



Museum Asks for Items from Everyday Life

What are museums?

- Museums are places that collect objects for different purposes. Some show items from the ancient past; some show life as it is today.
- Museums display objects to entertain or to inform us more about a certain topic.

Museums across the world are home to some of our greatest treasures. Yet soon, many will include hair clippers, hand-drawn rainbows and toilet roll among them!

To help people in the future understand what life was like during COVID-19, museums are asking people to send in their own **artefacts** of daily life.

These mementos will be displayed in **exhibitions** when life returns to normal.

The Museum of London is one of the museums asking for people to start **documenting** what life is like during this time. They think it is important to collect things that can tell people what everyday life was like.

One of the people in charge of the collection, Beatrice Behelen, said that nothing was "too humble". She also said that the museum wants a range of objects, "from clothing to hair clippers, from diaries to memes."

Another project has been created by The Museum of Ordinary People, in Brighton. They say their aim is to document both the "magic and mundanity of life."

They are asking for people to start writing a diary. This can be as little as two lines a day. The diary entries can include pictures and drawings of any events that happen during a day.

The idea, according to Lucy Malone, one of the



Photo: The British Museum offers a virtual tour.

directors, is to create a "snapshot of daily life for ordinary people."

It is not just museums in the UK that are asking for help with their collections. One Austrian museum began a similar project on 25th March and more than 1300 people have responded already.

The Louvre, in France, and The British Museum have all created **virtual tours** around their collections so people can carry on visiting. If you start writing and collecting, perhaps your own work could end up on the walls of a museum.

Glossary

artefact	An object of cultural or historical interest.
exhibitions	Public displays of interesting items.
documenting	Recording for the future.
virtual tour	Photos and videos which simulate visiting a place.