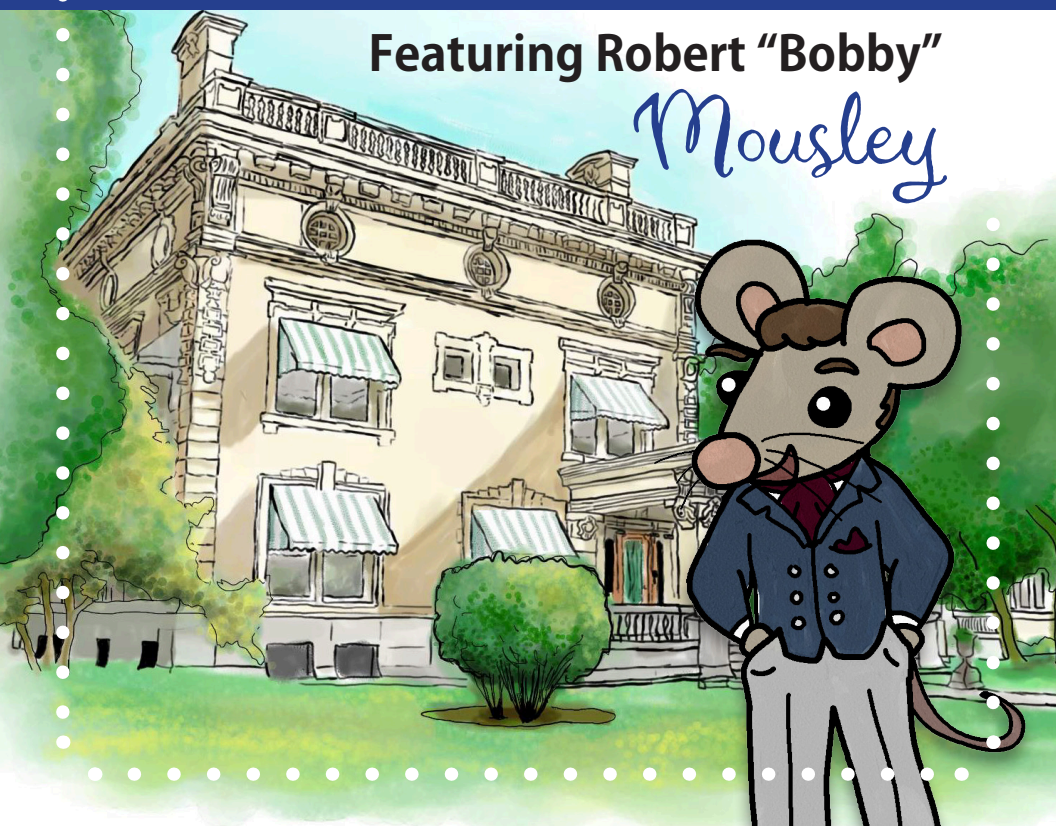


Ruthmere

Introduction to
Museums
A Children's Guide

Featuring Robert "Bobby"

Mousley





Created by Andrea Hutslar

The Mousleys
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Introduction

Well, hello there!

My name is Bobby – Bobby Mousley. I am another nephew of Lord Bertie and Lady Libbie Mousley. They have a lot of nieces and nephews. I don't know how they keep track of us all!

I'm here to tell you a little bit about museums. You might have asked yourself one of these questions:

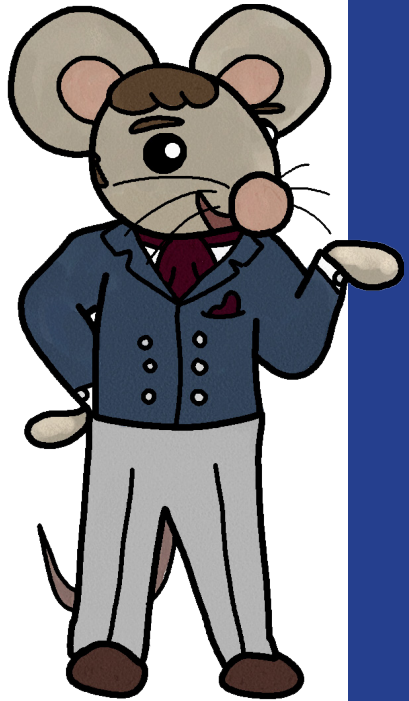
What is a museum?

Why do we have museums?

Why are museums important?

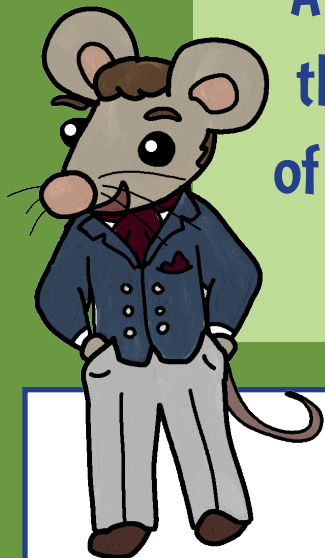
Why do some museums have art, and some have fossils or dinosaur bones, and others just have really old stuff?

These are really good questions! You can call me *Bobby the Museum Expert*. I can share everything you need to know about the fantastic, important, fun world of museums.



Just what IS a museum, anyway?

A museum is a building that holds a collection of important objects for anyone to see.



Usually, a museum's collection has one focus or theme. For instance, Ruthmere is a house museum. That means our collection is made up of all the things that go into a house, like furniture, decorations, and personal belongings.

So, why do museums collect all these objects?

Objects help us learn about the world around

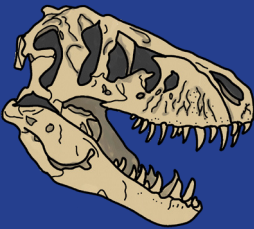
us. Different kinds of objects can teach us different things...like history, art, and science.



Kinds of Museums

History Museums

collect objects that are **from the past**. Objects from long ago can tell a story about the people who owned them and the time they came from. Learning about history is VERY important. It helps us understand the world, care for others, and learn from mistakes.



There are also **Natural History museums**. They have things from long ago that usually come from the ground or from plants and animals. They collect objects like old bones, rocks, minerals, and fossils.

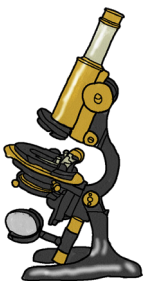
Art Museums

are places that gather **art, like paintings, sculptures, and drawings**. They show us about different cultures, ways of seeing things, and cause us to have certain feelings. They can also inspire us to create our own art.



Science Museums

collect objects that help us learn about **science and technology**, from long ago and today. They are focused on exploring and finding out about new things. They have lots of cool stuff to see from our huge solar system to the tiniest of germs.



Why are museums important?



Have you ever seen a dinosaur bone? What about the Mona Lisa?

Guess what – **that's probably because of a museum.**

Museums don't just gather objects we can learn from.

They also protect them. Many of us have seen dinosaur bones or the *Mona Lisa* because a museum has kept these objects safe. That means these treasures will stay around for a very, very long time - even longer than if they were outside a museum.

Protect them from what, you ask? Another good question!

Everyday items in our world can be very harmful to objects in a museum. Things like:

WATER

LIGHT

DIRT

OILS

DUST



These can all make objects change or completely fall apart over time. Museums take steps to make sure objects are **protected** from these natural risks.

Have you ever wondered why you aren't allowed to touch things in a museum? No matter how long or hard we wash our hands, they will always have **natural damaging oils on them**. When we touch objects with bare hands, we are slowly destroying them! That is why you will see people handle these objects with gloves if they must be touched.

So, whenever you see a sign that says **DO NOT TOUCH**, or if an adult asks you not to touch an object or surface, make sure you listen. By keeping those fingers to yourself, you are helping us protect our objects and keep them around for a long time. You will have our deepest appreciation for doing so.

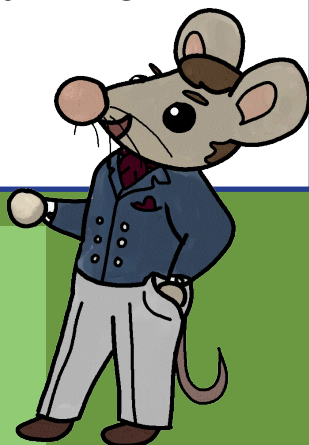


Sometimes, museums will let you touch certain objects. Just make sure you have permission from someone who works at the museum before grabbing anything!

So, what CAN I do in a museum?

Sometimes museums will let you touch things. A children's museum, which is a type of museum made just for **you**, will have all sorts of things you can touch. But, sometimes, you might end up at a museum where you can't touch anything at all. So, what else can you do?

Oh, Friend, you can still
See, Think, Wonder, and
Ask Questions.



See

Look all around you. What is it that you see? Have you really looked closely enough? Look again and think of the colors, shapes, designs, and function of the objects.



Think

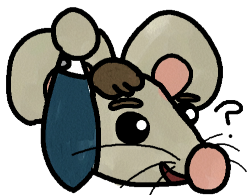
Now, think about what you see. How do the objects make you feel? Do they remind you of anything else you have seen? Do you know anything about these treasures? Do they make you think about yourself? Do they make you think about a different time, or a different place or person?

Wonder

Maybe the items have raised your curiosity. What do you wonder about the things you see? What questions come up when you look at an object? Does anything confuse you? Do you want to know more about what you see?



Ask Questions



Museums are the best place to ask questions. If you want to know something, just ask! We would love to tell you more. Use your imagination! If you can't think of questions to ask, just go back to the beginning and look around and see what you can find.

Museum Words

Docent

A tour guide, or someone who works in the museum that can answer your questions

Artifact

An object made by a human being, usually historically or culturally important

Gallery

A room where art is displayed

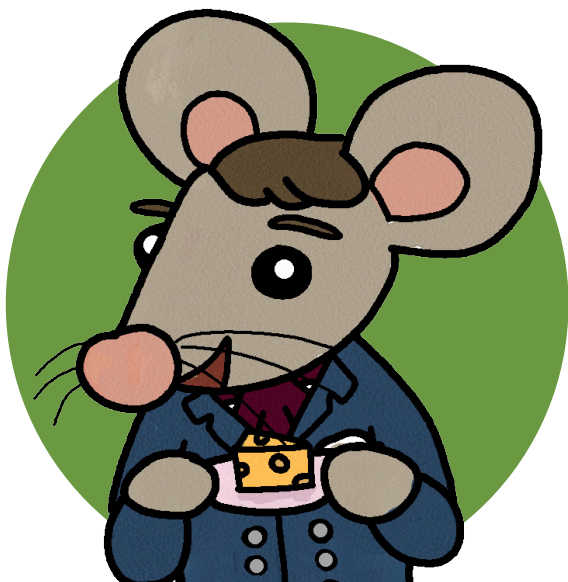
Exhibit or Exhibition

A public display of objects

Curator

A person in charge of a museum's collection





Going to a museum is all about **learning and getting inspired**. You can find out a lot about the world we live in just by visiting museums. You can also find out what really interests you, and this may inspire you to think about what kind of person you'd like to be in the future or what career you might like to have one day.

Now you're an expert on museums! Try to see what other museums you can find in your community.

Ruthmere