YOUNG CURATORS TEACHING SESSION
Key Stage 1 and Reception – 1 hour

An open-ended session which can be adapted according to the age and ability of your class. Young pupils can learn about the different jobs that people do at the Museum and then have a go at being a curator themselves.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

- **History:** Develop an awareness of the past using common words or phrases relating to the passing of time; understand some of the ways in which we find out about the past; create a simple chronological framework of ‘now’ and ‘then’.
- **Science:** distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made; identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, china, metal, rubber and slate (rock)
- **English:** Speaking and listening
EARLY LEARNING GOALS FOR THE FOUNDATION STAGE

- **Personal, social and emotional development**: Continue to be interested, excited and motivated to learn, be confident to try new activities, initiate ideas and speak in a familiar group, maintain attention, concentrate, and sit quietly when appropriate, work as part of a group or class, taking turns and sharing fairly.

- **Communication, language and literacy**: Interact with others, negotiating plans and activities and taking turns in conversation, extend vocabulary, exploring the meanings and sounds of new words.

- **Knowledge and understanding of the world**: Investigate objects and materials by using all senses as appropriate.

- **Physical development**: Use a range of small and large equipment, handle objects safely and with increasing control.

LESSON PLAN

The children think about the jobs that staff at the Museum have to do whilst looking at pictures of different areas in the Galleries. They then have a go at “being the curator” by sorting toys, deciding how they should be displayed, and working out what some objects are.

Objectives

To introduce the children to what a Museum is and to some of the different toys in the handling collection.

To encourage children to think about how the toys in the Museum are different from or the same as those they have at home or school, and to think about some of the different day-to-day issues a Museum might experience. Children who find the activities too challenging will still benefit from the opportunity to handle and explore different objects from the collection.

Resources

Five treasure boxes with instructions for an accompanying adult in each

Teaching activities

**Introduction (10 minutes)**

Discuss together “What is a Museum?” Explain the five jobs we need to do using the pictures from the gallery on the whiteboard:

Choose what to store and what to display. Divide up old and new. Choose how to display certain objects. Play with outdoor toys and learn about labels. Work out what objects are.

**Activities**

Children work around the following activities in a carousel for the rest of the session.
**Activity 1**
Match the labels to the toys (spinning tops of various sizes and different materials).

**Activity 2**
Divide a selection of toys into old and new and justify your choice.

**Activity 3**
How should this group of objects be displayed? (Using a selection of objects including some from the learning collection).

**Activity 4**
What are these objects? (Using a selection of objects including some from the learning collection).

**Activity 5**
Which of these should be put away in the store and which should we display in the Museum? (Using a selection of objects including some from the learning collection).

**Word List**
- Curator: Person who looks after objects (toys) in a Museum
- Display: A way of setting out our toys for people to look at
- Stores: Where we keep the toys which are not on display
- Old: From the past
- New: From today
- Museum label: Information about a toy

**THINGS TO DO AT THE MUSEUM**
Find the cases talked about in the session, look for objects on display similar to those used in the session, look at how different cases have been displayed and decide if you would display them differently.

**THINGS TO DO IN THE CLASSROOM**
Compare the toys looked at in the session to those in your classroom. What are the similarities and differences? Think about the materials they are made from, colours, size, what they feel like to touch etc.
Make your own Museum in the classroom. Ask all the children to bring in something from home, and let them decide how they should be displayed.