HEWSTON HIGGINS

ORIGINAL CLASSROOM ACTIVITY / AGES 5–8

The envelope museum

A used envelope becomes a tiny house. Invite children to decide what is worth exhibiting and what a visitor might notice.

Gather materials

One clean, empty envelope per pair, scrap paper and pencils. Cover any names or addresses. A folded piece of scrap paper works just as well.

Look closely · 5 minutes

Turn the envelope so the flap makes a roof. What could the window or door look like? Children can draw, point, describe or ask someone to act as their hands.

Make an exhibit · 12 minutes

Add a door, a window or a detail that tells a story. Choose a title. Make a label using the sheet overleaf, with drawing, speech, AAC or an adult writing down the child’s words.

Open the museum · 8 minutes

Arrange the houses where visitors can see them from a seat or standing. Invite children to choose a detail they noticed. They can show their own exhibit, ask someone else or simply look.

The story and the original envelope illustration

hewstonhiggins.com/the-museum-of-things-we-nearly-threw-away

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PUPIL SHEET / EXHIBITION LABEL

My museum label

Use words, pictures or marks. Someone can write down what you want your visitors to know.

I call my exhibit…

It used to be…

Look closely at…