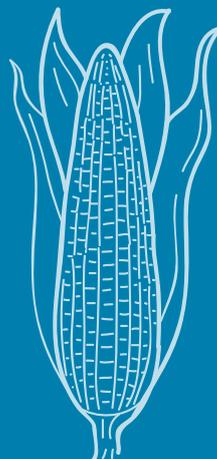
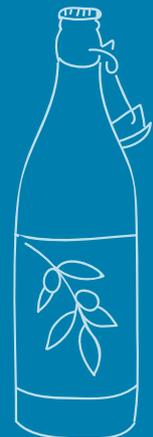


Royal Botanic Gardens

Kew



Formal Learning, Kew 2020

Creating a Museum at Home

Creating a Museum at Home

Museums tell stories and inspire people to learn. Some people think Kew is like a museum – we have plants with labels and display objects in our galleries and library. Help Kew share some of the amazing and surprising stories about plants by creating a plant-based museum at home. Offer a virtual tour to friends and share images with us online (@kewgardens).

What's in a museum?

- Have you ever been to a museum? Talk, draw or write about what it looked like, what did you see?
- If you haven't visited a museum before you can look at some museums online.
- Think about how the things look/ed in the museum.
- Choosing, looking after and displaying objects in a museum is called 'curation'.
- Objects in museums are often grouped together and have labels explaining things such as, what the objects are, where they come from, why they're important, etc.

Why plant-based?

Since humans arrived on earth, we've relied on plants for all sorts of items including food, medicine, clothes and even social activities – think of the materials used to make musical instruments or sports equipment. At Kew we have a vast collection of items made from plants that are stored in our [Economic Botany Collection](#). Take a look at the website with an adult. You can search for lots of things – even hats!

What to put in your museum

- A good place to start is by taking a look at our [mobile museum handbook](#). If your adult wants to help, they could look at the resources we created for [schools](#).
- Think about whether you want your museum to be about something in particular – for example, food, music, religion, art.
- Next look around your home for objects made from plants that link to your theme.
 - If it's about food, you could look in the kitchen for cooking ingredients.
 - If it's about cosmetics you could look in the bathroom.
 - You might have something that is special to you – a gift or something from childhood, for example a cotton item of clothing or a wooden toy.
 - You could also include photographs of objects that other family members share with you.
- Make a list of your objects with information about what they are, what they're made of and any other interesting facts you can find. This is called 'cataloguing' and will help you later when you come to write your labels.

Designing your museum

- Now you've collected your objects, think about how you're going to display them. You could use plastic containers or an upturned box covered with paper. Another option is to use a piece of cloth as a base or background.
- Arrange your objects in a way that looks attractive and will encourage people's curiosity.
- Next you need to make labels for the objects in your museum.
 - What are your objects? What are they made from?
 - Try to include an interesting fact on your label.
 - You may need to look on the internet for this information or you could speak to adults in your family.
 - Can you find a picture to show how the object is used?
 - If an object is from another country, you might like to include a map.
- Be creative and think of different ways to communicate your message.

Opening your museum

- Can you think of an interesting name for your museum?
Make a sign to let people know.
- Open your museum and invite your family to visit. You can also invite your friends via Skype or FaceTime (check with the adults you live with that they are happy for you to do this).
- Give everyone a tour of your museum where you talk about the theme of your collection, the objects in it and why you have chosen them.

Finally, make sure you take some photos of your museum. We'd love to see them! You can share them with us on social media by using @kewgardens. Remember to ask permission from your adult and do not to include any personal information.

This resource was produced by the Mobile Museum Project, a collaboration between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Royal Holloway, University of London, supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

<https://royalholloway.ac.uk/mobilemuseum/schools>

<https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/departments/collections-department/economic-botany-collection>

Mobile Museum
Economic botany in circulation

