

Museum Thinking

Hello Students!

Although we couldn't visit the Museum of Contemporary Art as planned, we can still take time to explore the idea of a museum. Art museums preserve art, allowing audiences like us to engage with them, but they also teach us a lot about our history and what other artists have done. This assignment will have us look at some of the vocabulary associated with museums, and we can begin thinking about how we would display our own art in a space.



Visitors at the re-opening of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, NY.

- Look at the photo above. What do you see?

Notice how there are lights shining onto the artwork helping viewers to see. There are also different kinds of artwork around this **gallery**. Some are hanging on the wall, while others are simply leaning. If you look to the left of the photo, you will see a sculpture. Many kinds of art can be together in one space!

Gallery (n.): a room or building for the display or sale of works of art.



Consider: What colors would the walls in my own gallery be?
Would they be different in every room, or all the same?



Curators at the North Carolina Museum of Art (shown above) are responsible for collecting and managing the art that is exhibited in their galleries.

- To **curate something**: to collect, select and present information or items such as pictures, video, music, etc. for people to use or enjoy, using your professional or expert knowledge.

Your Task

Design your own museum or gallery space! Use this as an opportunity to be creative, and be the **curator** of your space. This kind be any kind of a museum, maybe even one that only includes specific kinds of art.

- Use any material you can find at home— pencils, pens, colored pencils, etc.
- Think about what lighting you'd have on your ceiling.
- Consider how much space will be between each one of the artworks.
- Have fun! Add value or color to your walls and works if you have crayons or colored pencils at home.



In my sketchbook, I used two pages to create a gallery that has both paintings and a sculpture. You can also add other furnishings like a rug or a bench for visitors.



In this next drawing, I was inspired by a map and visitor guide from the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, MA.



Here, the entire museum is seen from a bird's-eye view. I've included an entrance, an exit, and different rooms for various kinds of art.

Consider: If people are coming to visit, what might they need in a public space?

- How could one add color to this kind of drawing?