

**Title:** Earth Museum

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**Subject(s):** Social Studies, Science, Art, Technology

**Topics:** Earth, Earth Science, Moon, Mars, Museums, Exhibits, History, Space Science

**Grade Level:** 5-8

**Objectives:**

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to identify artifacts, characteristics and components of life on Earth that might be different from life in a future Moon or Mars colony

**Summary of Lesson:** In this lesson, students will analyze characteristics of artifacts to plan an exhibit about Earth to go in a museum on Mars.

**Time:** 2-3 45-minute class periods

**Procedures/Instructions:**

1. Collect various items for the artifact organization activity.
2. Begin a brief class discussion by telling students that someday, people will live in colonies on Mars. These people will be born on Mars and will probably never visit Earth. However, they will probably want to be able to learn about what life was like on Earth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and earlier, and they will want their children to be able to learn as well. Ask students what kinds of things they might have on Mars someday to teach people about life on Earth in the 2000's. (Lead to answers like books, history teachers, Internet sites, etc.)
3. If students do not bring up the idea of museums, ask them leading questions, like "What if the Mars colonists have (artifacts) things that came from Earth that they wanted people to be able to see? What kind of a place puts those things on display?"
4. When the idea of museums is mentioned, ask students what kinds of museums there might be to show what life is like today. What kinds of exhibits would be in the museums? What artifacts should be saved for those museums?



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5. Individually, or in small groups, students should complete the artifact organization activity on the Student Sheet. In this activity, students will be sorting several items into categories and/or time periods in order to organize the items for a museum exhibit about life on Earth.
6. Individually, students should complete the exhibit naming activity on the student sheet.
7. After completing the student sheet, each student should pick one of the exhibits that they named and brainstorm several more items that could also go in that exhibit.
8. Finally, each student should draw a picture of what their selected exhibit might look like if put in a museum on Mars.

**Extension:**

Have students construct a miniature diorama of their exhibit, including the text that would explain each item.

**Instructional Materials:**

- Items and pictures for classification
- Social studies books
- Internet Access for research (optional)
- [Student Worksheets](#)

**National Science or Mathematics Standards:**

Science

Earth and Space Science

CONTENT STANDARD D:

As a result of activities in grades 5-8, all students should develop an understanding of

- Earth in the solar system
- Structure of the earth system

History and Nature of Science

CONTENT STANDARD G:

As a result of activities in grades 5-8, all students should develop understanding of

- Science as a human endeavor
- History of science
- Nature of science

Mathematics

## Geometry Standard

Instructional programs from pre-kindergarten through grade 12 should enable all students to—

- Use visualization, spatial reasoning and geometric modeling to solve problems

### **Assessment Plan:**

Students will be assessed based on their successful completion of the worksheet activities as well as the creativity and accuracy in their exhibit design drawing.

## Earth Museum 1

Someday, humans living on the Moon and on Mars will want to know what it was like to live on Earth. They may even build museums to teach their children about Earth. In this activity, you will analyze characteristics of artifacts in order to plan an exhibit about Earth.

Your teacher has several items for you to organize for an Earth Museum on Mars. Sort the items into the appropriate box in the chart below. Some boxes may not have any items. Some boxes may have several items.

	<b>1401 - 1600 AD</b>	<b>1601 - 1800 AD</b>	<b>1801 - 2000 AD</b>	<b>2000 AD and later</b>
<b>Technology</b>				
<b>Government</b>				
<b>Geology</b>				
<b>Life</b>				

## Earth Museum 2

Think of creative names for the exhibits that might include the following artifacts. Make your own for Exhibit 4.

Exhibit 1 Exhibit Name:	Exhibit 2 Exhibit Name:
Artifacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transistor radio</li><li>• Mp3 player</li><li>• CD player</li><li>• Record player</li><li>• Cassette tape</li></ul>	Artifacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hot air balloon</li><li>• Wright Brothers airplane</li><li>• Space Shuttle</li><li>• X Plane</li><li>• Hang glider</li></ul>
Exhibit 3 Exhibit Name:	Exhibit 4 Exhibit Name:
Artifacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Model of the Grand Canyon</li><li>• Picture of Mount Everest</li><li>• Coral from the Great Barrier Reef</li><li>• Picture of Victoria Falls</li><li>• Lava from Paricutin volcano in Mexico</li><li>• Picture of the Northern Lights</li><li>• Picture of the Harbor of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</li></ul>	Artifacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>

### Earth Museum 3

Brainstorm at least five items or pictures to include in exhibits with the following names:

Exhibit 1 A Bug's Life	Exhibit 2 Going to the Moon
Artifacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	Artifacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>
Exhibit 3 World Leaders	Exhibit 4 Fun on Earth
Artifacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>	Artifacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li><li>•</li></ul>

## Earth Museum 4

**Now choose one of the exhibits and draw a picture of how it might look!**