

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Make Your Own Museum Exhibit!

*Museum exhibits* are educational displays that use objects (like toys, tools, and clothing) as well as words to teach people about everything from bison to bookmaking. The objects, or *artifacts*, in the *collection* that make up the exhibit are paired with written *labels* explaining what they are and how they fit together.

Think of something that interests you, something that you think might interest other people. It doesn't have to be something you already know about, but it helps if you already have some artifacts.

*First, think about a real-life museum exhibit you've already visited. Write down some things that stood out to you. If you've never been to a museum, use the sample exhibit from the National Buffalo Museum. Keep these things in mind when you make your own exhibit.*

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*What is the subject of your exhibit?* \_\_\_\_\_

*Why should people learn about this subject?*

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List 6-10 artifacts that you can use in the exhibit. You might already own them, or you could borrow them. Museums do both, so you can too!

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How can you best arrange your artifacts to tell their story? Don't be afraid to get creative.

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Once you've planned your exhibit and gotten hold of your artifacts, you'll make an index card for each item. The index cards should have the name of the artifact, the current owner's name, and information (history, how it's made, how it's used, etc.) about it relevant to the exhibit's theme. Make a practice card using an item from your desk.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Owner \_\_\_\_\_

About \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Survey

Please record how strongly you agree with the following statements.

- 1 is strongly disagree
- 2 is somewhat disagree
- 3 is neither agree nor disagree
- 4 is somewhat agree
- 5 is strongly agree

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
I learned new things about bison					
I am more interested in bison than I was before this project					
I want to continue learning about bison					
I learned new things about museums					
I am more interested in museums than I was before this project					
I want to continue learning about museums					
I am more likely to visit museums in the future					
I am more likely to visit the National Buffalo Museum					

## FOR MUSEUM EDUCATORS

### Outcomes

- Familiarize elementary-age children with basic educational techniques used in museum exhibits, including the basic components of physical exhibits and how exhibits can be developed to tell stories about the objects within them
- Make museums more relatable, interesting, and fun to elementary-age children by giving them a behind-the-scenes look at the sort of work museum employees conduct, specifically with regards to artifact selection, narrative framing, and other aspects of exhibit development
- Teach children about the participating museum's mission and subject
- Spark student interest in museums
- Inspire curiosity about museums in general
- Inspire curiosity about the mission and subject of the participating museum

### How to Make Own Program

1. Develop specific ideal outcomes related to museum's mission.
  - a. What will this teach about your museum's focus?
  - b. What are the main ideas you want participants to learn?
2. Create exhibits.
  - a. Formal exhibit out of museum's collection.
  - b. Informal exhibit from employee donations or shopping trip.
    - i. What is your budget?
3. Write and produce video.
  - a. Alternately, make multiple videos covering multiple aspects of the exhibits or for different age groups.
4. Create supplementary materials.
  - a. Worksheets.
  - b. Lesson plans for teachers.
  - c. Labels.

## Lesson plan 1: Bison

Objective: Teach students about some of the ways that bison impact and are impacted by their environments and other organisms.

Standards:

- Grade 1: Next Generation Science Standards 1-LS1-2?
- Grade 2: NGSS 2-LS2-2, NGSS 2-LS4-1
- Grade 3: NGSS 3-LS2-1? And/or 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-3, 3-LS4-4
- Grade 4: NGSS 4-LS1-1
- Grade 5: NGSS 5-LS2-1

Overview: Introduction to bison ecology. Basics of prairie ecosystem, basic information about bison, ask about other species on prairie. Show prepared video and exhibit.

Discuss while passing around exhibit cards.

Timeline:

- 0-15: Basic characteristics of prairie, including introductory information about bison and discussion of what other species live there
- 15-27: Video
- 27-45: Discussion
- 45-50: Survey
- 50-55: Conclusion, transition to next subject OR dismissal

Summative assessments: Survey.

Materials: Demonstration exhibits, survey.

## Lesson plan 2: Museums

Objective: Teach students about the role of museums as custodians of artifacts and as object-based storytellers.

Standards:

- Grade 1: Common Core, first grade, Reading Standards for Informational Text points 1-7, 10; Writing Standards points 2, 8; Speaking and Listening Standards points 1-2, 5
- Grade 2: Common Core, second grade, Reading Standards for Informational Text points 3, 5, 7; Writing Standards points 2, 8; Speaking and Listening Standards points 1-2
- Grade 3: Common Core, third grade, Reading Standards for Informational Text points 1-3, 5, 7; Writing Standards points 1-4, 7; Speaking and Listening Standards points 1-2, 4, 6
- Grade 4: Common Core, fourth grade, Reading Standards for Informational Text points 2, 4-5, 7-8; Writing Standards points 2-5, 7-8; Speaking and Listening Standards points 1, 4-5
- Grade 5: Common Core, fifth grade, Reading Standards for Informational Text points 3, 5; Writing Standards points 2-4, 7-8; Speaking and Listening Standards points 1-3, 5

Overview: Introduction to museum exhibits. Show video and exhibits. Pass around exhibit cards. Discussion of other museums students have attended. Worksheets. Discuss upcoming homework assignment.

Timeline:

- DAY ONE
  - 0-15: Basic characteristics of museums, including the role of artifacts
  - 15-27: Show video
  - 27-45: While passing around exhibit cards, discuss other museum exhibits students have seen
  - 45-65: Worksheet to plan own exhibits, discuss homework assignment
  - 65-70: Conclusion, transition to next subject OR dismissal
- Homework: Gather 6-10 items to create own museum exhibit
- DAY TWO
  - 0-5: Review of yesterday's discussion, introduction to presentations
  - 5-65: Volunteers or entire class present their exhibits
  - 65-75: Closing discussion
  - 75-80: Survey
  - 80-85: Transition to next subject

Summative assessments: Worksheet, survey.

Materials: Demonstration exhibits, worksheet, survey.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## National Buffalo Museum

*What is a bison/buffalo?* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Bison help out many other prairie creatures. Name one other creature that bison help and explain how they help it.*

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*What was your favorite item from the museum's collections? Why?*

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*Think about the items your family has back home. If you had to pick one to add to the museum's second exhibit, what would you choose and why?*

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