



What's It Wednesday: You're a Curator! Part 2

Today's Camp Ah-Ha project makes you the curator of your own special museum!

Who:

- You and your family

What:

- Remember for last week's "What's It Wednesday" project we talked about how Curators organize a collection and you had a chance to organize your collection and show it off to the others in your home.
- Another thing that Curators do is they help people learn about their collections by making signs.
- These signs tell the story of each part of the collection. Signs can share information about when an item was made, where it came from, who made it, what it is made of and how it was made or how it was used.
- You can think of museum signs as the "Who, What, Where, When and How" questions. Have you learned about those questions? Your teachers might have asked you to answer Who, What, Where, When, and How questions when you write a paper or do a worksheet at school. Well, museum curators use those questions every day! See, what you learn in school IS important!
- Another important question that museum signs answer is "Why". The Why part helps museum visitors know why something is important. The Why could be about a single item in the collection or it could be about the whole collection itself.
- Often, Curators will take part of the collection and put them together in a special display or exhibit. The exhibit usually includes items that are all connected in some way – maybe they were all made by the same person, or maybe they were all made at the same time, or they could all have some of the same colors or look alike in some way.
- Exhibits tell a story through the artifacts (remember that word?). Exhibits answer the why question.

How:

- Remember the collection you used last week? Let's get it out again.
- Your job as curator this week is to create signs for your artifacts in your collection. Think about the Who, What, Where, When and How questions.
- It's ok if you don't know all the answers. Curators don't always either. Just answer the questions you can answer. For example, you may not know who made the toy in your collection so leave that blank.
- Now set up an exhibit of your collection with the signs.
- Can you do a Why sign for your exhibit? Why is this collection important to you? Does it remind you of fun vacations? Or does it remind you of special people? Or do you just like to play with them or have fun with them? There are no wrong answers to your why!
- Invite other family members to tour your museum
- Post a picture of your collection on the Heritage Sylvania Facebook page. We'd love to see it!

Extensions:

- Last week, we suggested that older children might want to pick ten items that help them remember their time at home during the quarantine.
- Using the Who What When Where How and Why questions have them write signs for their collection. Encourage them to use the items to tell a story about this time.
- We would love to see the results. Please send pictures to us at info@heritagesylvania.org
- A lot of great museums in our area have online exhibits. Take a virtual field trip with your family to some of these:
- National Museum of the Great Lakes
<https://nmgl.org/virtual-content/>
- The Hayes Presidential Home
<https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=3wUE4aBuUyN&fbclid=IwAR2vXmmwkCjPlqZ2S-CstDe3jr8vRN4fwixt-aNDN6sCIApMJlGm5K13KQ>
- The National Air Force Museum
<https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/>