

Museum Scavenger Hunt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yG9-HCDEpgQ>

Museum at Home Scavenger Hunt

Hi I'm Karla and I'm the Program Coordinator from Beyond Classrooms Kingston, and we have a challenge for you today as part of the March of the Museums.

You receive this piece of paper that says "Museum at Home Scavenger Hunt." What we're going to ask you to do is to see if your house is like a museum. So, there's nine things I've asked you to try to find in your house and these are the types of things that might be found in a museum. So, I'm really excited to see what you come up with.

So, you can get hunting now or you can stay tuned to learn a little bit about what museums collect, what are artifacts, and see the types of objects that I found in my home. So, stay tuned to learn a little bit more and at the end of the video you'll have some information on how you can share what you find in your home with us. Okay, good?

But first, do you know what is an artifact or object? If you're gonna hunt through your house like an archaeologist or a curator, we should talk about why artifacts are so important.

Artifacts are objects from the past, created by people who lived during that time. These objects or artifacts are so important because they're clues to the past. By studying an object or artifact, you can be inspired to learn something about the people who made or used it. Often these objects are rare and historically significant, which means there aren't a lot of objects like it and it teaches us something important about life in the past. That's why museums take such good care of artifacts.

When you have a chance, I encourage you and your family to check out the amazing museums. We have dozens of them here in Kingston. They're filled with tons of interesting artifacts and stories and you can learn about what life was like here long ago and see what has changed and what has stayed the same.

But today's challenge is to see if you can imagine your house, was a museum. I will ask you to find examples of nine types of artifacts that you might find in some of our museums—everything from a special toy, a piece of art, or a coin. These objects in your house might not be very rare or even old, but that doesn't mean that they are not significant or important. I'm sure the objects in your house, just like the ones I found in my house, are important to you and your family.

Ready for the challenge? Grab your sheet of paper and start hunting. You can draw the object you find or write a word or description in the box, and when you fill out your sheet, we would

love to see it. If your family wants to share it, at the end of the video we will post our contact information. Have fun! And if you want to keep watching, I'm going to show you the treasures that I managed to find when I did the hunt in my house.

The first example is a coin. The example I found in my house was a penny. Coins can tell us a lot about a particular place and time. Money has been used throughout history as a way to buy and sell goods and services.

I found a penny. The first Dominion of Canada penny was made in 1877. But maybe you've never even used a penny because they stopped being made in 2012. I still have a few pennies saved, like this one from the year I started grade one. Back then, pennies had 12 sides. I used to use pennies to buy penny candies at a candy store. I could buy 10 sour candy fish—which were my favorite—for 10 pennies or a dime.

Canada stopped making pennies because it became too expensive to make them for what they were worth—just one cent. So, I look at this coin, I think of the significance of what I used it for, but I also wonder how many people used this coin in the more than 30 years since it was made.

Did you know there's a museum—the Bank of Canada Museum—that has the biggest collection of Canadian coins, tokens, and paper money? It was started in 1962 and now it has over 110,000 artifacts. Some are special commemorative coins like these ones. Many museums keep coins and money. Do you have a coin collection? Do you have any special coins?

Next was a tool to fix something. I found a screwdriver. Did you know that different types of screwdrivers have different types of names? If you need to have the batteries changed on one of your toys or gadgets, you're going to need to know what type of screwdriver to use.

I found a Robertson screwdriver in my house. I was surprised to learn that the inventor of this type of screwdriver—with a square head—was from Ontario. His name was Peter Robertson and he believed that he had the biggest little invention of the 20th century when he invented it back in 1907.

The McLaughlin Woodworking Museum here in Kingston is a great museum to check out many tools, and the Pump House Steam Museum is another cool museum to learn about technology.

Alright, the next one is a special book. I have many special books at my house, so it's hard to choose just one. Some books are special because I like the story or the author, and some are special because of the photographs they have in them. I chose this book because it was given to me by a special friend. It talks about the importance of objects in history—just like we're talking about now. This book tells the history of the world in 100 objects. Looking at the collection of the objects you've collected today—what history can we tell about you?

Most of Kingston's museums have special books. Some are diaries that can be found at the Schools Museum or the Military Communications and Electronics Museum. The library is another great place to find books old and new. What special book did you find today?

Next was art. We can find that in many museums around town. For me it was hard to choose just one piece of art from home, but I chose this one because my daughter made it with some help when she was very little. And it was made using glue and plain paint and even though it's simple I think it's beautiful.

We can learn so much about history from art. If you haven't had a chance yet, check out the amazing artworks at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. The exhibits change regularly and you can see many types of art from Kingston, Canada, and around the world.

The Window Art Gallery and Kingston City Hall also have great local exhibits to check out.

For the next example, it says piece of clothing. Okay, so I cheated a little bit and I chose a quilt instead of a type of clothing—but it is made of material. And I chose this quilt because it's special to me and my family. It was made by my aunt for my daughter and it took her a really long time to sew it and put it together. I know she did that for my family.

You might have special blankets or quilts at your home. Quilting has a really long history. It was necessary in early colonial Canada when it was difficult to get material. Usually, women would put together material to create beautiful quilts to keep their families warm. The Agnes Etherington Art Centre has a collection of quilts with patterns from hundreds of years ago. You can find lots of symmetry and patterns in quilts—that's why I really like them.

Do you have a special piece of clothing or special blanket at home?

For a kitchen tool, I chose a hamburger press. It's been in my family for 40 years or so. I used to help my mom make hamburger patties with it. It's a really simple tool, but it makes the job easy and go quickly. I still use it today. A tool like this might tell you something about when it is from, because of the material it's made of, which is plastic—actually, it's Tupperware. And it might show you something about the diet of the people who use it, so it shows you we eat hamburgers. What tools do you have in your kitchen?

The next example was a decoration. Just like art, I found this hard just to choose one. But I chose this decorative plate because it's important to me. It's a ceramic plate that has a tiny print of my daughter's feet when she was a baby. It's not very old, but it's special to me because it captures a special moment in time, and I remember when we made it together.

Many homes might have a decorative item made out of special materials. Ceramics are pretty common. They've been around for thousands of years. People discovered they could form items out of clay and use fire to help keep the shape. Archaeologists continue to learn about

important events from history by uncovering objects such as ceramics. What decorative items can you find in your home?

So, the next one is a toy. I bet you have all kinds of special toys at home. Well, I chose this Tupperware shape sorter, and it's one of my daughter's toys—but I had the exact same one when I was growing up. It's called a Shape-O, and you play with it by fitting the yellow shapes into the correct shaped hole.

The first one was made by Tupperware over 50 years ago. And you heard me talk about Tupperware a minute ago—well, Earl Tupper invented a special kind of plastic to store food in in the 1940s. Back then, people even had Tupperware parties where you could buy these products.

You can learn a lot by the toys that are played with by children. Some of the earliest toys and games, such as checkers or marbles or yo-yos, appeared thousands of years ago around the world. Children long ago did not have many toys like they do today. They had less time to play, and toys were really expensive and they were not easily available to get.

In the past 200 years, toys became more common as they were made in factories. Did you know that you can check out lots of interesting toy artifacts at the Frontenac County Schools Museum here in Kingston? I love hearing about the toys my parents played with when they were little. What special toys do your parents or your grandparents remember? Do you have a special toy at your house? What does it say about you?

Okay, for the last one: it's something special in your family. And that's hard to choose. But I chose this family photo album because I've always loved taking and looking at pictures.

So, what's really special about this photo album is that it contains photographs of my grandparents on both sides from nearly 100 years ago. These photographs are important in telling my family history. Photographs are an amazing primary source. You can find photographs in pretty much all of Kingston's museums. They contain evidence about a time or an event.

There's a reason there's a saying “a picture is worth a thousand words.” Historians can learn so many details just by closely looking at a photo. However, like other primary sources, we need to think critically about photos because what a photographer captures depends upon many things such as what tools they have, what they wanted to capture, and what they are able to capture in just a minute.

Thank you for joining us for this scavenger hunt challenge today. I had a lot of fun and I hope you did too. If your family would like to share your collections with us, feel free to take a photo of all the things you gathered or take a photo of your sheet too, and send an email to info@beyondclassrooms.ca or tag us on Twitter @BCKYGK.

Beyond Classrooms Kingston empowers children to be culturally aware, lifelong learners and active citizens. To learn more about Beyond Classrooms Kingston or to get involved, visit www.beyondclassrooms.ca.