



Education Section: 303-492-4843

University of Colorado

UCB 218

Boulder, CO 80309

What Is A Museum?

Many children have never 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. Who visits museums and why?
4. Are museums important? Why or why not?
5. What are the advantages of learning from real objects as opposed to pictures?

Write their answers on the blackboard and discuss them.

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

A museum is a 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/>



Object Conversations Exhibition Tour Vocabulary List

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Museum | 12. Holotype |
| 2. Anthropology | 13. Contentious |
| 3. Archaeology | 14. Ruminant |
| 4. Zoology | 15. Endocast |
| 5. Botany | 16. Articulated |
| 6. Entomology | 17. Morphology |
| 7. Paleontology | 18. Endemic |
| 8. Manta | 19. Divergence |
| 9. Labret | 20. Mitigate |
| 10. Symbiotic | 21. Hybridize |
| 11. Photosynthesis | 22. Opalescent |