WorldStrides
Educational Travel & Experiences

Exploring Curiosity

Think about some of the remarkable discoveries that have been made over the course of history. The desire to gather information, seek experiences, and explore are inherent human traits rooted in curiosity. One must be curious to embark on a journey to unknown lands in the hopes of discovering something new.

Take a Journey with Early Explorers

Consider three prolific explorers from the Middle Ages: Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta, and Zheng He.

Learn about each man and follow their journey's using Google Earth's Voyager technology below. Stop along the way and explore each region yourself.

After interacting with the maps, consider the following questions:

- Can you imagine leaving home and not coming back for an extended period of time? What would you pack? How would you prepare?
- If you could accompany one of the three explorers, which would you choose and why?
- What stop on that explorer's path were you most curious about? Why? What interested you?
- How have these explorers and their decisions impacted our world and shaped modern life?
- What does it look like to be an explorer in 2020?
- If you could choose one region to explore now, where would it be? Explain your decision.

Learn about it here.
WEBSITE: *bit.ly/3f3hbvv*

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PBS Education

Early Global Connectors

During a period of only 150 years, the recorded travels of three remarkable explorers expanded human understanding of vast parts of the world. Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta, and Zheng He heralded from different continents and undertook their decades-long journeys for different reasons. Yet, their personal fortitude, diplomatic skills, and keen curiosity connected cultures previously unknown to each other, paving the way for trade, innovation, and the exchange of ideas.

Cabinet of Curiosities

Curiosity cabinets, also known as wonder rooms or wunderkammer, are collections of unusual or extraordinary objects intended to share information about both the beauty and oddities of the natural world. First documented in the sixteenth century, these curated cabinets were found in the homes of European aristocrats. Those who collected and displayed artifacts, specimens, books, maps, art, and more were held in high social esteem and were known to be patrons of the arts and sciences. Take a look at some curiosity cabinets and discover the history of these strange collections on the Google Arts & Culture site.

Learn about it here.
WEBSITE: *bit.ly/2MHdglw*

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The Cabinet of Curiosities
Explore the history of these remarkable (and often weird) collections

Make Your Own Cabinet of Curiosities

Option 1: Create a collection using the Latin categories from the Google Arts & Culture site.
You might have to do a bit of treasure hunting and outdoor exploration! You'll be looking for natural objects, exotic species, and scientific instruments. Think you can find things in and around your home? Try to compose a collection of at least 10 items.

Option 2: Create and categorize a collection of extraordinary objects.
What can you locate that has special meaning to you? This can be anything, including souvenirs, shells, jewelry, kitchen gadgets, postcards, books, or anything else that you can find. Once you've gathered at least 10 items, categorize the collection. How many different ways can you think of to organize the objects?

Option 3: Create and categorize a virtual collection of historical objects.
The sky is the limit! Looking to curate a historical collection? Research a specific time period and virtually gather items that are representative of that era. Check out the Smithsonian Libraries Image Gallery (library.si.edu/image-gallery) or the Smithsonian Institution collections (si.edu/learn-explore) to get started. Organize your images into a presentation or movie. Free web-based tools like Adobe Spark or Prezi can help you create something fun and creative.

Go Further: Still curious about cabinets of curiosity? Read the article below by Brown University Professor of American Studies, Steven Lubar. He reviews the history of wunderkammer as a precursor to the nineteenth century museum and how modern museums are reorganizing their collections in a more curious way.

Read the article here.
WEBSITE: *medium.com/@lubar/ cabinets-of-curiosity-a134f65c115a*

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Students! Answering our questions? Using our strategies? Share them with us at discovery@worldstrides.com.