TOURS FOR ADULT ESOL STUDENTS

Pre-visit materials for tutors and students
Contents

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1. What will we see in the museum?

- With the Museum guide
- Other galleries in the British Museum
What will we see with the Museum guide?

A short history of the museum

The Great Court

The Reading Room

The Assyrian Galleries

The Egyptian Galleries

The African Galleries – with worksheets
Other Galleries in the British Museum

Africa

Americas

Asia

Egypt

Ancient Near East
Prints and Drawings

Wellcome Trust Gallery
### Key to pictures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location/Artist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>An African monarch on his throne.</td>
<td>Brass plaques from Benin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>A North American eagle head dress.</td>
<td>An Aztec snake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>A statue of Shiva, South India.</td>
<td>Mount Fuji, by Hokusai, Japan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>An Egyptian mummy, with x-ray.</td>
<td>Mummified cats, Egypt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Near East</td>
<td>A gold armlet from the Oxus Treasure, Iran.</td>
<td>The Standard of Ur, Iraq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-history and Roman Britain</td>
<td>A Celtic shield.</td>
<td>A prehistoric pot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coins and Medals</td>
<td>A coin from Afghanistan.</td>
<td>An Ancient Greek coin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Discussion

- What is a museum for?
- Should museums return objects?
- Dating systems
- Time-chart

Note on time-chart:
This chart is designed to give a very general idea of timescale.

The different cultures cannot be compared accurately by date across the columns.
What do you think museums are for?

1. A museum is a place where beautiful and valuable works of art are kept.

2. A museum tells us about the history of a country.

3. Museums are beautiful buildings with beautiful things inside.

4. A museum is like an encyclopaedia. It tells you about things you don’t know.

5. Museum displays help us to understand our country’s culture.

6. A museum is an exciting place. You can handle things and see how they are made and how they work.

7. Museums are collections of things which rich and powerful people took from other people.


9. Museums show us things from other countries and help us to understand other ways of life.
Should ‘Western’ museums return the valuable objects they have taken from other countries?

1. There are people from many different countries living in London. It is good that they can see things from their cultures.

2. The Europeans often took things illegally. This is like stealing valuable things. They should give them back.

3. Many tourists come to London, so more people can enjoy seeing these things than if they were in lots of different countries.

4. British museums have so many things they don’t even display them all! Beautiful things are hidden in storage and no-one sees them.

5. ‘Western’ museums keep their exhibits safe. Many things would have been lost or damaged in their original settings. If they are returned, they might be stolen or damaged.

6. British museums are too big. There are too many things and visitors don’t know the context of an object. In its own setting a visitor would understand better what it means.

7. It is wrong to take things from someone else’s country. They should be in a museum in that country, as part of their history.

8. If things are in London or Berlin, scholars who want to study them can do this easily.

9. The ‘Benin Bronzes’ belong to the people of Benin. People should be able to see them in Benin – not in London.
Which of these statements about western museums support the idea that valuable objects should be returned to their country of origin?

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.

Which of these statements do not support this idea?

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9.

What do you think? Tell you teacher and the class.
There are many dating systems in the world.

Here are some of the dating systems you may see in the British Museum.
The Christian system

**BC** means *Before Christ*

**Examples:**

1. The Rosetta Stone is from 196 BC.
2. The Rosetta Stone is from the Second Century BC.

**AD** means *Anno Domini* - this is Latin

It means *After Christ* or *The year of Our Lord*.

**Examples:**

1. The Great Court at the British Museum was opened in 1999 AD.
2. The British Museum started in the Eighteenth Century AD.
The Muslim system

AH means After Hijra
This means after the Prophet Mohammed’s, peace be upon Him, flight from Mecca to Medina, in AD 622.

Hijra means ‘leaving friends or one’s country’ in Arabic.

The system was started by Caliph Omar in AD 632.

Example:

The year 2003 AD is 1423 AH and 1424 AH.

This is because the Muslim calendar is from the moon and not from the sun, so the Muslim year is 354 days not 365 days.
The Common Era system

**BCE** means *Before the Common Era*. This is the same as BC.

An ‘era’ means a long period of time

**Examples:**
1. The Rosetta Stone is from 196 BCE.
2. The Rosetta Stone is from the Second Century BCE.

**CE** means *in the Common Era*
This is the same as AD.

**Examples:**
1. The Great Court at the British Museum was opened in 1999 CE.
2. The British Museum was started in the Eighteenth Century CE.
Why do some people use the Common Era system?

People want to have a system which is not religious.

What do you think?
How old are the objects in the museum?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before the Common Era (BCE) or BC</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>The Near East and Asia</th>
<th>China and the Far East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shang Dynasty (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Zhou Dynasty (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Han Dynasty (China)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Common Era (CE) or AD</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>The Near East and Asia</th>
<th>China and the Far East</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Han Dynasty (China)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tang Dynasty (China)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ancient Greece

Ancient Egypt

Assyria (Iraq)

Mesopotamia (Iraq)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>The Middle Ages (or the Medieval period)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700</td>
<td>The Enlightenment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Our visit to the British Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The British Museum (from 1753)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Great Court (1999)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Islamic World (from 622)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Edo Period (Japan)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Reading

- History and Background
- One reading passage and one comprehension worksheet at Entry 1 and 2, and at Entry 3 and above.
The British Museum has more than twenty million objects.

The objects are from many countries in the world.

The museum started in 1753.

The British Library is now in a different building.

The museum now has a new glass roof.

Five million people come to the museum every year.
Yes or no?

1 The British Museum has two thousand objects.

2 The objects are all from Britain.

3 The Museum started in 1953.

4 The British Library is now in the British Museum.

5 The Museum has a new glass roof.

6 Two million people come to the museum every year.
Entry 3 and above

The British Museum is a museum of ‘ethnography’. This means ‘the study of the people and races of the world’. It has objects from every continent in the world. It is a museum of ‘world cultures’. Many of the objects in the museum are thousands of years old.

The British Museum was started in the Eighteenth Century, when King George the Third was king of England. In 1753 the government bought a collection of eighty thousand objects from Sir Hans Sloane. From this collection the museum started. It opened to the public in 1759.

In the 1880’s the fossils, stuffed animals, rocks and plants moved to the Natural History Museum. In the 1990’s the books, stamps and maps moved to the new British Library building at St Pancras (near King’s Cross station).

The Museum has always been in an area of London called ‘Bloomsbury’. The present building was opened in 1848. In the year two thousand the old British Library area became the Great Court. This has a glass roof with six thousand square metres of glass in it.

The British Museum has over twenty million objects, but visitors can only see about one tenth of these objects on show in the Museum. The rest of the objects are in store. More than one thousand people work at the British Museum. About five million people visit the Museum each year.
Are these statements **true** or **false**?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The British Museum is a museum only about Britain. It only has objects from Britain.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All the objects in the British Museum are new.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The British Museum was started in the Seventeenth Century.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It opened to the public in 1759.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The books, stamps and maps moved to the new British Library building in the 1960’s.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The British Museum has always been in Bloomsbury.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Great Court has a wooden roof.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The British Museum has one million objects.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You can only see one tenth of the Museum’s objects, on show in the Museum.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Vocabulary

- Useful vocabulary
- Countries and continents
- Pictures of objects students will see on the tour
## Useful vocabulary

### General nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>archaeology</td>
<td>jar(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>armour</td>
<td>jewel(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>artefact(s)</td>
<td>jewellery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>board game(s)</td>
<td>mask(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bowl(s)</td>
<td>medal(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>burial(s)</td>
<td>object(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cartouche(s)</td>
<td>palace(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coin(s)</td>
<td>pharaoh(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collection(s)</td>
<td>plate(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>column(s)</td>
<td>pot(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>continent(s)</td>
<td>pottery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dish(es)</td>
<td>reconstruction(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>display(s)</td>
<td>script(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>display case(s)</td>
<td>(e.g. Hieroglyphic, Greek)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drawing(s)</td>
<td>sculpture(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dynasty - dynasties</td>
<td>statue(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>emperor(s)</td>
<td>technique(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ethnography</td>
<td>temple(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exhibit(s)</td>
<td>tile(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gallery - galleries</td>
<td>tomb(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inscription(s)</td>
<td>tombstone(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>treasure(s)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Words to describe materials and objects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>brass</th>
<th>gilded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bronzed</td>
<td>glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carved</td>
<td>glazed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cast</td>
<td>moulded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ceramic</td>
<td>silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>copper</td>
<td>stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>decorated</td>
<td>textiles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enamelled</td>
<td>wooden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Passive forms

This was built in...
It was discovered at...
They were found by...
It was found at...
reconstructed/restored

That was made in...
It was made by...
These were painted by...
The museum was opened in 1759
Countries, continents and areas of the world

Africa – African
Australia – Australian
Asia - Asian
Central Asia – Central Asians
Europe – European
the Near East (= present day Middle East)
North America - North American

South America - South American
South Asia - South Asian
South-East Asia - South-East Asian
the Pacific Islands
Ancient Egypt – Ancient Egyptian
Ancient Greece – Ancient Greek
Assyria – Assyrian (= present day Iraq)
China – Chinese
Japan – Japanese
Korea - Korean
Mesopotamia – Mesopotamian (= present day Iraq)
Persia – Persian (= Iran)
Rome - Romans
Dates and periods

Prehistoric era
Ancient Egyptian period
Eighteenth Dynasty (Egyptian)
Ancient Greek period
Classical period
Roman period
Medieval Europe
Tang Dynasty

1753 was in the Eighteenth Century (CE or AD).
1880 is the first year of the eighteen eighties.

Languages

Ancient Egyptian – Hieroglyphics and Demotic
Ancient Greek
Arabic
Cuneiform (ancient Mesopotamian and Assyrian writing)
Latin
Match the descriptions and the countries to the pictures.

There are nine pictures and ten descriptions!

Descriptions

a. An ostrich egg water pot from Botswana, southern Africa

b. An Assyrian winged bull statue

c. A Brass Plaques from Benin, Nigeria

d. The Rosetta Stone, Egypt

e. An Assyrian winged lion statue

f. Giant statue of Ramesses the Second

g. A clay water jar from Nigeria

h. Hieroglyphic writing with cartouches of Ramesses the Second

i. Head of a Queen Mother, Benin, Nigeria

j. An African elephant
Pictures

1.

2.
Countries

Botswana
Nigeria
Nigeria
Nigeria
Iraq
Iraq
Iraq
Egypt
Egypt
Egypt
4. Evaluation forms

- Student evaluation
- Tutor evaluation

Please return to

Learning and Information Department
The British Museum
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3DG

Fax 020 7323 8855

Email Learning@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk
My visit to the British Museum

What were three things you learnt during your visit to the British Museum?

1........................................................................................................................................

2........................................................................................................................................

3........................................................................................................................................

What was the best part of the visit? Draw your favourite object from the Museum....

The name of your college........................................................................................................

Your country of origin ...........................................................................................................

Your first language................................................................................................................

Your age - are you under 24 or over 24? ..........................................................................
**Tutors**

Please take a few minutes to complete this information – your views about the tour are important to us because they can help us to improve the service we offer.

Please indicate your views on a scale 1 to 6 or with YES or NO and give the reasons and add your comments.

1 = excellent  
2 = very good  
3 = good  
4 = adequate  
5 = needs attention  
6 = needs completely re-thinking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade or Y/N</th>
<th>Reason for grade and Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**The booking system**

Was this clear and straightforward?

Did you receive the pre-visit information on time?

**Pre-visit information**

- Pre-visit notes for tutors
- Pre-visit classroom materials

**The Welcome and ‘domestic’ arrangements (e.g. where to meet, leaving coats etc.)**

Were the arrangements adequate?

**Guided part of the tour**

- Length of the tour
- Pace of the tour
- Clarity and pace of delivery
- Quality of visual aids
- Use of visual aids
- Was the content interesting for the students?
- Was the content relevant for the students?
- Was the content suitably challenging for the students?

**Africa Galleries**

- Gallery part of the tour – generally
- Was the choice of objects appropriate?
- Worksheets - was the language clear?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Worksheets - was the layout clear?</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Worksheets - were the levels appropriate?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Were the worksheets suitably challenging for the students?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Suggestions for Tutor guided part of the tour**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Were these useful?</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What else could be included?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Evaluation form for students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Is it clear and understandable for students?</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Does it collect relevant and useful information?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Any other comments on how the tours can be improved?**

**Name:**

**College:**

**College address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

Please tick here if you would like to be added to our database: ☐

THANK YOU - We look forward to seeing you again soon

Please return to

Learning and Information Department, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

Fax 020 7323 8855 Email learning@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

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