An Introduction to the Spurlock Museum

What is a museum?
A museum is a place where the staff collects, takes care of, and educates people about all kinds of different objects.
Most museums call these objects “artifacts.”
Many museums collect only certain kinds of artifacts. One may have only works of art, like paintings or statues, while another may collect things used by American pioneers.
Did you know there is a museum in Wisconsin that collects mustard? It has a collection of over 5,000 containers of it!
The Spurlock Museum is a world cultures museum. We collect things from people all over the world, like clothes, musical instruments, dishes, and religious objects.
Some of the objects in our collections are everyday pieces many people in that part of the world used and others are objects made for special occasions.
It is every museum’s job to teach people all about its collections. One of the main ways to do this is by creating exhibits.
Exhibits are places where artifacts—and information about them—are out for visitors to see. Museums often have many rooms, called galleries, with each room holding exhibits that have things in common.
At the Spurlock Museum, there are 5 main galleries plus an introductory area that links them.
The American Indian Gallery
The Ancient Mediterranean Gallery
The Asian Gallery
The European Gallery
and the African and Ancient Middle Eastern Gallery
There is also the Campbell Gallery, where the exhibits change a couple times a year, so visitors can see new artifacts they haven’t seen before.
In the Asian gallery you can try on clothes, and in the African Gallery, you can play instruments too!
We also have an auditorium, where people can see performers, watch movies, or listen to people talk about things in the Museum...
a Learning Center, where people can do crafts and other activities…
and a Resource Center, where teachers can go to borrow artifacts to take into their classrooms.
The Museum is open every day except Monday, and it’s free to visit.
Come visit us soon!