



## Museum Asks for Items from Everyday Life

### What are museums?

- Museums are places that collect objects for different purposes. Some show items from the ancient past; some show life as it is today.
- Museums display objects to entertain or to inform us more about a certain topic.

Museums across the world are home to some of our greatest treasures. Yet soon, many will include hair clippers, hand-drawn rainbows and toilet roll among them!

To help people in the future understand what life was like during COVID-19, museums are asking people to send in their own **artefacts** of daily life.

These mementos will be displayed in **exhibitions** when life returns to normal.

The Museum of London is one of the museums asking for people to start **documenting** what life is like during this time. They think it is important to collect things that can tell people what everyday life was like.

One of the people in charge of the collection, Beatrice Behelen, said that nothing was “too humble”. She also said that the museum wants a range of objects, “from clothing to hair clippers, from diaries to memes.”

Another project has been created by The Museum of Ordinary People, in Brighton. They say their aim is to document both the “magic and mundanity of life.”

They are asking for people to start writing a diary. This can be as little as two lines a day. The diary entries can include pictures and drawings of any events that happen during a day.

The idea, according to Lucy Malone, one of the



Photo: The British Museum offers a virtual tour.

directors, is to create a “snapshot of daily life for ordinary people.”

It is not just museums in the UK that are asking for help with their collections. One Austrian museum began a similar project on 25<sup>th</sup> March and more than 1300 people have responded already.

The Louvre, in France, and The British Museum have all created **virtual tours** around their collections so people can carry on visiting. If you start writing and collecting, perhaps your own work could end up on the walls of a museum.

### Glossary

<b>artefact</b>	An object of cultural or historical interest.
<b>exhibitions</b>	Public displays of interesting items.
<b>documenting</b>	Recording for the future.
<b>virtual tour</b>	Photos and videos which simulate visiting a place.

# Questions

1. How many people have sent in items to the museum in Austria already?

- more than 1300
- more than 13 000
- more than 130 000
- more than 16 000

2. Find and copy three items mentioned that The Museum of London wants to collect.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do museums want people to send in items about everyday life?

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4. 'Museums across the world are home to some of our greatest treasures.'  
Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'treasures' in this sentence.

- gold
- pirate
- stuff
- wonders

5. '... nothing was 'too humble.'

This suggests that ...

- You can send anything.
- Only important art is accepted.
- There are some things you can't send.
- You are limited to one item.

6. Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.

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# Answers

- How many people have sent in items to the museum in Austria already?
  - more than 1300**
  - more than 13 000
  - more than 130 000
  - more than 16 000
- Find and copy three items mentioned that The Museum of London wants to collect.  
**Accept any three of the following: clothing, hair clippers, diaries or memes.**
- Why do museums want people to send in items about everyday life?  
**Accept any answer referring to showing people in the future what life was like during COVID-19.**
- 'Museums across the world are home to some of our greatest treasures.'  
Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'treasures' in this sentence.
  - gold
  - pirate
  - stuff
  - wonders**
- '... nothing was 'too humble.'  
This suggests that ...
  - You can send anything.**
  - Only important art is accepted.
  - There are some things you can't send.
  - You are limited to one item.
- Summarise the story in 15 words or fewer.  
**Accept any reasonable answer that is 15 words or fewer. e.g. Museums want people to send in any objects that explain everyday life during COVID-19.**