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SYNOPSIS:
Natural history museums are wonderful places to visit during the day, but have you ever wondered what happens in the museum after the sun goes down? Grab the popcorn, a flashlight (and maybe an extra set of keys!) and get ready to watch “Night at the Museum”!

CREATE YOUR OWN EXHIBIT
What comes to life at night in the movie? The exhibits, which are collections of objects on display for people to see and learn about! The museum in the movie has exhibits that show a variety of things, animals, people and places – anything can be in an exhibit, as long as it tells a story.

- First, think about what story you want to tell about yourself. (Do you want to tell people about your favorite hobby, places you’ve been or things you like?)

- Find five objects from your house for your exhibit. It can display anything you would like – favorite toys, souvenirs from places you have visited or even your own art be great places to start.

- Once you’ve selected the objects for your exhibit, think of what else you’ll need to tell your story. Don’t be afraid to get creative – just like the museum in the movie, exhibits are more than just the objects in them. You can add exhibit backgrounds, information cards or even music.

- Set your objects up in an area together and add whatever else you need to finish your display.

- Once your exhibit is complete, take everyone on a “tour” and tell them your story through the objects you display!

EXHIBITS FREEZE GAME
While the exhibits in the movie didn’t mind if anyone saw them come to life at night, they don’t want anyone to see them moving in our game! To play Exhibit Freeze:

- Set the boundaries for the area you are playing in – you’ll need room to move around and still see everyone

- Choose one person to be the “museum guard” (they’re the “it” for the game)

- Everyone else in the game is an exhibit; you can be a dinosaur, animal, historical character – whatever kind of exhibit you would like!

For more activities visit samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/samnoblehome
• The exhibits in our game have come to life – but they don’t want the museum guard to see them moving! Their challenge is to move around without the museum guard actually seeing them move.

• The museum guard wants to catch the exhibits moving; they will walk around all of the exhibits, trying to see them moving.

• The exhibits will move around the space in character (for example: if you are the Tyrannosaurus from the movie, you would move around like a Tyrannosaurus!).

• When the museum guard looks at or can see an exhibit, that exhibit should freeze until the museum guard is no longer looking at them.

• When the museum guard isn’t looking, the exhibits must keep moving around the space. They only freeze when the guard looks at them.

• If the museum guard sees an exhibit moving, that exhibit is out!

• The goal for the museum guard is to catch all of the exhibits moving, while the goal for the exhibits to be the last exhibit left playing. Whoever is that last exhibit playing wins!

If you would like an extra challenge in Exhibit Freeze, you can:

• Bring the “night” to life in “Night at the Museum” - give the museum guard a flashlight and turn off the lights when you play!

• Instead of having each exhibit decide what kind of exhibit they will be at the start of the game, have another player be the “exhibit announcer” and tell each exhibit what to be as they play – each time the announcer calls out something new, every exhibit has to move like what the announcer said!

• Play with two guards instead of one!

Let’s Read!

Find a comfortable spot and read together!
Here are some ideas to get you started:

• Mystery at the Museum by Kirsten Hall

• The Statue Walks at Night by Joan Lowery Nixon

• Oh Say Can You Say Di-no-saur? by Bonnie Worth

• DK Eyewitness: Dinosaur by David Norman

• DK Eyewitness: Mummy by James Putnam

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EXPLORE A MUSEUM AT HOME
Want to experience a natural history museum (without dodging a loose mammoth or arguing with a Roman general)?

Check out the Sam Noble Museum’s exhibits here: (https://samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/permanent-exhibits/)

or explore our behind-the-scenes collections here (https://samnoblemuseum.ou.edu/collections-and-research/)!

Interested in exploring other Natural History museums? Check out the links below!

• American Museum of Natural History in New York City, NY
  https://www.amnh.org/

• Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. https://naturalhistory.si.edu/