Virtual Junior Curators: Big Things

Create a Little Exhibit of BIG Things

Build your own exhibit with objects from the UAMN collections!

Have you ever visited a museum? If so, what did you see and experience? What kinds of objects, specimens, or art did you see? What kinds of stories did the exhibits tell? Did you see BIG things? Get inspired to create your own exhibit! On your next visit to the UA Museum of the North, look for the BIG objects in the exhibits!

Materials Needed: Museum Exhibit template (or print your own), pictures of museum objects, scissors, glue, tape, coloring supplies.

Optional extension: To create a larger diorama, use a shoebox instead of the template!

Instructions:

Step 1: Prepare the Museum Exhibit Template:
Cut out the triangles on the bottom corners, then fold on the dotted lines to make the display stand up. Tape the corners to hold in place.
Optional: Print or glue template to cardstock to make it sturdier.

Step 2: Create your exhibit of BIG things:
Look at the pictures of museum objects, and decide which big things to include in your exhibit. Select objects that help tell a story, and cut them out. Remember to include the label information! You can also draw more pictures to add or use actual objects such as animal figurines.

Arrange your pictures on the exhibit template. Fitting large objects in an exhibit is a challenge! Once you are satisfied with the arrangement, glue the pictures down.

Step 3: Add visitors: A museum needs visitors!
Add benches, signs, and visitors. (Fold the tabs on the visitor silhouettes to make them stand upright.) Have fun giving your visitors a museum tour!
Virtual Junior Curators: Big Things

Discover Big Things at UAMN!

Many BIG things are on display at the Museum of the North!

A bowhead whale skeleton hangs from the lobby ceiling. It measures 42 ft (12.8 m) in length and the bones weigh 1830 lbs (830 kg)!

A tall grizzly bear welcomes visitors in the Gallery of Alaska, where a mammoth skull and other large Alaskan animals from the past and present are on display. Visitors can see large cultural objects such as an umiak, kayaks, and Chilkat robes, as well as many large works of art. Many more BIG objects are in the collections but not on display, including dinosaur fossils and huge rocks and minerals.

Some museum objects are just too big to be on display inside the museum. For example, Ben Eielson’s Curtiss JN-4D “Jenny” airplane is on display at the Fairbanks International Airport.

Several sculptures, a totem pole, whale bones, a pipeline “pig”, and a blockhouse are on around the museum grounds. In 2020, the museum became the home of Bus 142 (the “Into the Wild” bus) which will become an outdoor exhibit in the next few years.

The UA Museum of the North’s big and small objects together make up some of the BIGGEST collections of its kind in the world! The museum’s collections include more than 2.5 million artifacts and specimens representing millions of years of biological diversity and thousands of years of cultural traditions in the North.

Right: Students and scientists are conducting ongoing research in the museum’s mammal department.
Virtual Junior Curators: Big Things

Museum Objects

Images are not to scale.

- **Intertidal Pools**, Steve Gordon, 1999
- **Drifting Forms**, Ree Nancarrow, 1999
- **Great Alaska Outhouse Experience**, Craig Buchanan, 2005
- **Oscar Scared Him with His Icon**, Alvin Amason, 1977
- **Purse, Arctic Village**, ca. 1935
- **Tools from Quartz Lake**, 200 to 1000 years old
- **Drum and Stick, Chronicles of Raven**, Michael Dangeli
- **The Muries in Alaska**, Rusty Heurlin
- **Statue of Liberty Doll**, by Rosalie Paniyak
- **The Next Generation Berry Picker and The Great Hunter**, Earl Auralia Atchak
- **Chilkat Robe (mid-late 1800s)**
- **What Is My Story?**, by Drew Michael
- **Raven Flood Totem Pole by students at Mt. Edgecumbe School**, 1946
- **Model Canoe**
- **Sewing Machine UA80-23-23**
- **At The Time of Whaling (video)**, 1975
- **Fish Traps (Yup’ik, 1954)**
Museum Objects

Images are not to scale.

Juvenile Ugrunaaluk kuukpikensis

In The Arctic, No Creature is Respected And Feared More Than The Polar Bear by Michio Hoshino

Brown Bear (Ursus arctos)

Trans-Alaska Pipeline

Pleistocene of Alaska by Jay Matternes

Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)

Adult King Salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)

Bowhead Whale skull (Balaena mysticetus)

Alaskan Blue Butterfly (Plebejus idas alaskensis)

Siberian Aster (Eurybia sibirica)

Blue Babe: Steppe Bison (Bison priscus)

DNA Model

Shell of a Common Northwest Neptune (Neptunia lyrata)
Virtual Junior Curators: Big Things

Museum Objects

*Images are not to scale.*

Ectoplasmic Salmon Settee #1
by Ray Troll & Donald Varnell

Woolly Mammoth Skull
(*Mammuthus primigenius*)

Petrified wood, about 55 million years old

Quartz Crystal (425 pounds, found at Walker Lake, Brooks Range)

Copper Nugget (5495 pounds)

Jade boulder (3,550 pounds)

Museum Signs, Benches, and Visitors