

**Looking for a way to engage with your learner more deeply through our videos? Use these guiding questions to dig a little deeper as you explore Field Museum collections and research at home!**

# FROM THE FIELD TO THE FIELD MUSEUM



**Run time:** 2:38

**Suggested age level:** elementary grades, tweens and teens

**Essential question:** What do collections of objects tell us about the past and present? How can they help us shape our future?

**Key vocabulary:**

**Specimen** – an individual animal, plant, piece of a mineral, etc., for scientific study or display

**Artifact** – an object made by a human being

**Guiding questions:**

1. Do you have a collection? If so, what do you collect?  
Why did you start collecting?
2. Why do you think it is important to have many examples of the same type of specimen in a collection? What more can you learn from looking at a collection rather than a single specimen?
3. What tools and technology do researchers use to learn about specimens in the collection? What questions can we not yet answer due to limitations in current technology?

**Take action:**

Start your own nature collection.

1. Decide what you'd like to start collecting - such as rocks, leaves, or flowers.
2. Take a walk in your neighborhood. Look for specimens that you can add to your collection, such as a shiny rock or a leaf from a shrub. Remember to be respectful of other peoples' property.
3. Record important data for each new specimen, such as when and where it was collected, to create a label. Include the name of the specimen if you know it, or use a field guide to help you identify it.
4. At home, organize your collection by putting your new specimens with their accompanying labels of recorded data. Preserve plant matter by pressing it in a heavy book for a week to dry it out before mounting it on a clean piece of paper.
5. Look at your collection as a whole. How did you decide which specimens to collect? What do they tell you about your neighborhood?