

# ROBERSON MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

## Pre-Visit Meet the Museum: What Do You Collect?

**Grade Level:** Pre K - Adult

**New York State Standards:** ELA 1 Arts 1-4

**Pennsylvania State Standards:** A & H 9.2, 9.3; H 8.3, 8.4

**Objective:** Students will gain an understanding of what it means to form a collection. They will realize that most of them have already started a collection of some sort. Students will then learn how to organize their collection and they will share their collection with their classmates. The class can then relate this to special collections that are found in museums.

### Materials:

- Children can bring in some of their own collections
- Paper or index cards
- Pencils
- Labels
- Boxes (1/child) for students to store their collections

### Procedure:

#### Day 1

1. Discuss with your class what it means to collect. Most children and adults have lots of “stuff”. You may share with your class what you collect perhaps. Children may give you answers such as dolls, comic books, baseball cards, buttons, stickers, seashells, or rocks. Adults may give you answers like videos, antiques or jewelry. Tell your class that often times collections lead to life-long hobbies.

2. Also discuss with your class that you will be going to Roberson Museum and Science Center. Ask them if they know what museums collect. (Accept all reasonable answers and go with the flow in order to continue your discussion).

3. Now tell your students to think about something that they collect. Ask them to bring their collection to class tomorrow. Tell them they are going to organize their collection, just like museums organize collections, and then they will have a chance to share them with the class. Make sure your students feel comfortable with this. Get the point across that they are probably just starting out and may only have a few things. If they don't have anything, tell them to ask an adult at home if they have a collection they are willing to let them bring in, or as an alternative, have them write a short story or poem about a collection they wish they had. When they come in the next day, ask students to write down how they would organize that collection.

## Day 2

1. Students will be coming into class with their collections.
2. Tell students they are going to work independently for part of the class organizing their collections. They need to think of a way to organize it. Possibilities include organizing by color, age, who gave it to them, type of music etc. They may use labels or index cards in their organization if they need it. For example, they may explain on the index card why a certain grouping in their collection is placed together.
3. When they are done, students will share their collections with the class. Alternatively, you may have students walk around the room and explain what they collect and how they organized it.
4. When they are done, they may now place their organized collections away in the boxes they brought to class. Have students place their index cards with each grouping so that if they ever want to show their collection to someone, the index cards will help to explain what each grouping is about.

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**Date:** June 27, 2008