Virtual Field Trip- Smithsonian
Ideal for grades K-5

Explore one if the Nation’s coolest museums from your home! Choose the virtual experience that interests you the most and then try the suggested discussion questions and activities. Want more museum fun? Check out the additional virtual tours included on the guide!

Choose a virtual tour:

1) Take a virtual walking tour of the Dinosaur exhibit at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C. (22 minute video)

2) Explore one of the following exhibits. (These online tours can be a bit tricky to navigate. Use the arrow keys on the screen to look left, right, up, and down. Use the plus sign to get a closer view of the exhibit and read any text. When you are ready to move on, click the double arrow key or the blue arrow on the floor. The more you play around the easier it gets!):
   a. Butterfly Pavilion
   b. Ancient Egypt
   c. Fossils

Discussion questions:

1) Why do we have museums?
2) If you created a museum, what would be in it?
3) What is the most interesting thing you saw on the tour?

Possible Activities:

1) Become an archeologist! Many artifacts in museums are discovered by archeologists. Archeologists study artifacts from long ago and draw conclusions about how different people lived. If an archeologist walked into your room in 100 years, what would they know about you?
Pretend you are the archeologist and study the artifacts in your room. What conclusions can you draw?

2) Make your own museum! Collect items from nature, your house, or draw pictures. Set the items up around your home and create descriptions for them. Have your family take a tour your museum when finished.

3) Learn about family history! Have your parents help you research your family (you may also need to call other relatives to gather information). Where are you from? Are there any interesting family stories they can tell you? Do you have any objects in your home that have importance? Once you have some more information, share what you learned in the format of your choice: video, skit, drawing, etc. (Connects with steps 1, 2, 4, and 5 of Brownie My Family Story)

4) Create a living museum! Start by researching a famous woman from history. When you know more about this SHE-ro, dress up like her and put on a living wax museum for your family to share what you learned. (Connects with steps 1, 2, and 5 of Junior Playing the Past)

Other Museums to Explore:

National Women’s History Museum
The British Museum
American Museum of Natural History