Jobs: working with the ancient world

Have you ever wondered what the world was like one hundred, one thousand, or even one million years ago?! Learning about the past and comparing it to today can be lots of fun, so much so that some people choose to make this their career. People who are passionate about the ancient world might choose to study Ancient History or Classics (Classical Civilisation) at University or may decide to do a specialist course like Archaeology. They may go on to do some of the jobs described below.

Archaeologist

Archaeology is the study of things that people made, used, and left behind. The goal of archaeology is to understand what people of the past were like and how they lived. Some archaeological sites, such as ancient cities, are visible on the surface. Other sites are buried deep beneath the ground. After finding a site, an archaeologist digs slowly and carefully. This work is called excavation, or a “dig.” Archaeologists use spoons, knives, picks, brushes, and other tools in their work. They try to uncover buildings, tools, weapons, art, and anything else that people made. These items are called artefacts.

Museum Curator

A curator is someone who works in a gallery or museum and is in charge of building collections, researching information, writing about artefacts and placing those pieces within museum spaces. The mission of a museum curator is to educate or teach children and adults about different parts of history.

Historian

History is the study of the past, and people trained in history are called historians. Historians usually choose a particular time period (like the Victorian era) or a particular group of people (like ancient Egyptians) to study. They may write books and articles to help other people understand the past. They often use written records such as diaries, letters, and newspaper articles to learn about the past.

History teacher

A history teacher will train as a teacher by going to university and will gain specialist knowledge about history. They will teach secondary school children about important moments in history. Primary teachers can also be specialists in history. Some teachers can become History Professors and teach University students.
Curate your own museum!

In this activity we would like you curate your own museum – all about you!

Imagine creating your own exhibition or gallery of artworks inspired by you! What would you like people to know about you? What are the important things in your home that are close to your heart? Who might you paint a picture of? Toys, special outfits, holiday souvenirs and much-loved teddy bears are some of the many things you might wish to include as objects are artworks.

1) **Create a list of up to 10 objects that would be in an exhibition about you** - write a short description about each one saying why you think they should be part of your display.

2) **Name your exhibition** - keep it simple by naming it after you, or be more inventive!

3) **Design a poster** - every great exhibition has a brilliant poster to go with it, to entice visitors to come and see it. Design something eye-catching!

4) **Create a promotional video or play** - ask your mum, dad, carer or guardian to help you plan a play or make a video to promote your exhibition and what it’s all about. It should be up to 60 seconds long. If you can access a smartphone to make a video, make sure you film in landscape mode.

This activity was adapted from the ‘My home is my museum’ project from National Museums Liverpool: [https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/my-home-my-museum](https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/my-home-my-museum)