Nuseum on Wheels: Think Like A Curator





Types of Artifact Labels in Museums

IDENTIFICATION LABELS

INTERPRETIVE LABELS

An identification label provides you with basic information about the artifact like the name, place it was created, age of object, who owns said object, and the artifact number. An interpretive label tells you the story about an object like why was it made, how was it made, who used it, and why!







Paulus Potter Enkhuizen 1625-1654 Amsterdam Cattle in a Meadow, 1652

Oil on panel Acquired by Prince William V, 1768 (inv. no. 138)



WAMAKA OGNA KE ICANTE (THE HEART OF EVERYTHING THAT IS)

The Mount Rushmore National Memorial has a controversial and painful history. It sits within the Paha Sapa, translated into English as the Black Hills, an area sacred to the Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho people. The Lakota call it Warmaka Ogna Ke Lacate (The Heart of Everything Thats). The land was reserved for the Lakota Sloux under the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie, an agreement the US government violated in 1877 following the Elscovery of gold.

In 1924, sculptor Gutzon Borglum was invited to create a monumental tourist attraction in the Black Hills. The site selected was Mount Ruhmore, known to the Lakota as *Thunk Sila Sakpe Paha*, or the Six Grandfathers. Borglum began work in 1927 and died shortly before the monument's completion in 1941.

For the Lakota community, the National Memorial desecrates their sacred land, an offense compounded by the fact that Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt all participated in the oppression of America's Indigenous people.

Mount Rushmore has been an ongoing site of Indigenous American protest, most notably in 1970 and 1971. In 1980, the US Supreme Court avarded 5105 million in compensation for the loss of the Black Hills. The Lakota rejected the money in favor of the return of the land a demand that stands to the present day. Para and a second secon

Museum Wall Labels

One of the most common labels in museums! These decals are applied directly to the wall and are considered semi-permanent.

Looking at these labels, which is interpretive, and which is an identification label?





Display cases

These display cases usually showcase objects that are very fragile, and you cannot touch. The display cases contain both interpretative and identification labels. From the photos, you can see the panels on the back of case are the interpretive labels and inside the glass case would hold the identification label.

