



Tours for adult ESOL students

**Materials for
students and tutors**

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Materials for Students & Teachers

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



the
Americas



Asia



Egypt



the Ancient
Near East



Greece
and Rome



pre-history
and Roman
Britain



medieval
Europe



money and
medals



prints and
drawings



the
Wellcome
Trust
Gallery



Key to pictures

Africa	an African monarch on his throne	a plaque from the 'Benin Bronzes'
the Americas	a North American eagle head dress	an Aztec snake
Asia	a statue of Shiva, South India	Mount Fuji, by Hokusai, Japan
Egypt	an Egyptian mummy, with X-ray	mummified cats, Egypt
the Ancient Near East	a gold armlet from the Oxus Treasure, Iran	the Standard of Ur, Iraq
Greece and Rome	the Portland Vase, Roman	the Parthenon, Athens
pre-history and Roman Britain	a Celtic shield	a prehistoric pot
medieval Europe	a helmet from Sutton Hoo, England	Lewis chess pieces, Scotland
money and medals	a coin from Afghanistan	an Ancient Greek coin
prints and drawings	God creating the universe, by William Blake	a painting by C. R. Mackintosh
the Wellcome Trust Gallery	Basalt statue of Hoa Hakananai'a - Easter Island	Death on a grasshopper - papier mache - Mexico

Materials for Students & Teachers

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.

8. Museums take care of old things.

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 the previous statements on page 10 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 the previous statements on page 11 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

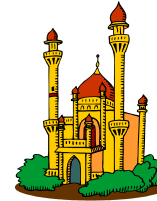
- 1 the Rosetta Stone is from 196 BC
- 2 the Rosetta Stone is from the Second Century BC

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?

		Europe		Africa	The Near East and Asia	China and the Far East
Before the Common Era (BCE) or BC	3000			 Ancient Egypt	 Mesopotamia (Iraq)	 Shang Dynasty (China)
	2000					
	1000	 Ancient Greece	 Ancient Rome			
					 Zhou Dynasty (China) Han Dynasty (China)	

<p>The Common Era (CE)</p> <p>or AD</p>						<p>Han Dynasty (China)</p> <p>Tang Dynasty (China)</p>
	1000	 <p>The Middle Ages (or the Medieval period)</p>	 <p>Ancient Rome</p>		 <p>The Islamic World (from 622)</p>	 <p>Edo Period (Japan)</p>
	1700	 <p>The Enlightenment</p>	 <p>The British Museum (from 1753)</p>			
	2000	 <p>Our visit to the British Museum</p>	 <p>The Great Court (1999)</p>			

Materials for Students & Teachers

3. Reading

- History and Background



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	y N
2. the objects are all from Britain	y N
3. the Museum started in 1953	y N
4. the British Library is now in the British Museum	y N
5. the Museum has a new glass roof	y N
6. two million people came to the museum every year	y N

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**?



1. The British Museum is a museum only about Britain. It only has objects from Britain.	T	F
2. All the objects in the British Museum are new.	T	F
3. The British Museum was started in the Seventeenth Century.	T	F
4. It opened to the public in 1759.	T	F
5. The books, stamps and maps moved to the new British Library building in the 1960's.	T	F
6. The British museum has always been in Bloomsbury.	T	F
7. The Great Court has a wooden roof.	T	F
8. The British Museum has one million objects.	T	F
9. You can only see one tenth of the Museum's objects, on show in the Museum.	T	F

Materials for Students & Teachers

4. Vocabulary

- Useful vocabulary
- Countries and continents
entry 1 and above worksheet
- Pictures of objects
entry 1 worksheet
entry 2 worksheet
(the content of the worksheets is
the same)

useful vocabulary

general nouns

archaeology	jar(s)
armour	jewel(s)
artefact(s)	jewellery
board game(s)	mask(s)
bowl(s)	medal(s)
burial(s)	object(s)
cartouche(s)	palace(s)
coin(s)	pharaoh(s)
collection(s)	plate(s)
column(s)	pot(s)
continent(s)	pottery
dish(es)	reconstruction(s)
display(s)	script(s)
display case(s)	(e.g. Hieroglyphic, Greek)
drawing(s)	sculpture(s)
dynasty - dynasties	statue(s)
emperor(s)	technique(s)
ethnography	temple(s)
exhibit(s)	tile(s)
gallery - galleries	tomb(s)
inscription(s)	tombstone(s)
	treasure(s)

words to describe materials and objects

brass	gilded
bronzed	glass
carved	glazed
cast	moulded
ceramic	silver
copper	stone
decorated	textiles
enamelled	wooden

passive forms

this was built in...	that was made in...
it was discovered at...	it was made by...
they were found by...	these were painted by...
it was found at...	the museum was opened in
reconstructed/restored	1759

countries, continents and areas of the world

Africa - African

Asia - Asian

Australia - Australian

Europe - European

North America - North American

South America - South American

South Asia - South Asian

South-East Asia - South-East Asian

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)

the Near East (= present day Middle East)

the Pacific Islands

dates and periods

the Prehistoric era

the Ancient Egyptian period

the Eighteenth Dynasty (Egyptian)

the Ancient Greek period

the Classical period

the Roman period

Medieval Europe

the Tang Dynasty

1753 was in the **Eighteenth Century** (CE or AD)

1880 is the first year of **the** eighteen **eighties**

languages

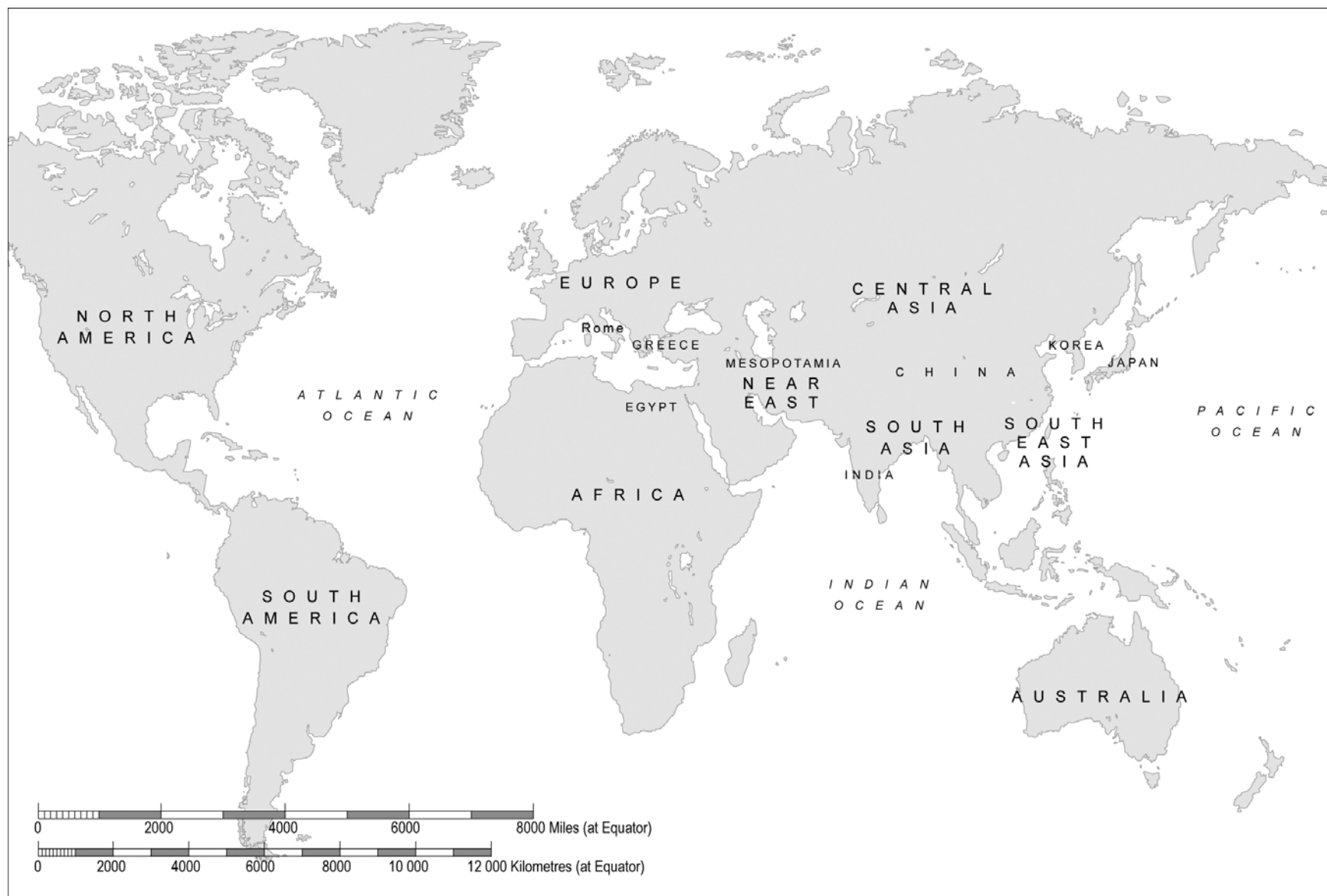
Ancient Egyptian - Hieroglyphics

Ancient Greek

Arabic

Cuneiform (ancient Mesopotamian and Assyrian writing)

Latin



AFRICA
AUSTRALIA
CENTRAL ASIA
EUROPE
THE NEAR EAST

NORTH AMERICA
SOUTH AMERICA
SOUTH ASIA
SOUTH-EAST ASIA

China
Egypt
Greece

India
Japan
Korea
Rome



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

Africa

Africa

Africa

Africa

The Near East

The Near East

Egypt

Egypt

Egypt

Match the descriptions to the pictures

There are nine pictures and ten descriptions!

- an ostrich egg water pot from southern Africa
- Assyrian winged bull statue
- 'Benin Bronze' plaque, Nigeria
- the Rosetta Stone, Egypt
- Assyrian winged lion statue
- giant statue of Ramesses II
- a clay water jar from Nigeria
- Hieroglyphic writing with cartouches of Ramesses II
- head of a Queen Mother, Benin, Nigeria
- an African elephant

Materials for Students & Teachers

4. Evaluation forms

- Student evaluation
- Tutor evaluation

Please return to

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

Fax 020 7323 8855

Email education@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk

Students - what do you think?
continue your answers on a new piece of paper if you need to

the work in the class before the visit		
very useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	why?
alright	<input type="checkbox"/>	
not useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	

the welcome		
very useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	why?
alright	<input type="checkbox"/>	
not useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	

the general tour of the museum		
very useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	why?
alright	<input type="checkbox"/>	
not useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	

the worksheets in the Africa galleries		
very useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	why?
alright	<input type="checkbox"/>	
not useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	

how can we make the tours better for students in the future?

.....

.....

.....

the name of your college

your country of origin

your first language

your age - are you under 24 or over 24?

please come back to the museum soon!

Please return to Education and Information Dept, The British Museum,
Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

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

The booking system		
	Grade or Y/N	Reason for grade
Was this clear and straightforward?		
Did you receive the pre-visit information on time?		

Pre-visit information		
	Grade or Y/N	Reason for grade
Pre-visit notes for tutors		
Pre-visit classroom materials		

The Welcome and 'domestic' arrangements (e.g. where to meet, leaving coats etc.)		
	Grade or Y/N	Reason for grade
Were the arrangements adequate?		

Guided part of the tour

	Grade or Y/N	Reason for grade
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

	Grade or Y/N	Reason for grade
Gallery part of the tour - generally		
Was the choice of objects appropriate?		
Worksheets - was the language clear?		
Worksheets - was the layout clear?		
Worksheets - were the levels appropriate ?		
Were the worksheets suitably challenging for the students?		

Suggestions for Tutor guided part of tour		
	Grade or Y/N	Reason for grade
Were these useful?		
What else could be included?		

Evaluation form for students		
	Grade or Y/N	Reason for grade
Is it clear and understandable for students?		
Does it collect relevant and useful information?		

Any other comments on how the tours can be improved?

THANK YOU - We look forward to seeing you again soon

Please return to

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Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

Fax 020 7323 8855

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