MY NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Background: Museums are institutions that care and share for important artifacts, rocks, minerals, fossils, animals, and plants. Museums are exciting to visit. But natural and curiosity are all around us and you can bring a museum right into your home or your classroom!

What To Do: 1. Research the natural history of your area look at the plants, animals, geology, and anthropology.

2. Then get outside, start collecting! Make sure to only collect from public locations and ask permission. Try to explore places you've never been to before! Be sure to take a field guide and a notebook with you to keep detailed notes about what you find this makes the next step easier!

3. Catalog: Scientists make detailed notes about each specimen they have collected, you can do the same by using index cards. Include the common name, scientific name, location, age, size, color, date collected and any other information you think is necessary. See the an example of a fossil catalog label on the last page, note that it has a specific number attached to it.
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What To Do:

4. Maintain your collection: Store your collection in a box, an egg carton, or a glass jar. You can organize the collection in any way: by color, by type, or by where you found it. Clean your specimens whenever needed, remember dust, and sunlight can cause damage.

5. Display your collection: Acquire any materials you will need to mount your specimens. Be sure to make a theme for your exhibit. Use a computer to print out labels to tell about each specimen. Once your exhibit is done share with friends and family!

Resources:

- https://educationcloset.com/2015/01/02/creating-classroom-museum-exhibits/
- https://nickgray.net/home-museum/
Examples of Exhibits

The Ohio State University
EXAMPLES OF SPECIMEN LABEL CARDS

Scientific Name: __________________________________________
Common Name: ____________________________________________
Location/Habitat: _________________________________________
Collector: ________________________________________________
Collection Date: ___________________ and No: _____________
Identified by: ____________________________________________
EXAMPLES OF SPECIMEN STORAGE