



## 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 is and why collecting human experiences matters

Students will become familiar with navigating a digital archive

Students will examine their own experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and create an entry that tells their story to potentially be contributed to 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.

Digital Archive- an archive that only exists digitally and can be accessed digitally.

Crowdsourced- to obtain information by enlisting the help of a large number of people, typically via the Internet.

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

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 why archives are important for the continued study of history.

1. Archives come in all different shapes and sizes. Click the links below to explore some different types of archives and the records they contain. As you explore each archive, complete the accompanying graphic organizer.

	<b>What is the name of this archive or collection of resources you explored?</b>	<b>What sort of historic records did you find in this archive?</b>	<b>Who do you think decided to keep and archive the records you explored in this archive? Why do you think it was decided to keep these records?</b>
<a href="#">Library of Congress</a>			
<a href="#">Rhode Island Historical Society</a>			

<a href="#">Providence Public Library</a>			

2. Can you think of any collections of records or materials that exist in your home? Maybe you have shoeboxes of old letters and cards or albums of photos. Some of you may even have a Facebook page that houses old messages and photos. If you have something like this, explain it here. If you don't, can you create something like this?

3. Do you think whatever you found or created in question 2, is an archive? Why or why not?

**Activity 2: Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive Scavenger Hunt!**

In the Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive people share all kinds of information including written notes, photographs, artwork, and recording of sounds in their everyday lives. We challenge you to explore the archive and find all of the items on this scavenger hunt list!

To start, visit the [Rhode Island COVID-19 Archive](#). Search for each term by inserting it into the search bar at the top of the page. For example, for number 1, search “Providence Strong Sign.” Put a check mark next to each item when you find it. Then, answer the question beneath each item.

1. Providence Strong Sign \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think “Providence Strong” means?

2. Hearts on a Driveway Photo \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think this person chose to draw hearts instead of some other symbol?

3. Thanks to our Nurses Chalk Drawing \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think this person chose to thank nurses with a chalk drawing?

4. Photo of a Sign Offering Free Masks \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think this person felt it was important to make masks and share them for free?

5. Sign in Window of Tricycle Ice Cream \_\_\_\_\_

Read the description under the photo, submitted by the person who submitted it.

Why do you think this sign was important to them?

6. Sign of Rules for Community Gardens \_\_\_\_\_

on Providence Park Land

This sign has words in both English and Spanish as well as drawings. Why do you think it's important that this sign has all of these elements?

7. "Facts not Frenzy" Poster \_\_\_\_\_  
What do you think "facts not frenzy" means?
8. Hope Sign \_\_\_\_\_  
Why do you think the artist of this sign chose to draw a rainbow and write the word "hope"?
9. Granite Theater Sign \_\_\_\_\_  
Why do you think a public place, like a theater, would leave a sign like this instead of just saying they're closed?
10. Photo of an encouraging window sign \_\_\_\_\_  
Lots of people have started putting signs in their windows to leave positive messages like this for their neighbors. Have you seen any signs like this in your neighborhood or in other places? What do they say?

Did you notice anything similar about all 10 items on this scavenger hunt list?  
Write the similarities in the space below.

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

One big similarity among all of the items in Activity 2's scavenger hunt list is that they are all signs, posters, or artwork created by all kinds of artists. All of these signs, posters, and artworks share messages with others. Now it's your turn!

Think about the items you saw in the scavenger hunt. We challenge you to make your own sign, poster, or piece of artwork that shares your experience during the coronavirus pandemic. It can be a sign to hang in your window, it can be a poster to hang in your neighborhood, or a drawing on your driveway--anything goes!

When you're all done, we encourage you to share your 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**

- Create a "nature log" of plants or animals that you observe near your home / in your yard / from your window.
- Draw or write your answers to the following:
  - If a genie granted me three wishes, I'd ask for....
  - My favorite part of last week was...
  - The thing I'm looking forward to the most after quarantine is...
- Draw or take photos of food in your pantry or fridge. Extra points if you cook a recipe (get permission from the adults in your home first) and serve it to the people you live with. Write something about that experience.
- Interview an older person in your life (record a phone call or virtual meeting) and ask them to teach you a song or game they liked when they were your age.