

## How the Museum works

For: KS 2

Time: 1 – 1 ½ hours

Many classes create classroom museums or imagine themselves in the role of a curator. This visit gives children the skills needed to care for, document and present objects and the opportunity to think about what museums do and why they do it.

1. Discussion with whole group about what a museum does,
2. **“Look after objects”**  
Discussion about the reasons for handling objects carefully.
  - Archaeological : Each group gets a tray of archaeological items, they use brushes to clean them and sort the pottery into different vessels. They attempt to reconstruct one of the pots.
  - Real Objects: Each group gets a set of real objects to handle. As a class they come up with a list of handling rules.
  - Go into galleries and find things that help look after the objects, i.e. protect from light, record temperature.
3. Record Objects : In pairs children choose an object from their set. Each object is investigated and talked about, Each object is then given a unique number and information about it recorded on a museum record card.
4. Discussion about display and how museums choose what to go on display.
  - Look around galleries for information about labels and display
  - In pairs choose an object and write a simple label. Put all the objects on display in a museum case.

**For more information please contact the Museum of Harlow**

 **01279 454959**

 **www.tmoh.com**