



LEARN FROM HOME with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum

YouSeum: Curating my own Exhibit



A museum is a place that owns a **collection** of objects in order to keep them safe forever. These objects are called **artifacts**, which are very old and fragile pieces of history from the past. A museum is also a place for people to go and learn about all sorts of interesting things! Most museums focus on specific topics, like Art, Science and History. Museums like the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum focuses on the history of its community and tells the story of our town!

In this *Learn from Home* activity, you will make your own exhibit by:

1. **Creating** a piece of art to display in your home with a label for people to read all about it;
2. **Building** your very own artifact case and display your own artifact;
3. **Organizing** your own collection and giving a tour to your family or friends, and;
4. **Curating** all the above into an exhibit!



Activity One

To begin, let's display a piece of art, like in an **art gallery!** For this section, you need **one blank piece of paper, scissors, colouring tools and a pencil.**

1. With the help of a grown up, cut a small strip off the bottom of your blank piece of paper. The larger piece will be where you create your art, and the smaller piece will become your label.
2. Using your colouring tools, create a piece of art on the larger piece of paper. Are you going to create a nature scene like the Group of Seven, or perhaps something more abstract like Pablo Picasso? Create whatever feels right to you. (Figure A).
3. Once finished with your work of art, take your pencil and your smaller strip of paper to create your label. On your label, be sure to include the name of your art, what you used to make it, the year it was created and your name! These are all important things someone looking at your art should know. (Figure B).

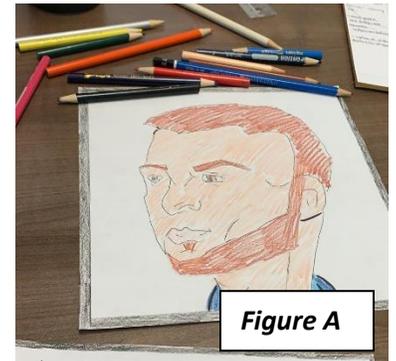


Figure A

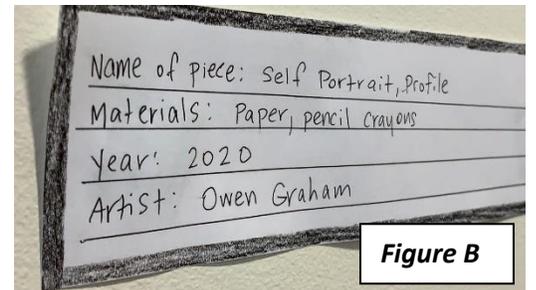


Figure B



Activity Two

Next, let's build an **artifact case** to display one of your favourite items! For this activity, you will need **an empty cereal box, scissors, a pencil, a flashlight and some tape.**

1. With the help of a grown up, cut the back or front of your cereal box out so that you have a large piece of cardboard to work with.
2. Draw the pattern displayed here on your cereal box to create a template to cut out and fold, including the small separate frame (Figure A). With the help of a grown up, cut the pieces out. (Figure B). **Feel free to use the template at the end of this program!**
3. Fold along the lines to build your display case and use the tape to stick the edges together. Make sure to stick the frame to the open front of your case as well!

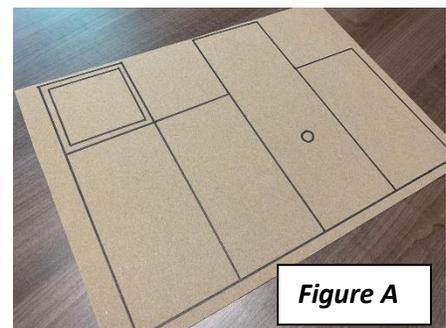
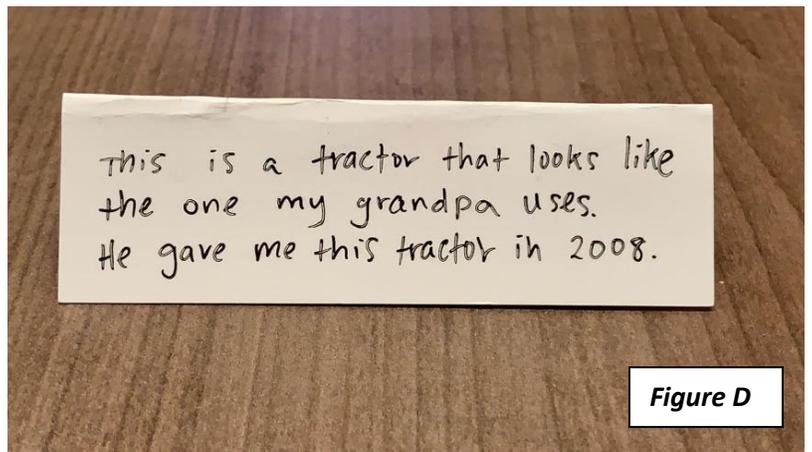
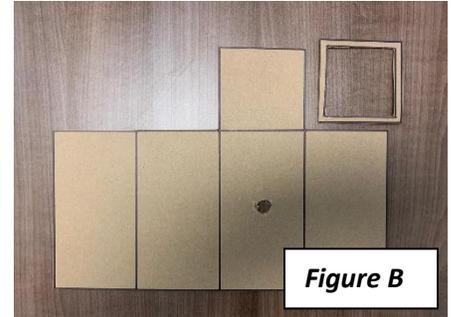


Figure A

4. Find one of your favourite objects at home that will fit into the case and place it inside. Position the flashlight above the hole in the top of the case so that light can shine in onto your item (*Figure C*).
5. Don't forget your label! Tell us something you like about your object or describe it. (*Figure D*).



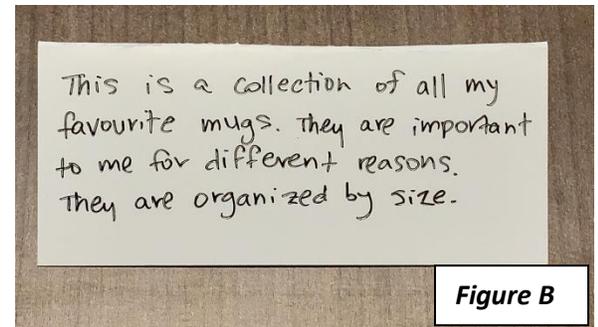
Activity Three

Now that we have created a work of art and an artifact case for your exhibit, let's make a collection using things around your house! For the purposes of this activity, a collection is a group of things that belong to the same category, even if they look different! Some examples of collections are rock collections, stamp collections and even stuffed animal collections.



What is something that you like to collect? If you have a collection already, why not try using that one for this activity!

1. Begin by finding something in your house that you have different versions of. Do you have favourite mugs, or favourite stuffed animals? What items in your house would tell a good story about you? Whether you have two or ten objects in a collection, you can still display it in your exhibit! (Figure A).
2. Once you have your collection in front of you, let's think about how you want to **organize** them. Some ways to organize the items might be by size, colour or from oldest to newest.
3. Don't forget to create a label that tells people what your collection is, and why you chose it! You can also tell people how you have organized your collection on your label. The more information you provide, the more they can learn! (Figure B).



Activity Four

You have done such a great job making things to put in your exhibit! All that's left to do now is think of how you want people to see your objects and what you want your exhibit to be called.

Let's think of a name for your exhibit. What do the objects in your exhibit say about you? Are they your favourite things, or do they have one theme in common like sports or another hobby? Make a nice big sign for your exhibit with your title on it so people know what they are looking at!

Pick a location in your house where all your objects will be safe and out of the way so that you don't need to move your exhibit for a little while.

Set up your exhibit in the spot you've chosen however you want! Make sure every one of your labels can be read and everything can be easily seen.

Give a tour to your family and friends to let them know about the wonderful exhibit you have just curated! Well done.



Good job on your exhibit!

Be sure to take **photos of your exhibit and share them** with the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre!

