

Dear Teachers and Home Schoolers,

Museums Worcestershire is working towards re-opening our sites, and we are busy with behind the scenes preparations to install new exhibitions, resources and future workshops.

We are very keen to support your on-line learning or classroom teaching, and would like to invite you to take part in our new venture - **THE MINI MUSEUM COMPETITION!** – a fun, flexible, educational project for Key Stage 1 and 2 children.

Creating an exhibition about history or art brings a real sense of learning and purpose to a topic. Children will feel motivated if they know that other people will enjoy and learn from their work.

This project will be informative, creative and practical – encouraging observation and literacy skills, making links to art and design, history, technology, science, IT and marketing skills!

Hopefully, this will be an enjoyable end of term /summer holiday project with judging in September.

The winning entry will be relocated and displayed in one of our galleries for all to see!

Please post images of your mini museum by **Friday 4th September**.

Post on Twitter and tag @worcestermuseum, tag Worcester City Art Gallery on Facebook, or email directly to: gemma.dhami@worcester.gov.uk

Please see text below for instructions.

Museum Make-athon – Discover. Explore. Create

CREATING A MINI MUSEUM

A museum exhibition is a themed group of objects with some interpretation. It is displayed in such a way to engage others, so that they can tap into the knowledge, learn and enjoy.

Tool kit:

- A group of themed objects (old or new)
- Research and images linked to the objects
- Paper, pens, pencils (for Object Record Sheet, Item List and Object Labels)
- Card
- Luggage labels or tags (optional)
- Display props
- Art materials
- Sellotape and PVA glue
- Scissors

Follow the **DISCOVER**, **EXPLORE** and **CREATE** instructions below

DISCOVER:

Research your topic – you may choose to base the mini museum on an earlier Museums Worcestershire Make-athon theme.

For example:

- History topic – [The Mayflower](#)
- Natural history topic - [The Herbarium](#)
- Archaeology – [Roman Mosaics and Brooches](#)
- [Toys through time](#)
- [Shoe Box collections](#)

Or you may choose a different theme – e.g. a collection of shells, bottles, badges, leaves or packages.

Or create a mini local history museum, with a mix of different objects, telling the story of where you live!

EXPLORE:

Find out more about the chosen topic: on-line research will help you to discover some facts and images to use in the exhibition.

Ask friends and family about the history of borrowed objects and record any useful information that can be used in the display.

CREATE:

5 SIMPLE STEPS to create a mini museum

1. Recording of Objects

Museum Object Record Sheet

Design a Museum Object Record Sheet. Include the name of the object, any measurements and an illustration. Also add a description of what it is made of, what it is, what it was used for, and the condition – make a record of any damage.

Is the object on loan? – if yes, record who it belongs to on the Object Record Sheet.

Item List

When museum curators create an exhibition, we make a list of all the items on display – the objects, the images, the documents etc. Every museum object is given a special reference number, so that all the information linked to the object can easily be found.

Create a special number for each object and use this number later-on, when writing your object label.

E.g. 'O' for 'object' - O 01, O 02, O 03 etc.

2. Display

The display area:

Think carefully where your mini museum will be set-up. In museum galleries, it is important that we CARE for all our objects. When on open display, they can easily be damaged by light, humidity and temperature. We use special tool kits to measure and maintain the environmental conditions, but you can care for your objects too.

Two Top Tips:

- Do not put your display in front of a window. Sunlight will damage objects, causing them to fade.
- Do not place your display in front of a radiator or other heat source. Heat will damage objects, causing them to dry out and become brittle.

3. Interpretation

Make a display which allows creative ways to present information. Think about the different audiences that you may have and what they will enjoy!

Writing of object labels:

Using the information sourced, write a label for each object on display. It does not need to be too wordy, but must describe the object and provide any other interesting information, dates etc.

Remember to add the unique object number to the object label!

Bring your mini museum to life!

Make models, animations and interactives linked to the objects on display.



4. Design

Make your display more interesting by placing the objects on mini plinths - these can be made from old packaging, wood blocks or even a stack of books. Display the objects at different levels and heights. Be creative!

Perhaps make a back- drop for the display with a collage of images sourced during your research.



5. Advertising the exhibition

Be proud of your project - make museum curator stickers for the team!

Publicise the mini museum by creating Social Media posts and consider ways to market a launch event. This may be an end of year project - for an opening launch date in September!