



Education Section: 303-492-4843  
University of Colorado  
UCB 218  
Boulder, CO 80309  
<http://cumuseum.colorado.edu/>

## What Is A Museum?

Many children may not have been to a museum or do not understand the purpose of museums. Ask your students to brainstorm what they know about museums:

1. What do they expect to find at the museum?
2. What do they think of when they hear "natural history museum?"
3. What are the advantages of learning from real objects as opposed to pictures?
4. Who visits museums and why?
5. Are museums important? Why or why not?

Write their answers on the blackboard and discuss them.

**Prepare for  
your trip to the  
CU Museum**

A museum is an educational place that collects, cares for, and displays objects of lasting interest or value.

### The CU Museum

With more than four million artifacts and specimens, the CU Museum houses one of the most extensive and respected natural history collections in the Rocky Mountain and Plains region, making it one of the top university natural science museums in the country. The CU Museum's collections represent the disciplines of Anthropology, Botany, Entomology, Paleontology, and Zoology and are exhibited in four main halls and in the hands-on, interactive Discovery Corner.

What do your students collect and how do they care for their collection? Why is their collection special or unique?

## RESOURCES:

*Museums In Motion* by Edward P. Alexander

*Museums: Places of Learning* by George E. Hein & Mary Alexander

*How to Visit a Museum* by David Finn

Also visit the Smithsonian Institution website for teachers:  
"Teachers: Resources for Educators"

<http://www.si.edu/>