



**Museums *for*  
Digital Learning**

# **Museums for Digital Learning**

An Introduction for Prospective Participants

# Our Speakers Today

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# Introduction



# What is Museums for Digital Learning (MDL)?

- A platform for sharing your digitized collections and educational supports with K -12 students and teachers.
- Museums of all sizes, types, and locations are welcome!
- Easy, teacher-vetted templates allow you to create dynamic, interactive content called Resource Kits that leverage your digital museum collections.
- Resource kits are searchable by subject and grade, are linked to educational standards, and include activities such as narratives, slide shows, timelines, and games.
- Free to all users, no account required for educators or students.
- Launched in Fall of 2018 as a collaboration of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), New fields, the Field Museum, and History Colorado.





# Is your museum ready to participate?

- Existing online digitized collections, preferably with metadata and definitely with all required rights.
- Existing digital educational materials, or the potential to create materials.
- An ability to commit educational and collections staff resources to this project.
- An institutional priority to expand your educational reach nationwide.
- Creation of a Resource Kit.



# Who is Participating?

Museums for Digital Learning

For Educators | For Museum Professionals

RESOURCE KITS | OBJECT LIBRARY | MUSEUMS |  | BROOSE

Home > Participating Museums

## Participating Museums

All museums currently contributing content to MDL are listed below, along with new museum contributors whose content is in development and will be available soon. Click on any museum below to learn more about their institution and to see all resource kits, activities, and collection objects they've contributed to MDL.

Have you ever wondered how museums work and who works there? [Learn more about museums.](#)

Do you represent a museum interested in contributing to MDL? [Become a participating museum.](#)

Akron Art Museum

American Writers Museum

Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona

Bay Area Discovery Museum

Brush Square Museums

Carter County Museum

Casper College Foundation Fine Arts Collection

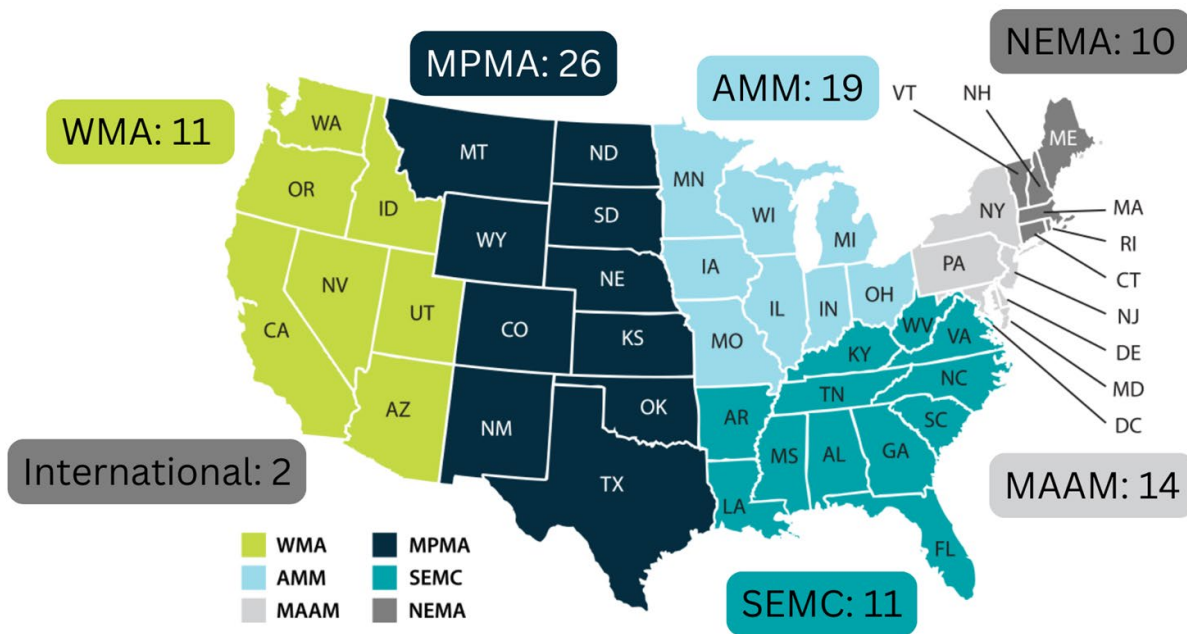
Denver Public Library, Special Collections and...

Museums for Digital Learning



# Who is Participating?

90+ museums from all across the nation (and a few international museums!)



Some examples include:

- American Writers Museum
- Arizona State Museum
- Museum of Chinese in America
- The Museum of Russian Art



# Audience

Educators & Students

Educators will assess Resource Kits based on:

- Educational standards
- Content
- Student engagement

Then, educators will assign Resource Kits for **students** to engage with *on their own!*



# How to Get Started with MDL

Visit [MuseumsForDigitalLearning.org](https://MuseumsForDigitalLearning.org) and fill out the form to become a participating museum.

**Become a participating museum.**

Would you like to become a participating museum? We are looking for museums of all disciplines to provide collections-based digital educational content for our platform. These materials could include lesson plans, videos, essays, slideshows, and other online activities that are created using a museum's digital content. Museum professionals and educators will work together to shape the resources to fit classroom needs.

Criteria to become an MDL participant includes:

- An ability to commit educational and collections staff resources to this project.
- Existing online digitized collections, preferably with metadata.
- Existing digital educational materials, or the potential to create materials.
- An institutional priority to expand or diversify your audience.

If you are interested in joining this project, or would like more information, please fill out the form below and one of our team members will get back with you as soon as possible.

Name \*

Title \*

Institution \*

Institution Type (check all that apply)

Art Museum  Science Museum  History Museum  Natural History Museum

Botanical Garden  Zoo/Aquarium  Children's Museum  Other


Email \*

Phone \*

Additional Comments

1000 characters remaining

Submit

 **Museums for Digital Learning**

**MDL Information Sharing Sessions**

Please sign up for at least one session to connect with the MDL team. Questions? Email [info@museumsfordigitalllearning.org](mailto:info@museumsfordigitalllearning.org)

brooke.gyermek@state.co.us [Switch account](#)

Not shared

\* Indicates required question

Name \*

Your answer

Email \*

Your answer

Organization \*

Your answer

Please choose a time below to join a session, via Google Meet (approximately 30-45 minutes).

Sign up for a virtual information session where a leading content partner will go over the back end of MDL platform.

Login and explore the onboarding articles, tutorial videos, templates, and more.



## Getting Started

– Welcome to MDL

## Adding Content

Media Overview

Object Overview

## Resource Kits

Resource Kit Overview

Resources & Templates

Publishing

## Object Library

Object Library Overview

Object Library Uses

## Help

Frequently asked questions

Contacting support



# Resources for MDL

## Resource Kit Planning Guide

- Helps you create high quality Resource Kits with engaging educational experiences.
- Works with our Planning Guide Template for note taking and tracking.

## Guidance for Media & Objects

- **Media** includes image, audio or video files OR links from YouTube, Vimeo, SoundCloud, or Sketchfab.
- Metadata from your organization is added to the digital media representations of physical items/works from your museum collection to create **objects** .

## Educator Overview

- Template for quickly communicating with educators.

## Publishing Checklist

- Guidance for publishing your work.

## Informational Sessions & Content Creation Cohorts (offered monthly and seasonally)

- Virtual meetings hosted by MDL staff to support your team.







# What is a Content Creation Cohort?

**Content Creation Cohorts are virtual meetings led by the MDL team. These meetings support your organization to create your first Resource Kit!**

**The next cohort starts in March 2025.**

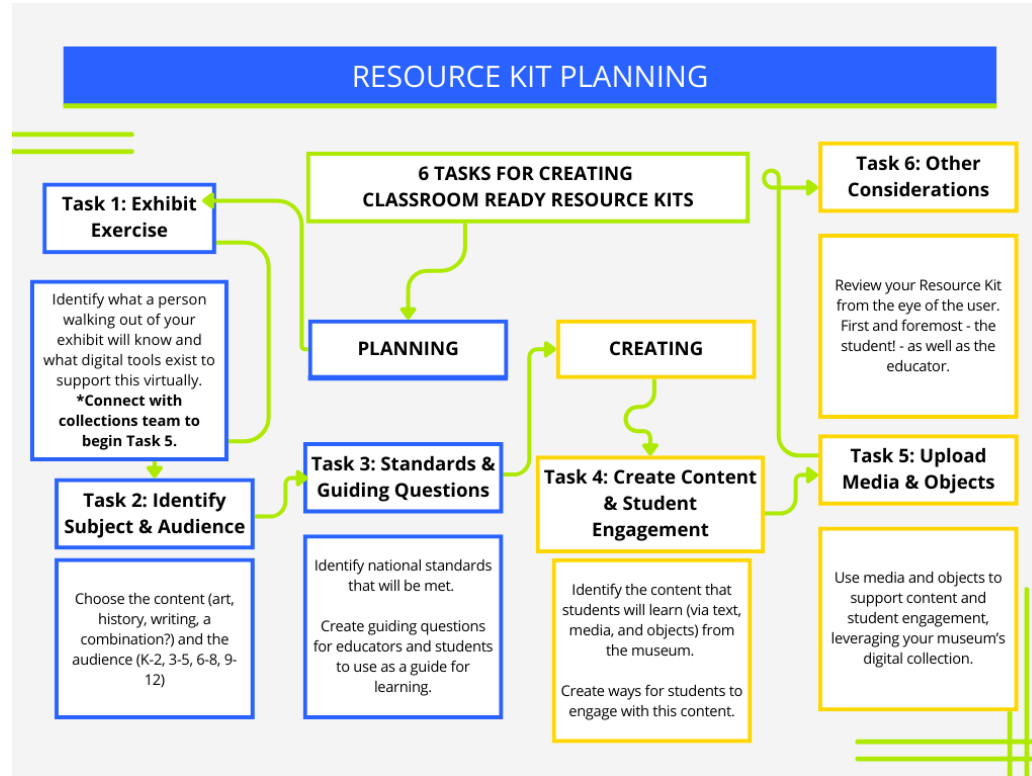
**Content Creation Cohort**

- 01** Two participants from your organization meet with the MDL team virtually for 6 meetings, across 11 weeks 
- 02** Team completes Resource Kit tasks outside of meetings to upload collection items and create learning activities 
- 03** Your team develops strategies for implementing Resource Kit creation independently in the future 
- 04** One Resource Kit must be published to earn \$1,500 stipend 

[www.museumsfordigitalllearning.org](http://www.museumsfordigitalllearning.org)



# Resource Kit Planning



# Resource Kits

**Mining in Colorado (1860s -1930s)**  
Created by History Colorado

Let's spelunk right into the history of mining in Colorado! From Gold to Silver and from the plains to the mountains, mining changed and evolved significantly from the 1860s to the 1930s. Join us to explore mining in Colorado and how it connects to the physical geography, how technology and adaptations made it possible and how it had impacts on the land and people who were already in the region.

Know    Want to Know    Learn

K-W-L: Know, Want to Know, Learn  
ACTIVITY 1

Gold! Gold! Gold!! Gold!!!  
ACTIVITY 2

Mines were in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Colorado which would have been challenging because \_\_\_\_\_  
Engagement #1: Colorado's Physical Geography & Mining  
ACTIVITY 3

Adapting to Overcome Challenges  
ACTIVITY 4


Trains    Burros    Location  
Engagement #2: Miner Adaptations  
ACTIVITY 5

**Guiding Question**  
How did miners adapt to address the challenges of Colorado's geography?

Miners had to adapt to overcome the challenges presented by Colorado's geography in order to find gold! Living in the Rocky Mountains wasn't easy - from the terrain, to transportation to weather. Look through the pictures to determine what miners did to adapt and overcome these challenges. Identify the challenge and the adaptation in each image.

**What is the challenge? What is the adaptation?**

A miner and two burros loaded with supplies stand along a path



Object Info



# The Value of Participation

## Benefits for museums:

- National reach for museum content
- A free home for digital collections
- A place for already created (or new) educational content

## Benefits for K-12 users:

- Access to unique museum collections and primary sources
- Support for national standards
- Engaging variety of resources
- Underrepresented stories





## In Their Own Words (Museum Professionals)

“... we think the platform is wonderful and the possibilities for engagement through different activities are great and unique in the world.”

“We did find the platform very easy to engage ... it was fun to kind of tweak as we went.”

“There's a great diversity of [museums on the site], that's great. [It gets me] thinking about partners teaming up with us.”

“Honestly, I really enjoy the site and find the filters useful, and that's what we know from our data, surveying teachers about our own website: they need those filters.”



# In Their Own Words (Educators)

“Primary sources are really important to me. MDL is one of the first resources I’ve seen where it’s all compiled in one place. I like what resource kits the objects connect to, that way it doesn’t just have the object information, but other bigger picture things that might fit into one of my lessons.”

“It’s great that [the participating museums are] everywhere. It’ll make the connection for kids for them to think, ‘Oh I’d actually like to go to a museum.’”

“Teachers get so much push back on resources, even by parents, so if you can see this is funded by the government, that’s the gold standard!... If you tell parents, “your tax dollars funded this,” that’s huge!”

“Wow, this looks like a lot of different activities. Both the variety and number of activities. Typically, with the museums I’ve used in the past, you get 1 or 2 resources. Some of them are still a burden on the educator to make it a little bit more exciting and interactive. But this is already really cool, like this escape room.”







# Time for Q & A

Info@MuseumsforDigitalLearning.org