The purpose of this activity and discussion is to familiarize your students with the idea of museums and get them thinking about what purpose museums serve. It will also set expectations and enrich their understanding for their upcoming field trip experience with Fuller Craft Museum.

**What is a museum? What types of museums can you think of?**

There are lots of different kinds of museums! Generally, a museum collects, shows, and takes care of objects so people can look at, enjoy and learn from them. Most museums specialize in one type of object or story. For example: Fuller Craft Museum specializes only in Craft.

**What is craft?**

Lots of things! Up until 50 years ago, craft was defined as objects that served a purpose, like a bowl that you eat from or clothing that you wear. What’s special about bowls and clothing made by craftspeople is that they are all a little bit different because individual artists make them by hand.

The five conventional craft media are **ceramics, fiber, metal, wood, glass**. More recently, craft-makers have used these materials to make objects that are both useful and beautiful.
Now we know what craft is, what kind of things might you see in a museum that exhibits Craft? Brainstorm a list together!

What is an exhibition?

An exhibition is a group of objects that have been chosen to be shown together, usually because they have something in common. The thing in common might be the same artist made them, that they all are the same color, from the same time or place, or made from the same materials such as: wood, fiber, glass, metal and ceramics. Exhibitions are displayed in spaces that are called Galleries.

Optional activities for students:

Have students collect three small items from the room they are in that have something in common to make their own “mini-exhibition.” What kind of museum could this exhibition belong to? (It can be something silly like: “museum of orange stuff”, or “museum of my brother’s toys”).

Lots of people have collections; is there something that you collect? If you do have a collection show us an object from that collection, or tell us about it.