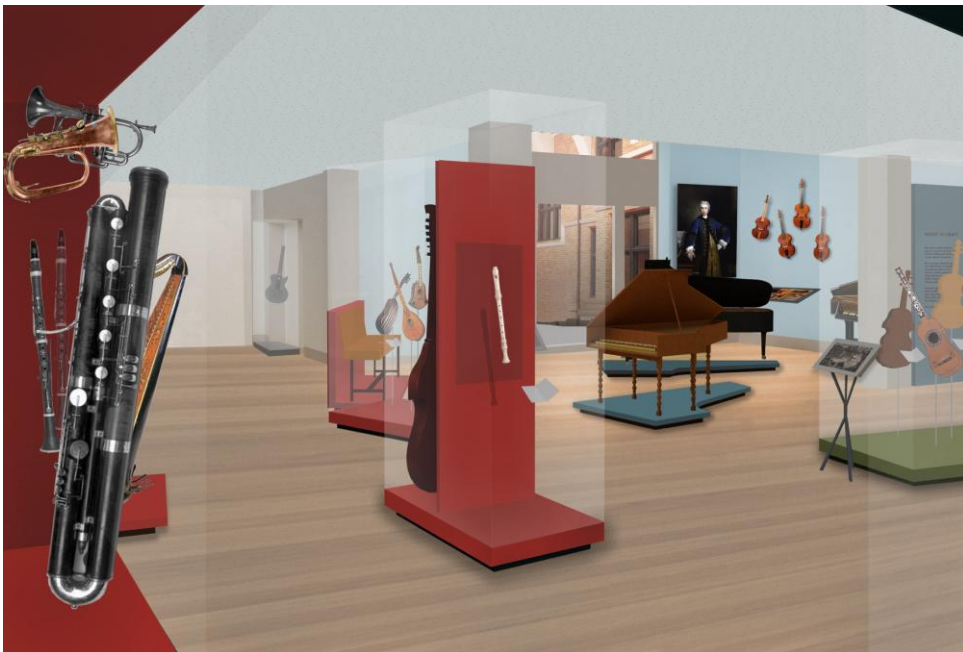




ROYAL
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OF MUSIC
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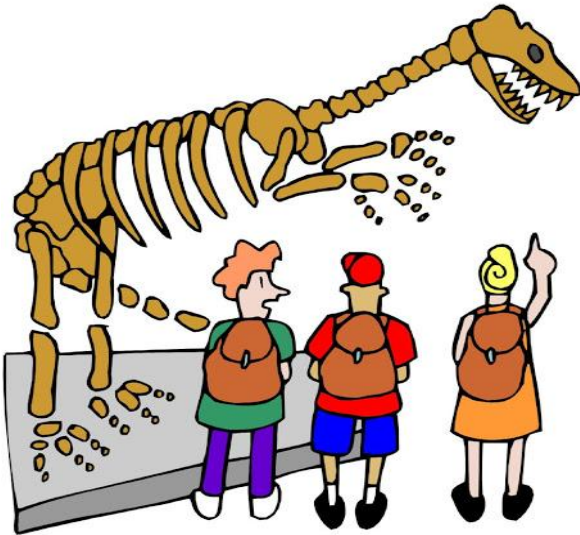
Royal College of Music Museum

My Museum Activity Book



What is a museum?

A museum is a building that has a collection of objects inside, either on display or in storage.



Some objects were found in nature.



Other objects were created by people.

Museums often focus on one thing - like art, science, or history. At the Royal College of Music, our museum is all about... you guessed it! MUSIC!



If you had a museum, what one thing would your museum be about?

My Museum is all about...

How do museums work?

Most museums have exhibitions that people can visit. In exhibitions, objects are organised in a certain way and explained so that we can learn about the world and our history.



People visit museums to...



...look at objects on display



...and take part in an activity, like a guided tour.

What kinds of things do *you* like to do in a museum?

Collectors

How and why do we collect objects in the first place?

Important objects can be discovered in nature. They tell us about our world and our history.



Other people collect objects at home that they feel are precious or have a special memory.

Become a collector

People can (and do) collect almost anything.

Want to become a collector? Here's some questions think about.

1. What is my favourite subject?
2. What items do I think are precious and why?
3. How big can the items in my collection be?
4. Can I collect them easily?
5. What makes something special enough to be part of my collection?

Assisting Anthony

Anthony loves collecting green cars. Today, he is visiting a local auction but there are so many cars in so many colours!

Can you help Anthony find all the green cars to add to his collection?



George Donaldson's story

George Donaldson had a nose for sniffing out hidden treasures.

At auctions and garage sales, people threw away old wooden tables and chairs, paintings and brightly coloured carpets. 'Just old rubbish' they thought, 'and probably not worth any money'.



George felt differently - he loved collecting old things! Clever George could tell which objects were special. Some objects were hundreds of years old, and some had belonged to special people from history.



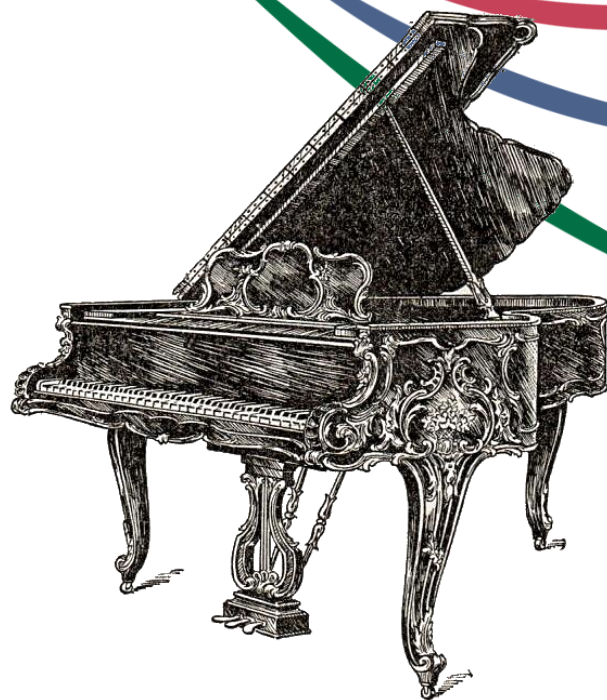
'My house isn't big enough to fit all of these things,' thought George. 'Perhaps I should sell some, or give some away.' But as soon as George got rid of his objects, he collected new ones. He just couldn't help it!

One day he came across some old musical instruments. 'Wow!' said George. 'These look really old and really important. I must have them!'

When he got home George thought, 'It seems silly to keep these for myself. Perhaps young musicians would like to see them and learn about music from the past.' George racked his brains. 'I know! What about the Royal College of Music?'

George donated all of his musical instruments to the Royal College of Music. They built a museum so that students and visitors could see the wonderful instruments he had collected.

THE END



George's highlights

The oldest object

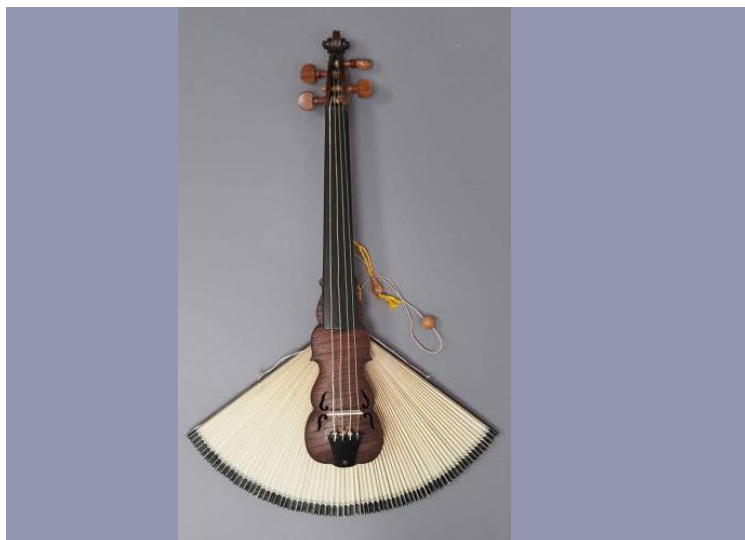
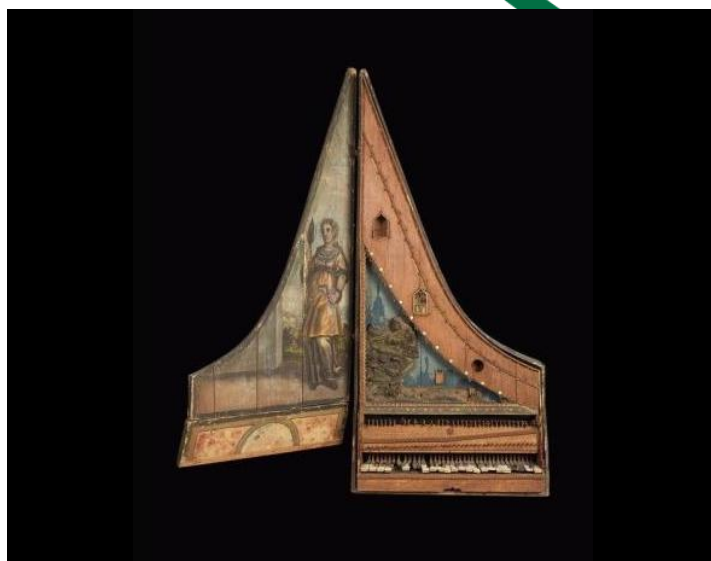
This instrument was made in 1480, over 500 years ago!

It has a long name.

Can you say it?

Clavicytherium

(clav-ee-see-ther-ium)



A violin with a secret

This tiny violin, called a pochette, has a secret compartment at the back for a pop-out fan!

An instrument with a funny shape

This instrument bends and curves like a slithery snake. Its name is another word for snake, can you guess it?

(Answer at the end of the booklet)



What is a curator?

A museum curator manages a collection of objects.

Curators are experts, they know all about the objects and why they are important.

As part of their job, they often:

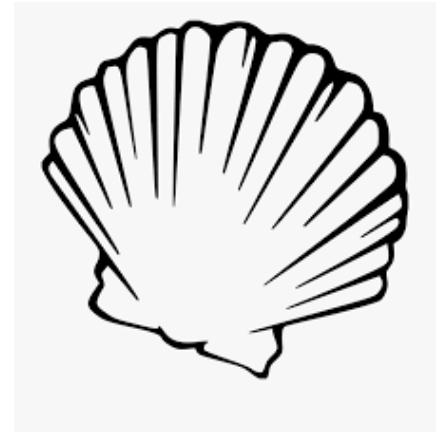
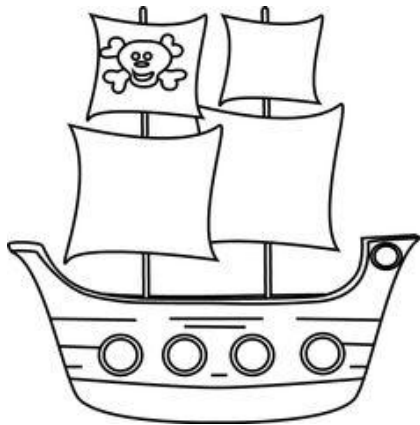
- Learn more about the objects and share what they have learned with others.
- Help to arrange exhibitions.

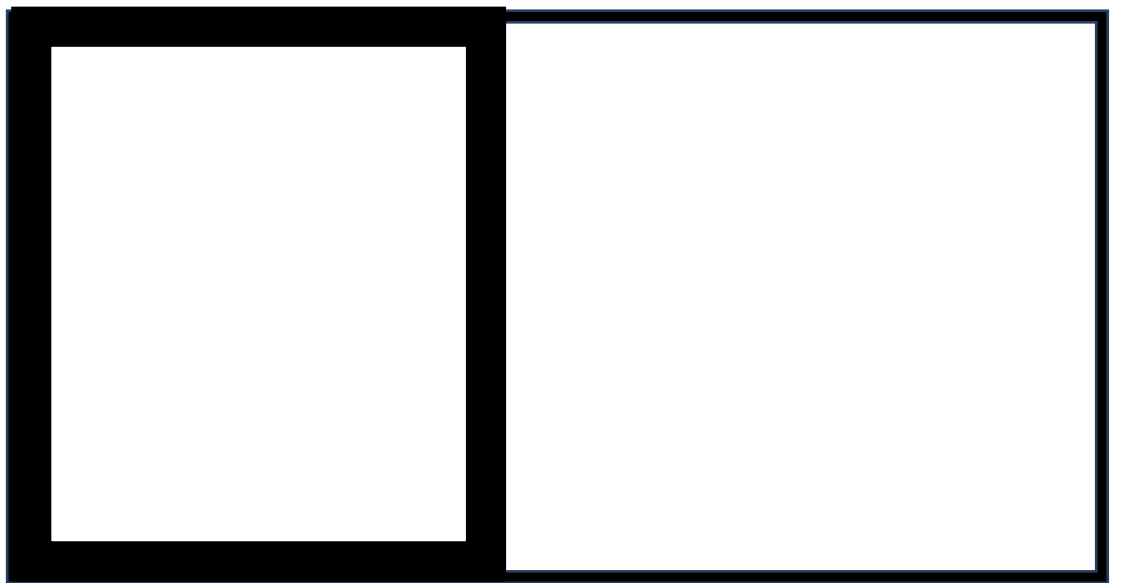
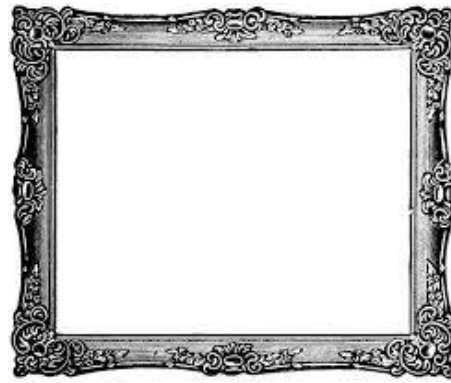
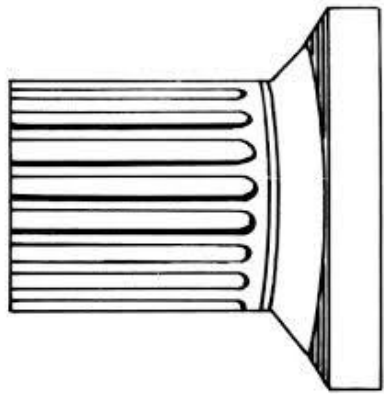
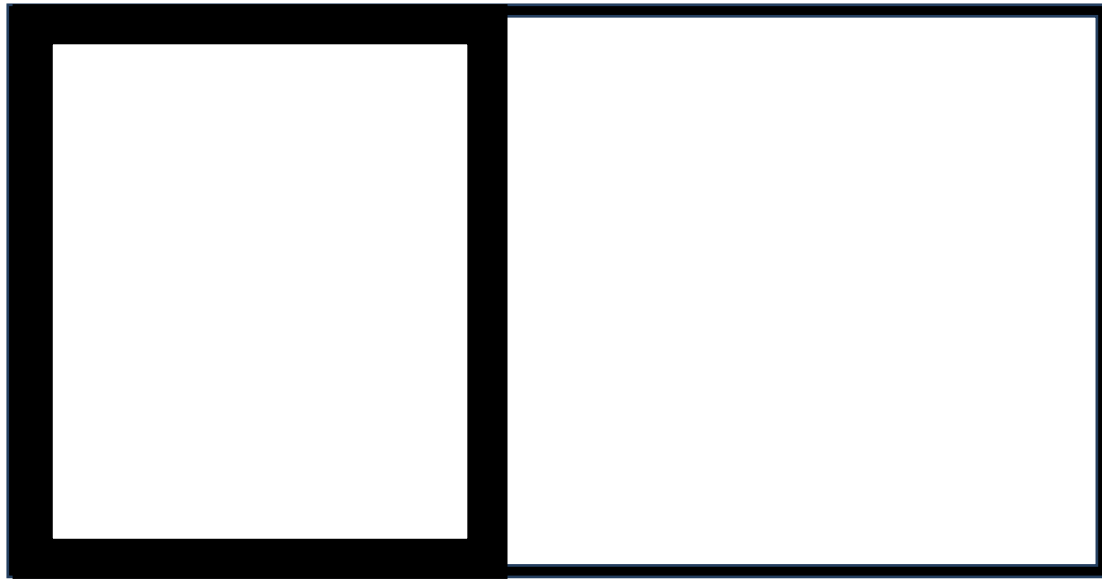


Become a curator!

It's time to make your own display!

On the next page there are lots of different kinds of objects. Pick objects that you think go together. Cut out or draw them, and arrange your very own museum display.





Hooray!

Congratulations, you've completed your activity book!
Visit us at www.rcm.ac.uk/museum for more activities and to learn more about our collection.

Solutions:

Assisting Anthony



George's highlights: The snake shaped instrument is called a serpent.