

illuminating world cultures

Science Alive!

National Science Week 2003 8 - 16 March

Hello and welcome

It is National Science Week once again at The British Museum. The Department of Conservation and Science, the Education Department and colleagues from the departments of Ancient Egypt and Sudan, Ancient Near East and Europe are delighted to invite you to an exciting programme in which we reveal the secret life of science and technology in the Museum. Join us as we delve into ancient Egypt, keep warm in the Arctic and explore Stone Age tools. You can also discover unusual ways to tell the time and use the latest technology to illuminate the beautiful objects in the Museum.

Making the most of Science Week

Meet the Expert

Ever wondered what a scientist really does? Is it all white coats and microscopes? Come along and talk to our scientists and conservators during gallery talks, demonstrations and workshops. Find out the real story. It might not be what you expected!



Much more hands-on

From mummies to modern technology, we will show you the inside story of science and technology at the Museum. Look down a microscope, touch Museum artefacts and find out about techniques from X-rays to X-ray fluorescence.

All events are listed in the diary.



More about Science in the Museum

Science Trails

Pick up a trail to explore science further within the galleries

Family Trails

Science and Mummies (suitable for ages 7-8) Animals Trail (suitable for under 5's)

Adult Trails

Food for the living and food for the dead Colour and death in Egypt

Trails will be available from the Great Court Information Desk.

New!!! Free Family Backpacks

Try our new Egyptian Tomb Maker family backpack! Backpacks are full of hands-on activities for families to use in the Museum and are aimed at children between the ages of 8 and 11. Backpack activities take about one hour to complete. Ask about backpacks at the Great Court Information Desk.

Events All events are listed in the diary.

Places for some events are limited and tickets will be issued in advance or on the day of the event on a first-come, first-served basis. All tickets will be available at the Box Office. Please join the event at the place indicated in the diary.

Every effort is made to ensure that galleries, events and facilities are accessible. If you need further information about access to the events, please contact the Education Department.

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Please note that all details are correct at the time of going to press. For further information, please contact the Education Department: Telephone 020 7323 8854/8511 Facsimile 020 7323 8855 Minicom 020 7323 8731 education@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

A large print version of this brochure is available from the Education Department, telephone 020 7323 8511/8854 and at the Information Desk in the Great Court.

Key

age+ Suitable for age indicated and above

This event requires a ticket. Please collect a ticket from the Box Office. Tickets will also be available on the day of the event.

YFBM Young Friends of the British Museum

Science Week 2003 events diary

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Saturday 8 M	1arch		
Family event 7+, T (30 places) Free	Stone Age tools An opportunity to handle and investigate a range of stone tools from Prehistoric Britain. Find out how these tools were made and the many different ways that humans used stone thousands of years before metal.	Great Court	11.00 13.00 15.00
Family event 7+, T £3 each child, YFBM £1.50 (16 places) Adults free	Keeping warm in the Arctic Take a look at the arts of keeping warm and looking good in the far north in this exciting workshop. Find out about snowshoes and how polar sunglasses work. Explore forces, materials and the environment of the Arctic.	Clore Education Centre	12.00 14.00
Family event 7+,T £3 each child, YFBM £1.50 (12 places) Adults free	Sun, moon and stars: telling the time without clocks Ever wondered how people told the time before clocks were invented? Visit behind the scenes at the Museum and explore astrolabes, nocturnals and sundials and find out how to tell the time at night with the help of stars. Presented by Silke Ackermann	Meet at the Box Office	14.00
Family event 7+, T £3 each child, YFBM £1.50 (12 places) Adults free	Telling the time with clocks What makes them tick? Go behind the scenes at the Museum and find out how mechanical clocks and watches work. Presented by Paul Buck	Meet at the Box Office	15.30
Sunday 9 Mai	rch		
Family event	Egyptian mummies	Clore	12.00
5+, T (300 places) Free	Unwrap the science of mummies in this lively slide presentation! What is a mummy? How were they made? What do X-rays, dentists and microscopes tell us about life in ancient Egypt?	Education Centre	14.00 16.00
Family event 5+ Free	Horrible writing Drop-in and learn how to write in cuneiform from ancient Mesopotamia and hieroglyphs from ancient Egypt. Presented by Neal Spencer and Irving Finkel	Room 4	14.00- 16.00
Monday 10 M	larch		
Gallery talk Free	Chinese metal work Given by Mike Cowell	Room 33	13.15
Gallery talk Free	The Chinese jade carvers' craft Given by Margaret Sax	Room 33b	15.00
Tuesday 11 M			
Gallery talk Free	Food for the living, food for the dead Given by Caroline Cartwright	Room 63	13.15
Gallery talk Free	Colours the ancients never saw Given by Vincent Daniels	Room 62	15.00

Wednesday 12 March Turquoise mosaics from Meso-America Given by Andrew Middleton and Caroline Cartwright Room 27 13.15				
Gallery talk Free Given by Andrew Middleton and Caroline Cartwright Gallery talk Medieval Arab and Persian metalwork Given by Susan La Niece Thursday 13 March Drop-in Workshop Stein Classical metal working Gillery talk Tree Gil	Wednesday 1	2 March		
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	Free	dentists and microscopes tell us about life in ancient Egypt?		

Booking form

• All bookings can be made by calling the The British Museum Box Office on 020 7323 8181 Monday - Friday 10.00 -16.45. Alternatively fill out the booking form and send a cheque payable to 'The British Museum Great Court Ltd' to: Box Office, The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG or facsimile (credit/debit card payments) to 020 7323 8616. All tickets will be posted out by the Box Office. If you have special access requirements please inform the Education Department in advance on 020 7323 8511/8854.

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National Science Week 2003

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The Sloane Astrolabe

England, around AD 1300 One of the earliest known

European astrolabes.

A multifunctional instrument used to perform diverse tasks such as time keeping (day and night), surveying, determining latitudes and casting horoscopes.