

Curious exhibits

Warm up

Ask students these questions:

Have you ever visited a museum?

What kind of museum was it and what did you see there?

Have you ever collected things? (Anything from football stickers to Barbie dolls, as long as the object was collected for something other than its use or value.)

Why do some people like collecting things?

Main activities

Students can do these activities in pairs or small groups.

- Give out the activity sheets. Ask students to predict which museum they would expect to find each of the objects in. Don't spend time at this stage going through what the objects are called, as students will do this in the next exercise.
- Students may find that their predictions about the objects weren't completely accurate for all the museums. Check that they have labelled the illustrations correctly with words from the text.

Answers

The Runciman Toy Museum c, e
The World of Football b, f
The Erdingford Museum of Money a, d

Illustrations:

a coins b shorts c rocking horse
d playing cards e steam locomotive f whistle

- Tell students to look carefully for the relevant information and to underline the words in the text which give them their answers.

Answers

1 Incorrect 2 Incorrect 3 Correct 4 Incorrect
5 Correct 6 Correct 7 Incorrect 8 Correct
9 Correct 10 Incorrect 11 Incorrect 12 Correct

- Ask students for the reasons why they would choose to visit one of these museums.

Follow up

Ask students to invent their own 'unusual' museum. Tell students that their invented museum can be one that reflects their own hobbies or interests but it must 'work' as a museum, i.e. it should display things which people will want to come and look at. What would it be called? What would be displayed there? What sort of people would come and visit it? Ask students to write a short description of their museum (they can look at the descriptions in exercise 2 to help them).

Variation: Rather than writing a description of their imaginary museum, students can design a website for it. This would include information under these suggested headings:

The collection (what's in the museum)

Special (temporary) **exhibitions**

Education (meaning educational visits, opportunities for study and research in the museum, teachers' information packs, etc.)

Opening times

Admission charges (if any)

How to find us

Many museums in Britain and elsewhere have excellent websites, which students might like to refer to.

Curious exhibits

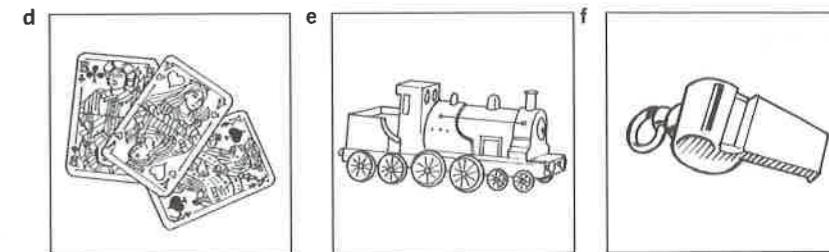
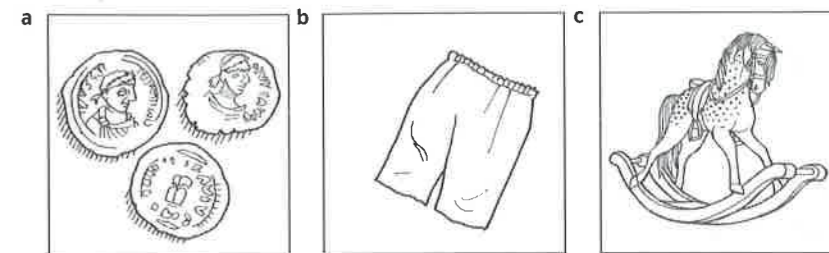
- You are going to read about some unusual museums.

The Runciman Toy Museum e

The World of Football

The Erdingford Museum of Money

Look at the objects in the pictures. In which of the museums would you expect to see them?



.....Steam locomotive.....

- Now read about the museums and check your answers. As you do so, write the words from the text that describe the object under the picture of it.

The Runciman Toy Museum

Mon-Sat 9.30-5.00 Sunday 10.00-4.00
Admission: Free

A fascinating collection of dolls, soft toys, rocking horses, model soldiers and specially made musical instruments, including a tiny grand piano (which the guide assured me made 'a very sweet sound'). My daughter was delighted by the doll's house (which has been lent to the museum by Princess Alice) with its beautifully made furniture. But the star exhibit, the thing that everyone wants to see, is the 100-year-old model railway, its painted steam locomotives in good working order. It was given to the museum by the Duke of Corsham (along with a lot of cash!) on condition that the public didn't have to pay to see it. Which was good luck for us!

The World of Football

Mon-Sat 9.30-6.00
Admission: Adults £7.50 Children £5.00

This museum comes right up to date with information on contemporary heroes of 'the beautiful game' plus photos and video replays of them in action. But for visitors who are tired of today's young celebrities, there's tons of information about the football heroes of the past. You can see mementoes such as George Wright's

shorts and Henrique Pessoa's boots, and there's the silver whistle blown by the referee in the final of the first World Cup ever. Oh, and just in case you thought that football is only about world famous teams making lots of money, take a look at the wonderful display of photos of ordinary people playing football in public parks, playing fields and back streets all around the world.

The Erdingford Museum of Money

Tues-Sat 10.00-5.00
Admission: Adults £6.50 Children £3.50

You may not love money, but you'll certainly find the history of it fascinating. Three thousand years ago the Chinese used tools as money and then, gradually, they started to exchange little models of those tools instead. In 18th century Canada, soldiers were paid in playing cards, each of which was given a certain value and signed by the governor of the country. The Erdingford Museum is full of curiosities like these. You can see coins and banknotes so rare and valuable they have to be kept behind thick unbreakable glass. And, in contrast, there are famous forgeries - false notes and coins - that are worth nothing at all, except of course for their historical value. What the museum doesn't have, I'm glad to say, is any plastic credit cards!

- Read these sentences about the museums and decide if they are correct or incorrect.

The Runciman Toy Museum

- The writer played a toy piano at the museum.
- The doll's house belongs to the museum.
- The Duke of Corsham didn't want the public to pay to see his model railway.

The World of Football

- Henrique Pessoa and George Wright are contemporary football heroes.
- You can see both pictures and objects in the museum.
- The World of Football is about the past as well as the present.

The Erdingford Museum of Money

- In 18th century Canada, soldiers played cards in order to earn money.
- The forged money in the museum has only historical value.
- The writer is not sorry there are no credit cards on display at the museum.
- All the museums charge for admission.
- All the museums are open six days a week.
- All the museums display objects.

- Which of the three museums would you choose to visit?

EXAM PART
Reading Part 3

EXAM SKILLS
Reading a longer
information-based
text

Selecting the
relevant information

Answering true or
false questions

TOPIC
Museum collections

TIME
40 minutes

KEY LANGUAGE
Describing objects

PREPARATION
One photocopy of
the activity page for
each student