

Online Work Experience



MODULE ONE: What is a Museum?

What is a Museum?

The International Council of Museums adopted this definition of a museum at their 22nd General Assembly in Vienna, Austria, on 24 August 2007:

A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.

Museums look after artefacts (which might be art, natural specimens, history objects, or archaeological finds) and their associated stories. They use these with the public for learning, for pleasure and for wellbeing.

Museums Worcestershire manages three public museums: The Commandery, Worcestershire County Museum at Hartlebury Castle and Worcester Art Gallery & Museum. Worcester's first community museum started in 1833, making it the sixth-oldest museum service in England.

What is a Museum?

When we think of a museum, we usually think first of the physical building. These are often impressive historic buildings; sometimes the building itself helps communicate the collection's or the community's stories.

Read [this article](#) about the Imperial War Museum North, and the history that inspired its architect, Daniel Libeskind, when designing the building.

But museums aren't just about the building they are housed in.

Watch [this series of videos](#) about Museums Worcestershire's *Suitcase Stories* project. It uses museum artefacts with people living with dementia and their carers to stir their memories and improve their daily lives.

Challenge

Use [Mapcrunch](#) to go (virtually) to a random place in the world.

Look around and search the location on [Wikipedia](#) to find out a little bit about the place you have landed in.

What sort of museum would you build in this community?

What artefacts would it collect?

What stories would it tell?

How would your museum benefit local residents?

And what would it offer to interest tourists?

Respond to this challenge by collating ideas, notes, pictures and/or plans. Save this for your work experience portfolio as a screenshot, photo or a 1-page pdf.