



Create a Water Museum



Celebrate water together by creating a water themed exhibit!

Create a water museum at home. Build a collection. Set up a tiny museum in a tray, or a larger exhibit around a room. Find museum materials in every room (household items, toys, home art and collections). Think about water broadly, or choose a specific theme!



Museum Suggestions and Materials:

Talk about why water is important to you. Think of items or toys around your home related to water. Let your child lead with ideas for hands-on museum exhibits. Gather objects and set them up in a playful way.

- Show a collection of objects that makes you think of water (cup, rubber duck, towel, plant, toy boat, etc.).
- Find stuffed animals or toy animals that live in or near water.
- Make a beach display with dolls and towels.
- Make an exhibit about how your family uses water: swimming, boating, fishing, gardening, washing, cooking, crafts, etc.
- With older kids, get more elaborate! Write labels for each object, or create exhibit spaces with different themes.



Show off your museum exhibit! Take your household on a tour. Give a virtual tour to family and friends. Play with your exhibit!



What Is A Museum?

A museum is a home for a collection.



University of Alaska Museum of the North

Museums collect objects that tell stories. People who work in museums care for these objects, study them, and use them to help people understand the world around them.

Some objects are put on exhibit, so visitors can see them and learn more about their stories.

There are many different kinds of museums. Some focus on science, art, or animals and plants, while others tell stories about the history and culture of a place. A museum can have many kinds of collections (like the Museum of the North) or be more specific (like the Antique Auto Museum). Some museums are very large, with many buildings; some are very small, with just one room.

Researchers study objects from museum collections to learn more about the world. They can discover more from a collection than from a single object, and make connections between the past and present.

Think of interesting objects people in your family might have (an old toy, a rotary phone, a typewriter, old photos, etc.). Have you seen objects like them in a museum?



UAMN Curator of Fishes Andrés López shows a specimen to a visitor.

Imagine what objects from your life could become part of a museum collection in the future!

Why Do We Visit Museums?

Visiting a museum can be exciting. Exploring museums can make us feel like we are part of a bigger world.



There are many things we can discover in museums. We visit stories from the past and present, and peek into the future. We see objects that are thousands or millions of years old. We experience different cultures and learn more about our ancestors. Sometimes we are reminded of terrible moments in our history, in order to prevent them from happening again. We get to know people who changed the world.

We discover the way people's lives have both changed and remained the same over the years. We explore the way people all over the world live today. We get curious about life on Earth. We discover science that will shape our world in the future. We are amazed by beautiful, unusual, or thought-provoking artworks, and can be inspired to create our own art. We feel surprised, sad, happy, inspired, or curious. We learned something new. We feel human!



Docent Tim Doran leads a school tour.



Exploring art at UAMN.



Think of the last time you went to a museum.

Who did you go with? What did you see? How did it make you feel?
The next time you can go to a museum, what would you like to do, see, or discover?