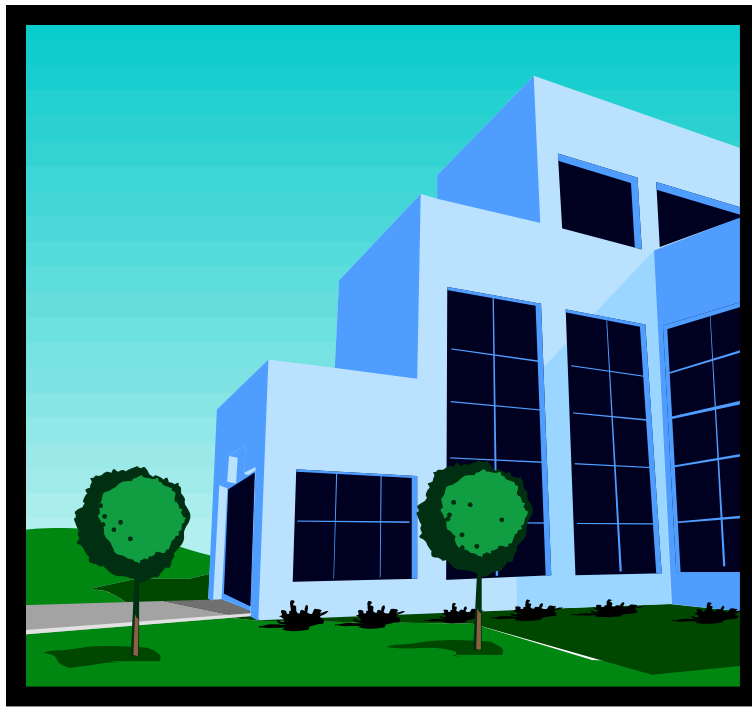


What is a Museum?



Teacher Activity Packet



Independence
Seaport Museum

211 South Columbus Blvd
Philadelphia PA 19106
Group Sales: 215.413.8630
www.phillyseaport.org

Extended Activity:

To take your discussion about museums a step further, ask your students what they think the word **maritime** means. Have them look up the word, or write the definition on the board. Ask your students what they might expect to see at a maritime museum.

Activity: Create your own museum

Museums collect objects so that future generations of people will be able to understand the past and to learn from it. The objects we choose to preserve say a great deal about our society and how we choose to be remembered. How would you like to be remembered?

Have each student bring a favorite object from home into the classroom and create a museum label for it using the **attached template**. Remind students to bring an object that is meaningful to them. Combine the objects your class brings in into a temporary museum exhibition of your own!



Glossary

artifact: an object made by people that has historical significance.

exhibition: an organized display of similar objects in a museum gallery

gallery: an indoor space where artifacts are displayed.

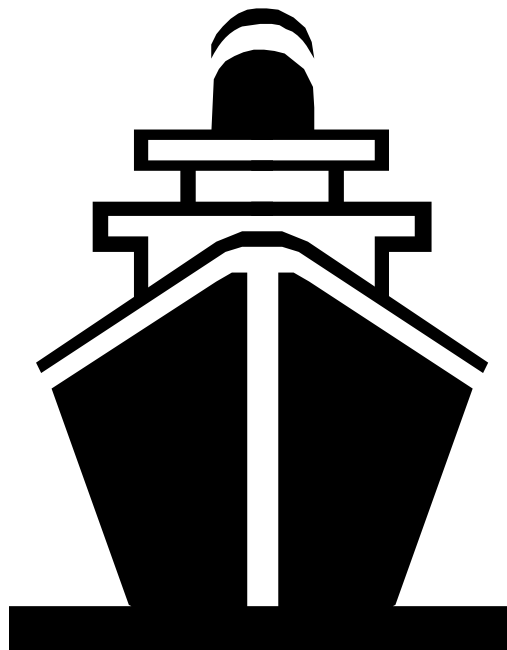
history: a story of real events in the past

maritime: people, objects and traditions having to do with ships and the sea.

museum: an institution for the preservation and display of historic artifacts.

sailor: a person who works aboard a boat or ship.

seaport: a port, harbor, or town within reach of seagoing ships.





What can you learn by looking?

Do this: Pick an object from your pocket or from your desk. It can be anything, a coin, a pencil, even a book!

Look closely at your object. Then try to answer the questions below. People who work in museums must be able to learn from objects, and then must pass on their knowledge to museum visitors. The next time you visit a museum, see what **you** can learn just by looking!

What **color** is it?

What is it **made of**?

Who made it?

Where it was made?

When it was made?

What it is **used for**?

What else can you tell about your object just by looking at it?

Make your own museum label!

Do this: Create your own museum label for the object you brought from home. Your label will tell other people about your object.

Name _____.

My object is a _____.

It is made of _____.

It is _____ years old.

Write three sentences that describe your object and what it says about you:



Many museums display their objects in special rooms called **galleries**. Make your own gallery in your classroom!

Resources

Lower School Readers

Harbor

Crews, Donald.

Tankers, tugs and ferryboats are presented in this visual adventure.

New York, N.Y.: HarperTrophy, 1987

Suggested for ages 4-8.

Look Inside Cross-Sections: Ships

Butterfield, Moira.

Cutaway views of famous ships and boats.

New York, N.Y. : BT Bound Pub., 1999

Suggested for ages 4-8.

Immigrant Kids

Freedman, Russell.

Experience the journey of a young immigrant.

New York, N.Y. : Scholastic, 2006

Suggested for ages 9-12.

Treasure Island

Stevenson, Robert Louis.

Join Jim Hawkins on a search for pirate's treasure.

New York, N.Y. : Pocket Pub., 2005 rev

Suggested for ages 9-12.

Middle School Readers

The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle

Avi.

A fateful 1832 voyage through the eyes of a young girl.

New York, N.Y.: HarperTrophy, 2005

Suggested for ages 9-12.

Kon-Tiki

Heyerdahl, Thor.

The true story of a journey across the Pacific by raft.

New York, N.Y. : Ballantine Books, 2000

Suggested for ages 9-12.

High School Readers

Moby-Dick, or, The Whale

Melville, Herman.

Classic adventure aboard the whaling ship.

New York, N.Y. : Penguin, 2002 rev

Dove

Graham, Robin Lee.

A 16-year-old boy sails around the world alone—a true story.

New York, N.Y. : Harper Paperbacks, 1991

