Mini museums
by James Winnett

The idea behind this activity is to look afresh at the everyday objects we are surrounded by and to make our own ‘Mini Museum’ complete with miniature artworks and sculptures.

The activity involves:

- Searching for unusual textures
- Taking rubbings using a pencil or crayon
- Collecting small ornaments or objects to feature in the museum
- Making our own miniature sculptures

You will need: a piece of paper and a pencil or crayon

1 Making a wall for your museum

The final page in this resource has a series of picture frames drawn out for you to use. These are arranged as if they were a gallery wall in a museum. By fixing this page on a wall behind a table or shelf, you create a Mini Museum ready to be filled with your artworks! If you want to make more than one museum, simply draw your own picture frames in a variety of shapes and sizes on a sheet of paper (or print that page twice).

2 Creating the artworks

Search for interesting textures and objects to take rubbings from. Examples include coins, ornaments, book covers, fridge magnets, dominoes, kitchen utensils, textiles etc.

Place the object underneath the page and line it up with one of the picture frames.

Hold the pencil at an angle and make a rubbing by drawing over the top.

Try different colours if you have pencils or crayons.
Create your museum space
Fix your page to a wall behind a table or shelf. The space in front of your artworks is the floor of the museum. This is now ready for your sculptures.

Creating the sculptures
Search for small ornaments or objects to feature in the museum.
You may want to add 'plinths' for the sculptures in the form of bottle tops.
What objects look good together? Some might be sculptures, others might look like historical artefacts. Is there a theme to your museum? Do the objects and pictures tell a story about you?

The Grand Opening!
Once you are happy with your Mini Museum you could share it with friends or family or invite them for a visit with you as the tour guide!
If you have a camera you could take a photo of your Mini Museum. This works best when the camera is at the same level as the museum so that it looks bigger than it really is!