




National Museum of American History Washington, D.C.

Introduction and Instructions

The Smithsonian Institution is often referred to as “the nation’s attic,” due to its diverse collection of important historical artifacts. One of the core pieces of this is dedicated entirely to the cultural heritage and achievements of the United States. In its collections range items as diverse as the Star-Spangled Banner to the original Batmobile. In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.

 Get a sneak-peak of the exhibits and collections at the museum.
WATCH: <https://youtu.be/DtmNaWMrA30>

 Explore current and past exhibits at the museum.
EXPLORE: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions>

Choose six exhibits that you read about. Summarize what you expect to see during your visit and why you are interested in seeing them.

1. *Answers will vary.*

2. *Answers will vary.*

3. *Answers will vary.*

4. *Answers will vary.*

5. *Answers will vary.*

6. *Answers will vary.*

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WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*

1. Why do you think it is important for the National Museum of American History to exist?

Answers will vary.

2. If you were commissioned to create an exhibit that captured your generation, what items would you include in your exhibit?

Explain your choices.

Answers will vary.

3. Our nation has had its highs and lows. Explain why it is important to include both the good and bad in our nation's history museum.

Answers will vary.