

Make your own collection

Teacher copy

Initiate discussion by talking about something you, or a friend collects. Explain how and why you started the collection, then ask learners if they collect anything and if so what sort of things they collect and why.

If learners have collections at home ask if they could bring some or all of it to show the rest of the class.

If this is not appropriate ask each learner to bring in an object that either represents part of their culture or their identity.

Each learner will need to write a few words on a card to give some information about the object.

When the objects are brought in, create a situation in which learners can share the reasons for their choice of objects before discussing how to display the collection and what information to include. Other possible questions for the class to consider:

- do the objects chosen reflect the individuals who chose them?
- what does the collection say about the class as a whole?
- is it what the learners expected?

Learners could find out supplementary information using the internet.

Extension work

As a next step ask learners what objects they would choose to reflect Birmingham.

In the process of making the collections learners may learn more about themselves and their city. As learners gain insights into the use of collections to convey information and concepts, their response to museum exhibits is likely to be more discerning.