



**Title:** What is a collection?

**Grade levels:** Pre-k to 12

**Length of time:** One class period

**Objectives:**

1. Students will recognize what a museum collection is and the elements involved
2. Students will understand what a museum is
3. Students will understand the role of a museum in a community

**Materials needed:**

Whiteboard, dry erase markers

Computer, internet access, connection to a projector or smartboard

## Steps:

1. Begin class discussion with the following question “Do you have a collection?”  
Make a list on the board of the responses.
2. Ask your students “What makes these things collections?”
3. Define collection.
  - a. A group of objects having something of importance in common.
  - b. Identify the common element in each collection on the board.  
(Similar objects, from the same time period, related to the same topic, etc.)
4. Ask the students why they started their collections.
  - a. List reasons on the board. Examples include:
    1. Objects are interesting
    2. Value or possibility of future importance
    3. Curiosity
    4. Interest in the objects





5. Ask the students if they have ever shown their collections to other people and discuss their answers.
6. Ask the class how they would show their collections.
7. Ask the class “what is a museum?”
  - a. Define a museum as a place to see and admire artifacts.
  - b. A museum is also a place to learn about art, history, or other cultures.
  - c. Show short video clip *What is a Museum?* [https://youtu.be/2\\_y7n70Gslg](https://youtu.be/2_y7n70Gslg)
8. Ask students if they have ever been to a museum. Talk about local museums and discuss what types of collections they have.
9. Let the students know that they will be visiting the Oklahoma History Center. The Oklahoma History Center is the state’s history museum, where artifacts from and about Oklahoma are preserved and displayed.

