



Art at Home Activity 5

Curiosity Boxes

For ages 2-6

The Challenge: Make a curiosity box, find interesting objects to fill it with, then experiment, play and make with your new collection.

The Inspiration:

Lots of artists collect objects to inspire their artwork. Paloma Varga Weisz displays things she has found alongside her sculptures in her piece *Cabinet*.

Henry Moore would walk around his garden and the land near his home to find rocks, bones and shells. He would look closely at them, and hold them in his hands to feel their shape, then use his ideas to make sculptures.



Henry Moore in the Bourne Maquette Studio, 1978. Henry Moore Archive



Paloma Varga Weisz, *Shrank/Cabinet*, 2018

What you'll need:

- A box or container to collect objects in
- Decorating materials (e.g. pens, coloured paper, glue, tape)
- An adult to take you on a collecting mission around your house, garden, or out for a walk
- Play dough or plasticine



Find a box or container to become your Curiosity Box. Big or small? The size and shape of your box will affect what you can put inside it!



If you like, you can decorate your box, using whatever art materials you have at home. Add colours, patterns, you could write your name on it if you like.

Go on a collecting mission!

Look around your house and garden for objects that interest you.

Go out for a walk and collect natural objects like leaves, twigs, stones and pinecones.

What treasures can you find?

Do you have a theme for your collection?

If you're going for a walk, stay with an adult and show them what you've found before you pick it up. Wash your hands after your collecting mission!



At home, take all the objects you've found out of your box and explore your collection.

Can you...

Count them?

Line them up from biggest to smallest?

Find a word to describe each object? How does it feel? Does it have a smell?

Organise them into categories? Matching colours or shapes, bumpy things, shiny things...

Arrange them into a shape, pattern or picture?

Balance them on top of each other? How tall can you make your tower?

Use plasticine or play dough to join them together to make mini sculptures? Can you make a person or an animal?



When you're done playing and making, put your collection back in your box. Add to it whenever you find something interesting! Where could you go to find new things? The beach? The woods?

We'd love to see your creations. Ask an adult to share photos of them with us on social media using #curiosityboxes and @HMILeeds on Twitter, @henrymooreinstitute on Instagram or at Facebook.com/henrymooreinstitute.