

- Your favourite toys – you could use dolls, teddy bears, toy dinosaurs, or whatever you like!
- Interesting shells or stones you found on a walk.
- Family pictures for your own gallery.
- An art gallery of the best pieces of art you've made.



## Step One – Choosing your Objects

Using things you have around the house pick 3-5 objects to display in your exhibit. You can add more objects if you can't pick between them but try not to have more than 7 as it may clutter your display. Pick objects that you care about and think about the stories they have to tell. You may want to pick objects with a similar theme, for example, your dinosaur toys or your art works.

Don't worry if you find it hard to choose, curators sometimes have millions of objects to choose from so they also have to try hard to pick which ones are going to be displayed.

## Step Two – Decide on the exhibit's story

What is your exhibit about? You are the curator and you get to decide what stories these objects tell. Are these your favourite toys? Are they all blue, why are they all blue and why is that interesting? Is this exhibit about your favourite presents? Maybe what you got for your birthday? Ask yourself all about these objects and find out what story they have to tell. Once you have an idea for the story you can move on to the next step.

## Step Three – Organise your objects

Time to decide what order your objects will be arranged in and how you will display them. You could line them up from biggest to smallest. You could arrange them from your favourite to your least favourite. You could even arrange them in the order you made them if you are displaying art, like a timeline of your work.

## Step Four – Write your Object Labels

Object labels are the small descriptions that sit under objects in museums to tell you more about that object. These pieces of writing tend to be short but include key information that tell the public about the object. These labels also include what is called 'interpretation'. Interpretation is how museum curators tell the story of the object and how that object is interpreted by curators. This is influenced by their research but your interpretation can be just your thoughts and what you find interesting about the object.

### Things to Include in your Object Labels

- The Title – What is your object called?
- What is it made of? – Is it a painting on paper? Is it a teddy bear stuffed with fluff?
- Who gave you this object? – Museums have to know where objects come from as this is an important part of their history and story, did you receive that object as a gift?
- Interpretation - Why you chose that object & What is that objects story?

### **Step Five – Install your Exhibition**

Now you have your objects and labels you can decide where to put your exhibit. You may want to lay out your objects on the dining table so your family can see it. Or you could place it on a bookshelf in your bedroom. You can even use sticky notes, tape, or blue tack to stick your labels to the shelf temporarily. Make sure you pick a placement for your exhibit that allows you to enjoy the objects and read the labels.

### **Step Six – Share your Exhibition**

Now that your exhibit is complete it is time to share it! A big part of what museums do is making sure that objects are available for people to enjoy and learn from. You, as curator of the exhibit, have the responsibility of sharing this new story with people. You can show your parents or guardians, your grandparents, or even your friends.

You should give them a tour of your exhibition and explain the story that it tells. You can even ask their opinion on the objects and if they have stories to tell about them.