CURATE YOUR OWN EXHIBIT AT HOME

This worksheet will help you become a museum curator using just materials you have at home and research you can do online. Make sure you look up the blue bold words in this worksheet if you do not already know their meaning.

PICK A TOPIC

Decide what you want your exhibit to be about. You can pick a family member, a place you have visited, your favorite food, a pet, your family’s heritage—any topic that interests you will work!

CONDUCT RESEARCH

Learn all you can about the topic you have chosen. Look up information online and in books. Interview family members about the topic.

GATHER MATERIALS

A good exhibit uses both primary sources and secondary sources.

PRIMARY SOURCES: Photographs, letters, documents, artifacts, etc.

SECONDARY SOURCES: These are sources that discuss your topic. You will have already found them while doing research. Interviews, books or articles about the topic, etc. You may want to include quotes from these sources in your exhibit labels.

CURATE YOUR MATERIALS

Curators have to make hard choices about what to include in an exhibit and what to leave out. Of the materials you gathered, what are the best things—the most interesting, the best quality, the ones you enjoy the most and want to share with others?

HINT: Figure out where your exhibit will be located—on a table, on the wall? The space you have to work with will help you decided how many photos and artifacts you can include in your exhibit.

WRITE EXHIBIT TEXT/EXHIBIT LABELS

Exhibit curators write short descriptions of the images and artifacts they have chosen to include in their exhibits. These labels tell viewers what the artifact/photograph is, where it came from, and/or what its significance is. Once you have chosen what material will be in your exhibit, write a concise description of each artifact and image you decided to include. You can also write an introduction explaining what the exhibit is about and why you picked this topic for your exhibit.

TITLE

Don’t forget to give your exhibit a catchy title to draw people in and get them excited about the topic. Be creative!

For more learning and educational activities, visit the Arizona History Digital Hub at azhs.org.

Pioneer Museum and Riordan Mansion State Historic Park, Flagstaff | Arizona Heritage Center at Papago Park, Tempe
Arizona History Museum, Downtown History Museum and Fort Lowell Museum, Tucson
Sanguinetti House Museum & Gardens, Yuma