

# Make Your Own Museum!

Do you have a collection? You may have a collection and not even know it! Rocks, toys, postcards, magnets, stuffed animals, books, video games - these all may be things in your collection.

At Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, curators take care of a museum collection of more than 2 million museum objects! Many of these objects come from underground, and are called "archaeological artifacts." Some are given - or "donated" - to the museum collection by people who want to share their special objects with the world. These objects are sometimes part of exhibits at the Fort Vancouver museum. Many people visit these exhibits to learn about the history of Fort Vancouver.



Objects in an exhibit at Fort Vancouver

## Words to Know

**Curator:** The person who takes care of a museum or national park's museum collection and makes exhibits to share objects from the collection with others.

**Museum:** A building where historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural objects are stored and exhibited. Museums have museum collections and exhibits. Curators work at museums.

**National park:** A national park is a special place that belongs to the American people. National parks have museum collections, museums, and exhibits. Curators work at national parks, too.

**Museum collection:** A collection is a gathering of objects that are similar in some way.

**Museum object:** A museum object is an object that is part of a museum collection.

**Exhibit:** A display of an object or objects in a museum that helps people learn about history, art, or science.

**Label:** A label is part of an exhibit. A label tells a person what they are looking at, and helps them learn.

## How to make your museum:

1. Choose a space for your exhibit. Check with a grown up to make sure you have picked a good spot.
2. Choose 6 objects from a collection you have for your exhibit. The objects should be similar in some way. They might be similar types of things, like rocks, or a similar color. Why only 6? An important part of a curator's job is picking only a few objects to go on exhibit at a time. Visitors to your exhibit might get overwhelmed if there is too much to see! Take your time selecting the 6 objects you would like to include.
3. Fill out a label for each object, and carefully cut it out. Give the object a name, and write a sentence or two about why you chose to put it in your exhibit.
4. Put your objects in the exhibit. Which object do you want people to see first? Which one is last? Put them in the order you think they should go in.
5. Place the labels next to their matching objects.
6. Give your museum a name! Fill out the museum welcome sign in this packet and decorate it, or make your own!
7. Invite your family to check out your museum! Give them a tour, and let them read your labels. Share your exhibit with far-away family and friends through Skype or FaceTime!
8. Share photos of your exhibit with us on social media! Have a grown up share a photo of your exhibit with Fort Vancouver National Historic Site on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram by direct messaging us or tagging the photo with #FortVancouver.

### **FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**



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# Labels

Object name:

This object is special because:

Object name:

This object is special because:

Object name:

This object is special because:

# Labels

Object name:

This object is special because:

Object name:

This object is special because:

Object name:

This object is special because:

**Welcome to the**

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**Museum!**