

## Curate your Own Exhibition!

To **curate** means to collect and organise. The people who work in museums are sometimes called curators, as their job is to collect and organise the objects on display in the museum.



Three main things to think about when curating an exhibition

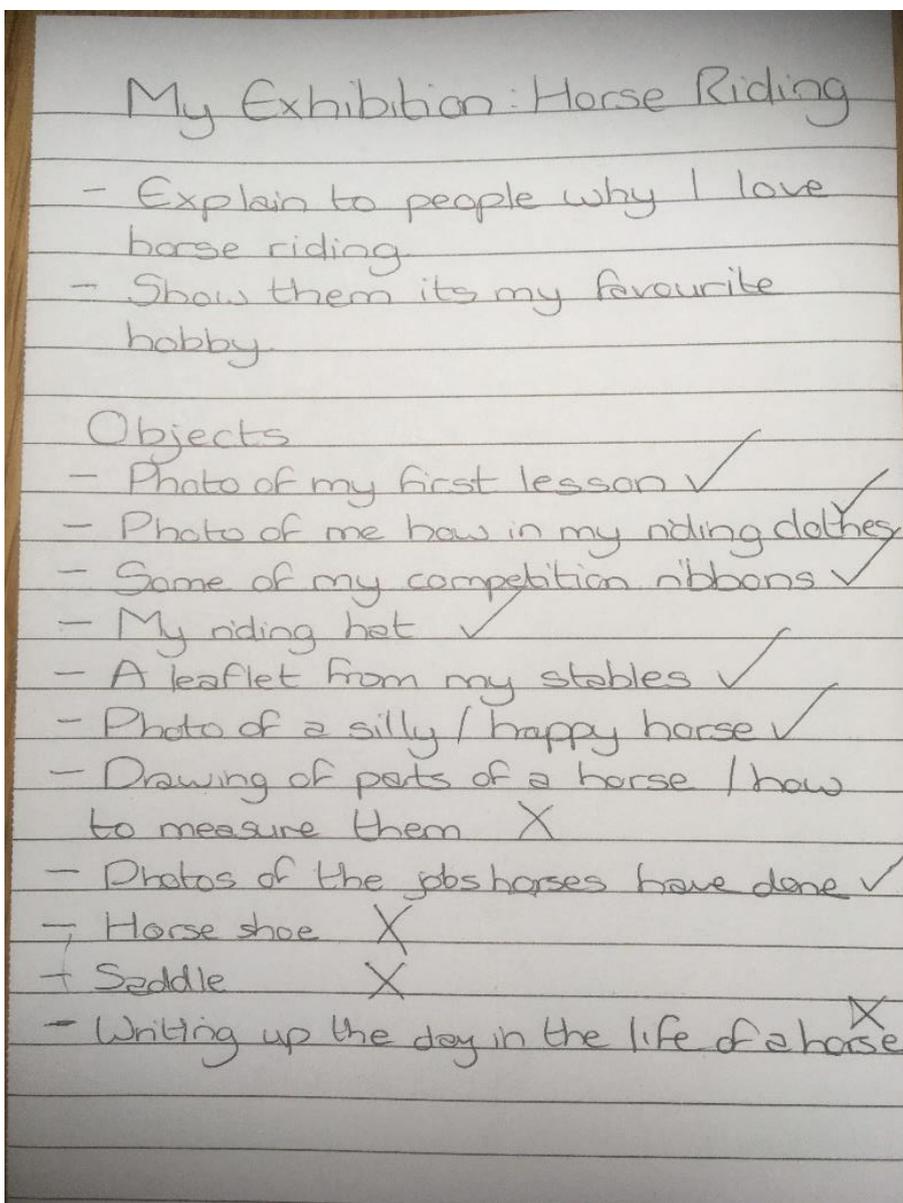
Exhibitions can also be curated. This is the process of deciding what objects go in an exhibition and how they are organised in cases (or not!) and presented or described for people to look at.

An easy way to think about it is that curating an exhibition is like telling a story.

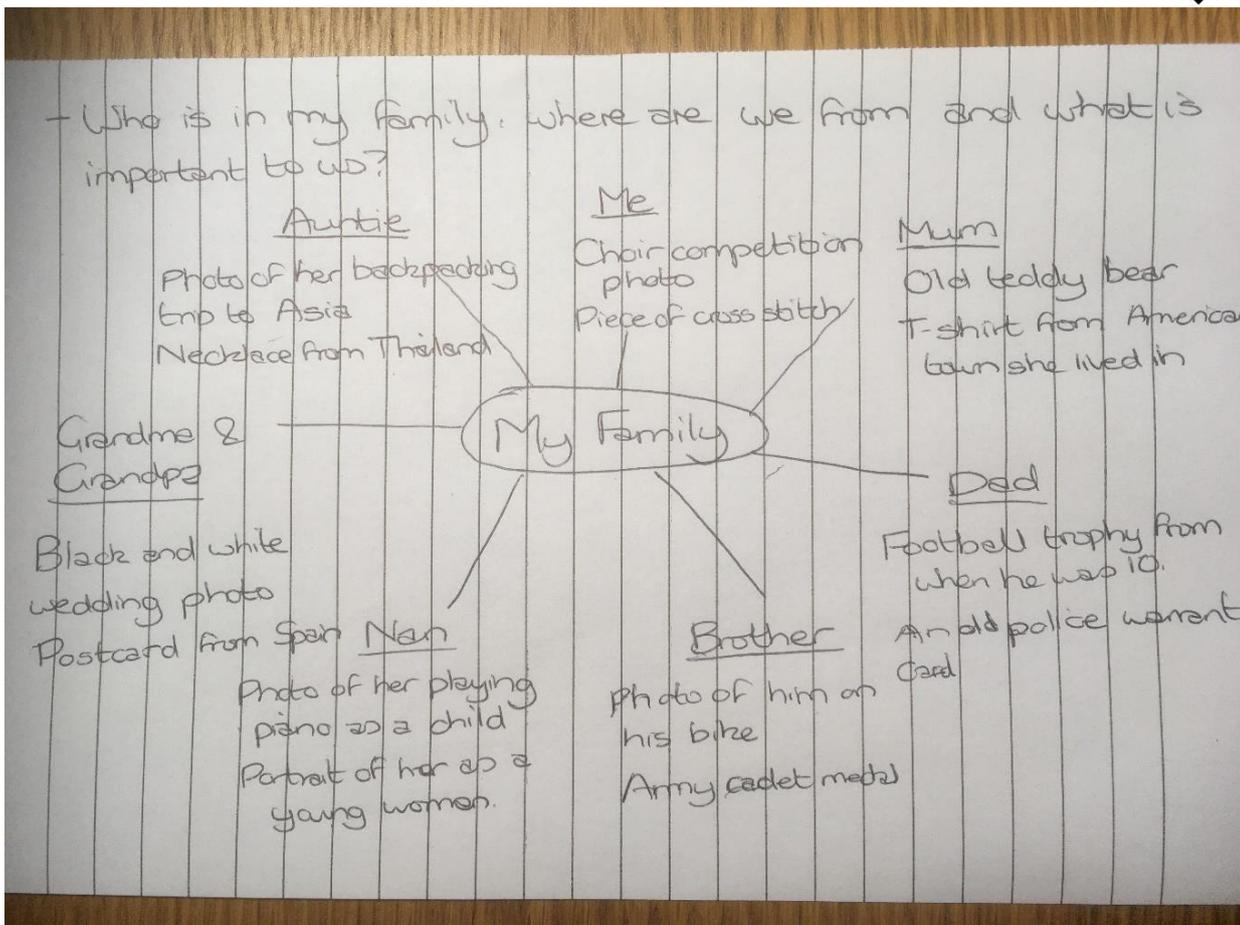
## Activity: Creating your own exhibition

### Step 1: Collect - What is your story?

What story do you want your exhibition to tell? Is it about your life? A hobby? Your family? Your class? Think about what your story is and start to list some objects that would tell it well.



You might want to make a list... and tick off your final item choices



Don't like making lists? Draw it out!!

Once you have a longlist you need to narrow down the final objects you want in your exhibition.

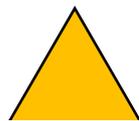
**REMEMBER** – If you want to borrow things from other people, even family, ASK them nicely, explain why and how long you need the item for. Look after it carefully and return it in the same condition you borrowed it.



### Step 3: Present – What words and labels will you use?

- Assume that people looking at your exhibition don't know anything about your subject. Create a title poster
- You want to use as little text as possible, and if you can find other ways to tell your story – use them!
- Make your text easy to understand, think about who will be reading it, will they be an adult or a younger child?
- All the information about one object should be on one label.

Your title poster should be about 100 words and you can use a **Pyramid Structure** to create them:



**Top Level** – This is a sentence or two, and needs to include enough information for the audience to identify what the object is just from this text. E.g. What the object is and who it belongs to/how it helps tell your story.



**Second Level** – This is where you can use a few sentences to expand on the information in the top level. So if your label is about your gymnastics medals you might explain which competitions they are for, how long you've been doing it as a hobby etc.



**Third Level** – You might need to include a few sentences here on words that are complicated or belong to a particular sector. For instance, if your hobby is gymnastics, people looking at your exhibition might not know what a tumbling line or a vault is, here is where you explain that.



Labels only need to be around 30-50 words. Keep the words and sentences short and snappy.

Now put your exhibition together and show it to other people! Take photos of it, and maybe make up some comment cards and ask people who look at for their feedback that you can keep!