

# The Eclectic Museum

## Introduction

Congratulations, you have been hired to work in the most interesting museum in the world! Why is this museum so interesting? It contains exhibits that have been chosen and designed by you and your friends. No matter what your interest, this museum has a spot for your exhibit. So start thinking of objects or artifacts on which you would like to base your exhibit.

## The Task

As a team, your job is to design a museum exhibit based on objects or artifacts (objects made by human beings) found in the homes of team members. You will do this by researching your objects or artifacts using the internet. Having completed your research, you will use what you have learned to construct a museum exhibit.

## The Process

1. You will complete this exercise in teams of 5. Select partners and let the teacher know the names and jobs of the researchers in your team:

- Director: You are responsible for overseeing the research project. You will collect each member's research log, lead your group discussions, and keep group on task.
- Curator: You are responsible for collecting the objects and/or artifacts from your team members. You will also match the research information with the objects. You will take care of the objects and manage them.
- Illustrator: Your job is to draw an illustration of the plans for the exhibit. You will also be in charge of pictures and graphics used in your exhibit.
- Word Worm: Your job is to record new words you encounter during your groups research. You will record these words in your journal, research and record the meanings, and report your findings to the group. You will also be in charge of writing the text for the exhibit.
- Carpenter: Your job is to oversee and collect materials for building your exhibit. You will be in charge of the construction of the overall exhibit.

Each team member will add their information and help in the final presentation of the exhibit.

2. Your next step is to choose a topic that is of interest to the members of your group. Your group will use the internet to research this topic and the objects and/or artifacts used. Try to choose a topic based on artifacts or objects easily found in team member's homes. Answer the questions on the Team Worksheet #1 as a group to help get you started.

3. Once the internet research is finished regarding your topic, it is time to design the exhibit. As you develop ideas for your museum exhibit, answer the questions on Team Worksheet #2 as a group:

## Conclusion

Success! You have now gone through the process of researching and designing a museum exhibit. Now, take a trip to a local museum and see if you notice the same elements in the museum exhibits.

Credits & References: Thanks to [www.readwritethink.org](http://www.readwritethink.org) for guiding questions and rubric.  
Last updated on August 15, 1999. Based on a template from The WebQuest Page



# The Eclectic Museum: Team Worksheet #1

Team members:

Director-

Word Worm-

Curator-

Carpenter-

Illustrator-

1. What is the topic of your exhibit?

2. What does your team know about the topic?

3. What do you want to learn about your topic? Be as specific as possible.

4. Describe the origins of your research. What sparked your interest? Why do you want to know more?

5. List at least five questions you have about your topic:

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.



# The Eclectic Museum: Team Worksheet #1-Continued

6. Describe your plan for collecting information, objects and/or artifacts.

7. List preliminary sources you anticipate using.

8. Be sure to keep track of your sources!



# The Eclectic Museum: Team Worksheet #2

1. What are the most important aspects of this topic?
2. What should we try to communicate with this exhibit?
3. What do we want people to walk away from this exhibit understanding?
4. How do we want people to interact with our exhibit? Should they just walk through? Look? Pick up objects? Listen to recordings of voice or music? Participate in some other way?
5. Will this exhibit be controversial in any way? How will we present a balanced view if the subject is controversial?
6. What artifacts, images, and interactive features would help us convey our ideas?
7. Sketch out your plan on another sheet of paper, and build your exhibit.



# The Eclectic Museum: Evaluation

	Beginning 1	Developing 2	Accomplished 3	Exemplary 4	Score
Stated Objective or Performance	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting a beginning level of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting development and movement toward mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting mastery of performance.	Description of identifiable performance characteristics reflecting the highest level of performance.	
Topic/Content	Artifacts in the exhibit have little or nothing to do with the main topic. Includes little essential information and only one or two facts.	Artifacts in the exhibit clearly relates to the main topic. Includes some essential information with few facts or details.	Artifacts in the exhibit clearly relates to the main topic. Includes essential information and enough elaboration to give readers an understanding of the topic.	Artifacts in the exhibit clearly relate to the main topic. Covers topic completely and in depth. Encourages readers to know more.	
Creativity	Little thought was put into making the exhibit interesting or fun.	Some thought was put into making the exhibit interesting and fun, but some of the things made it harder to understand/enjoy.	Some thought was put into making the exhibit interesting and fun as shown by artifacts or curator's notes.	A lot of thought was put into making the exhibit interesting and fun as shown by creative artifacts and curator's notes.	
Mechanics	Includes more than 5 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation	Includes 3-4 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.	Includes 2-3 grammatical errors, misspellings, punctuation errors, etc.	Grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization are correct. No errors in the text.	
Bibliographical Resources	No documentation is included.	Documentation for some sources is missing and/or incomplete.	Documentation is included for all sources, but some bibliographical information is missing.	Includes properly cited sources and complete information.	



Total

/20