



## Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive

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### **About These Materials**

The Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive (RICA) is a joint partnership between the Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS) and the Providence Public Library (PPL). RIHS and PPL are aiming to create a crowdsourced digital archive to document and share the COVID-19 experience in Rhode Island. RICA is a state-wide "people's archive," dedicated to getting as many voices and perspectives as possible to tell the story of the pandemic.

These materials guide students through a set of activities that will allow them to explore current entries in the archive as well as providing them with prompts to create their own potential entries to contribute.

### **Learning Objectives**

Students will learn what an archive and historical record is.

Students will learn about different types of historical records.

Students will explore entries in the Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive and use that entry as an example to think about their own experiences during COVID-19. In thinking about their own experiences, students will have the option to create a contribution for the archive.

### **Definitions**

Archive- a place to store historical records that provide information about a specific group of people, institution, or place. Physical archives can be accessed in person or sometimes online if the archive materials have been scanned.

Historical Record- an item that helps us learn something about history.

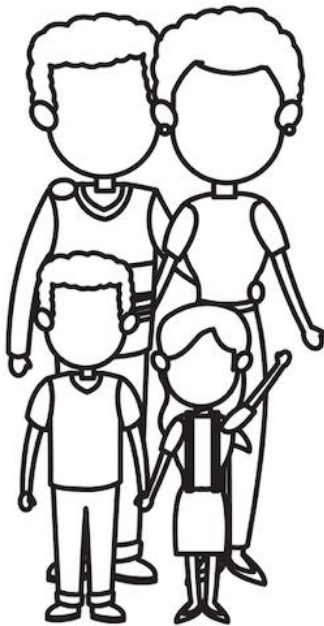
**Activity 1: What is an Archive?**

**Parent/Teacher Instructions:** The Rhode Island COVID-19 was designed to collect and share the experiences of all Rhode Islanders during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this lesson, we'll explore what an archive is and what types of historical records are kept in archives.

Archives contain all types of historical records. Historical records found in archives can be:

- Pictures- visual record of something. Think about pictures in books or photos in your home.
- Letters- written messages sent one person to another, usually through the mail.
- Diaries- a book in which someone writes down their thoughts.
- Videos- recordings of important events or activities. Think about movies we watch today.

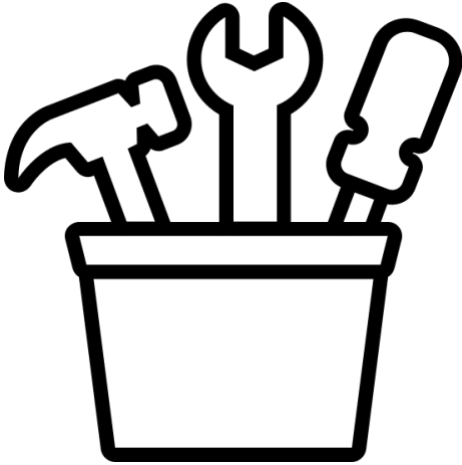
Review the definition for each of these words with your child/student. After, ask your child/student to circle each item that might be found in an archive.



Family Photo



Sports Supplies



Tools



Diary

After your child/student circles the items found in archives, they can take time to color each item if they want! After coloring, go through each question below with your child/student.

1. Look around your house or classroom. Do you see any photos? Write about 1 photo you see below. Who is in the photo? What colors are in the photo? Where did you find the photo?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. We learned that a letter is a written message that one person sends to another, usually through the mail. If you were going to write a letter to someone, who would you write it to? What would you write about?

3. We also learned that videos can be found in archives. Today, we can watch videos on TV, on computers, on cell phones. Think about a video, or movie, you've seen before. What was it? What did you see in that video?

## **Activity 2: Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive Artwork!**

**Parent/Teacher Instructions:** In the Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive people share all kinds of information including written notes, photographs, artwork, and recordings of sounds in their everyday lives. For this activity, we're going to focus on artwork. [Click here to see Bryn's handprint painting](#), and [click here to see Sofia's drawing of the people she's social distancing with](#). After you look at these pieces of art, work with your child/student to answer the questions below.

1. What colors do you see in Bryn's handprint painting?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Bryn's handprint painting has 3 three handprints. Who do you think the 3 handprints belong to? There are no right answers, we just want you to take a guess!
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How many people do you see in Sofia's drawing?

4. What colors do you see in Sofia's drawing?

5. Sofia drew a picture of the people she's social distancing with or the people she's staying home with during the COVID-19 quarantine. In this box below, can you draw a picture of the people you're currently social distancing with or the people you stayed with when everything was closed down?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a student to draw a picture of people they are social distancing with or people they stayed with during the COVID-19 quarantine.

Sometimes, people submit artwork that has many pages. For example, check out [this comic](#), or graphic novel, contributed to the Archive. (You can see the whole comic in its own window [here](#).) After your child/student has looked through the comic, have them work through the questions below.

1. Where was the person in the comic going?
2. What was the main character in the comic wearing on their face?
3. What did they buy?

### **Activity 3: Creating Your Own Contribution for the Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive**

**Parent/Teacher Instructions:** In activity 2, your child/student explored a comic about someone's life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now it's their turn to make a comic about their life during COVID-19!

Encourage your child/student to think about what they do during the day, the things they see, and the people they talk to. Ask them to make a comic to tell us more about their life during quarantine. Their comic can have pictures and words (thought bubbles, speech bubbles, captions, etc.). They can use anything they want to tell us about their life! They are welcome to use the template below to guide them, or create their own.



What is the title of your comic? Write it on the line below.

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<p>Draw your comic's main character in this box.</p>	<p>Draw 1 activity your character is doing during quarantine.</p>
<p>Draw another activity your character is doing during quarantine.</p>	<p>Draw the people your character sees during quarantine.</p>
<p>Draw something your character sees during quarantine.</p>	<p>Draw what your character is thinking about during quarantine.</p>

When your child/student is all done, we encourage you to share their completed project on the COVID-19 Archive. You can submit your project here:

<https://ricovidarchive.org/contribution>. Even if you don't want to submit it to the archive, please share your project and thoughts on this activity with us at [education@rihs.org](mailto:education@rihs.org)!

### **Other Activity Options**

- Draw a picture of the people (and animals) that you spend your days with.
- Record a message for a person that you miss and tell them about your day.
- Write / Draw a thank you note to the “helpers” (doctors, nurses, postal service workers, grocery store employees, etc.).
- Be the teacher! Have a family member record a video of you teaching others how to wash their hands.