



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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Summer Fun

Off to the Museum

This summer, you may be setting out to explore ...

- art
- ancient civilizations
- space
- interesting animals
- historical artifacts
- and so much more!



If so, your schedule probably includes visits to one or more museums.

This week, The Mini Page learns more about museums and how to make the most of your visits.

What is a museum?

There are many different kinds of museums. But in general, a museum is a building where objects of lasting interest or value are displayed.

“Museum” comes from the Latin word meaning “a place for the Muses, for the study of special arts and sciences.” The **Muses** were the nine Greek goddesses of the arts and sciences.

What other common word do you know that has “muse” as its root word? (Hint: Is there a song you love to sing?)

Museums nearby and far away

The greatest thing about museums is that they’re everywhere! You can find museums in the smallest of towns and the largest of cities — maybe even right around the corner from your home.*

Important objects

The first “museum” was in Alexandria, Egypt, more than 2,300 years ago. It was a palace where people came to study and learn.

During the Middle Ages, about 1,000 years ago, people collected and valued **relics**, or the remains of saints. For example, a church might have an object that a saint used, or even a bone from his body.

Wealthy families collected curious objects or art to display in their homes. But once the collections got too big to display, people moved the items to museums.

In Rome, two of the oldest museums, the Capitoline Museums and the Vatican Museums, began in the 15th and 16th centuries.

* Use these search tools to find museums near you:

- bit.ly/1dwWN66
- bit.ly/1dwWUyA



The Gallery of Maps is in the Vatican Museums in Rome, Italy.

In 2011, more than 6 million people visited the Vatican Museums and its 54 galleries.

Look through your newspaper for announcements about upcoming exhibits at museums in your community. Read about the exhibits on the museum’s website. Which exhibits would you like to see? Talk with your family and plan a visit to the museum.

The Smithsonian

The Smithsonian Institution is not just one museum, but the largest collection of museums in the world. It has 19 museums and galleries, plus the National Zoo. Two of these are in New York; the rest are in Washington, D.C.

Each year more than 25 million people visit these museums. All but one in New York are free to the public.

An Englishman's gift

In 1829, an English chemist, James Smithson, willed his fortune to America. He wanted to found an institution to spread knowledge.

James Smithson had never set foot in the United States. No one is really sure why he left his money to the United States.



James Smithson



The first Smithsonian building in Washington, D.C., was the Castle. It held all the museum displays and research facilities. Today it is the headquarters of the Smithsonian. James Smithson's remains are buried in a small chapel inside the Castle.

Bags of gold

When his donation arrived in the United States in 1838, it was in the form of half a million dollars in gold coins. The coins filled 105 bags, each containing 1,000 gold sovereigns. The gold was melted down and reminted as U.S. currency.

The beginning

Congress had a lot of fights over how to use Smithson's money. Some wanted to use it for research in farming. Some wanted a library. Some wanted a college.

But finally, on Aug. 10, 1846, Congress passed a bill that set up an institution for learning. It was to be used for research and exhibiting objects about art and science. The Smithsonian Institution was born.

Ready Resources



The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- si.edu/about/history
- smithsonianeducation.org/smithy/index.html
- youtube.com/course?list=EC94761570E7AC8D4E

At the library:

- "Awesome Adventures at the Smithsonian" by Emily B. Korrell
- "The Museum Book" by Jan Mark

Museums



Basset
Brown's

Try
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Find

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I	N	V	Y	N	K	T	R	A	G	H	U	C	S	X
M	J	F	N	A	I	N	O	S	H	T	I	M	S	T

Words that remind us of museums are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: ANCIENT, ANIMALS, AQUARIUM, ART, COLLECT, EXHIBIT, FUN, GUIDE, HISTORY, MAP, MILITARY, MUSES, MUSEUM, OBJECTS, RELICS, SCIENCE, SMITHSONIAN, SPACE, TOUR, WAX, ZOO.



Mini Spy

Mini Spy and her friends are visiting the Capitol Visitor Center. See if you can find: elf face

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| <input type="checkbox"/> horse head | <input type="checkbox"/> heart | <input type="checkbox"/> sword | <input type="checkbox"/> lion's face |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ladder | <input type="checkbox"/> pencil | <input type="checkbox"/> word MINI | <input type="checkbox"/> sailboat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter H | <input type="checkbox"/> muffin | <input type="checkbox"/> letter A | <input type="checkbox"/> letter M |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ruler | <input type="checkbox"/> oil lamp | <input type="checkbox"/> mouse | <input type="checkbox"/> envelope |



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Warm Banana Dessert Topping

You'll need:

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 medium bananas, sliced
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon sliced almonds (optional)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons shredded coconut
- Vanilla ice cream

What to do:

1. Melt butter over medium heat in small pan.
2. Stir in brown sugar and vanilla. Cook on medium to low heat briefly until well-blended.
3. Add coconut and sliced bananas. Cook for an additional 1 to 2 minutes until bananas are completely coated with sugar mixture.
4. Add sliced almonds if desired, then pour over vanilla ice cream.

Makes 2 servings.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Meet Amelia Robinson



Amelia Robinson is a composer, singer, pianist, clarinetist and ukulele player. She founded Mil's Trills, a children's music project. The Trills' first album was "Everyone Together Now!" Their second album, "Now That We're Friends," will come out in September.

One of the Trills' songs, "Mother May I?" is on the album "Songs for a Healthier America." That album was released by first lady Michelle Obama's Partnership for a Healthier America and Hip Hop Public Health.

When she was 3, Amelia learned to play the piano through the Suzuki Method. She also learned to sing through that method. Amelia, her two brothers and sister formed their own band when they were kids.

She studied anthropology in college. She now teaches music at a New York school and has written a symphony that includes 500 bicycle bells!

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Be a Supersport!

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Since 1969, athletes young and old have been featured as Mini Page Supersports. Many sports and games have been covered — baseball, basketball, golf, ice hockey, field hockey, volleyball, tennis, badminton, bowling, swimming, diving, wrestling, cycling, skiing, motor racing, football and soccer, to name a few.

Sports are important and enjoyable because you must use your body and your mind at the same time. Team sports rely on teamwork, working together in a common purpose. In individual sports, a competitor must take up a challenge alone, but preparation and success or failure will always be shared with others.

Winning or losing is never the most significant part of being an athlete. Fair play, sportsmanship, respect of oneself and one's opponent, and respect for the game itself are all important ideas that help to make our many sports fun, thrilling and irreplaceable. You certainly don't need to be a superstar, but always be a Supersport!



Mighty Funny's Mini Jokes

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All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Alan: What do you call a plumber's new assistant?

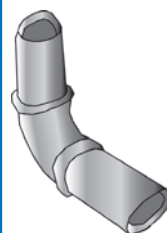
Anna: A draineer!

Aletha: What did the plumber say to his noisy helper?

Addison: "Pipe down!"

Aaron: What is a plumber's favorite kind of shoes?

Alicia: Clogs!



Visiting a Museum

- Take it easy. Museum visiting is fun, but it can be tiring and overwhelming. Bite off a little bit at a time.

- Dress comfortably. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes. You will be doing a lot of standing and walking.

- Learn something about what you will see before you even go. Read a book or guide.

- Stop at the information desk. Pick up a map and exhibit information.

Also, find out where restrooms, restaurants, water fountains and museum shops are.

- Together with your family, decide what to see. Parents and kids each could choose a few things.

- Decide how long the visit should last. One expert thinks that a young kid's visit should not be more than 30 minutes. Older kids might stay up to two hours.



© Laurentluz | Dreamstime.com - National Art Gallery Washington Photo

Kids listen to a tour guide during a trip to the National Art Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Tour guides or audio guides help visitors learn more about exhibits and enjoy a museum more.

- Plan a route. This way you can see the most in the least time.

- Give yourself many breaks. Stop for a snack, or go sit outside and talk about what you've just seen. Then go back in refreshed.

- Mix looking at museum displays with hands-on activities. Many museums have areas where visitors can touch the exhibits.

Many museums also have special shows, workshops or storytelling times, along with interactive exhibits.

Be a thoughtful visitor

You can help make the museum trip a happy visit for other people, too. Here are some tips for being a courteous tourist.

- Pick up litter. Take care of the museum property.

- Keep your hands in your pockets or to yourself. Many areas of a museum will be strictly hands-off.

- Pay attention to the rules and listen to the directions given by museum and tour guides.

- Wait your turn in line patiently.
- Keep your voice down inside the museum and other public places.

- Thank the tour guides.
- Be courteous to tourists from other lands.

- Respect rules about using your cellphone.

Where will you visit?

Do you want to visit some museums this summer? Check off some of the types of exhibits you would like to see.

 prehistoric animals

 aquarium or zoo

 contemporary art

 hall of fame or sports

 American history

 air travel and space

 science and industry

 architecture and design

 military and war

Next week, The Mini Page meets the creator of "SpongeBob SquarePants."

The Mini Page Staff

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