

Gale Center Museum Words to Know

Museum Glossary

Like other places of work and businesses, museums use special words that have meanings that aren't always common. Becoming familiar with this list before coming will help students have more meaning as they visit the Gale Center of History and Culture. The words can be used in games or for spelling lists.

- **Archeologist**- A person who studies the way people lived a long time ago by digging up and examining bones, fossils, and artifacts found in the earth or under its waters.
- **Archives**: A place where documents and photographs that have historical value are organized and stored.
- **Artifact**- An object made by people.
- **Collection**- A groups of objects that have been gathered together because they have something in common, such as use, style, where they were found or when they were made.
- **Curator**- A person who is in charge of the collections, exhibits, research activities or educational programs of a museum, zoo, or other place with exhibits
- **Display**- A group of items or artifacts that have been organized around a common theme to share information with visitors.
- **Docent**- A volunteer trained to share information with visitors in a museum.
- **Document**- A written or printed paper that gives official proof and information about something such as a birth certificate, a diploma or citizenship papers.
- **Era**- A period of time or of history, especially one that includes or begins or ends with an important event such as the "Civil War era."
- **Exhibit**- The display of a collection that has been organized according to a theme (also called an "exhibition"). To exhibit is to show objects by putting them on display.
- **Gallery**- A room or building where a collection is exhibited.
- **Historian**- A person who works at studying and writing or teaching about history.
- **Museum**- A place where objects of art, science or history are stored and exhibited.
- **Preservation**- The work of keeping artifacts, buildings or things in nature from being lost, damaged or destroyed so that they can continue into the future.
- **Primary source**- A firsthand document such as a diary or a letter or an official record such as a birth certificate.
- **Secondary source**- A document that is written based on a primary source such as a biography, a textbook or a magazine article.
- **Time line**- A list of events or things placed in such a way as to show the order in which they occurred in history.