This week your child is reading *Museums: Worlds of Wonder*, an informational article about five very different museums in our country.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  Ask your child to name his or her favorite kinds of museums. Try to use some of these words as you talk about the kinds of things that are displayed in the museum.

- genuine
- display
- arrangement
- obstacles
- vast

**Fact or Opinion?**  Play this game with your child. Have your child name a specific object that people view at a museum. Take turns making statements about the object. The listener tells whether the statement is a fact or an opinion.

**Tip!**  A fact can be proved true. An opinion is a thought, belief, or a feeling. It cannot be proved true.

**Lesser-Known Museums**  Help your child search the Internet for a museum he or she would like to visit. What is displayed in the museum? Why does it interest your child?

**Challenge**  Help your child make a brochure for the museum. Include some of the information you discussed.
A Flag and a Song  Read and discuss this article with your child. Then sing the song together.

The Star-Spangled Banner

One early September morning in 1814, an American named Francis Scott Key watched British ships bombard Fort McHenry with shells and rockets. The British attack did not succeed, and as they sailed away, the American defenders raised a huge flag over the fort. Key saw it, and wrote a poem that was soon set to music—“The Star-Spangled Banner.” This song became our nation’s national anthem.

The flag that Key saw still exists! It is on display at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Oh, say can you see by the dawn’s early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Your Family Museum  Some items in museums are saved to show everyday life in the past. If you were to create a “family museum,” what items would you want to exhibit? Take turns with your child naming items in your house that would reflect your family’s history.

Book Links

- Robbery File: The Museum Heist, by Amanda Howard
- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, by E. L. Konigsburg  CHALLENGE

Internet Challenge  Help your child find the website for the National Museum of History. Take a virtual tour to see the original Star-Spangled Banner and other objects from our nation’s history.