



THE  
BRITISH  
MUSEUM

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.

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## 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](mailto: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.

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## Key

**age+** Suitable for age indicated and above

**T** 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

## Saturday 8 March

Family event 7+, T (30 places) Free	<b>Stone Age tools</b> 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	<b>Keeping warm in the Arctic</b> 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	<b>Sun, moon and stars: telling the time without clocks</b> 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. <i>Presented by Silke Ackermann</i>	Meet at the Box Office	14.00
Family event 7+, T £3 each child, YFBM £1.50 (12 places) Adults free	<b>Telling the time with clocks</b> What makes them tick? Go behind the scenes at the Museum and find out how mechanical clocks and watches work. <i>Presented by Paul Buck</i>	Meet at the Box Office	15.30

## Sunday 9 March

Family event 5+, T (300 places) Free	<b>Egyptian mummies</b> 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?	Clore Education Centre	12.00 14.00 16.00
Family event 5+ Free	<b>Horrible writing</b> Drop-in and learn how to write in cuneiform from ancient Mesopotamia and hieroglyphs from ancient Egypt. <i>Presented by Neal Spencer and Irving Finkel</i>	Room 4	14.00- 16.00

## Monday 10 March

Gallery talk Free	<b>Chinese metal work</b> <i>Given by Mike Cowell</i>	Room 33	13.15
Gallery talk Free	<b>The Chinese jade carvers' craft</b> <i>Given by Margaret Sax</i>	Room 33b	15.00

## Tuesday 11 March

Gallery talk Free	<b>Food for the living, food for the dead</b> <i>Given by Caroline Cartwright</i>	Room 63	13.15
Gallery talk Free	<b>Colours the ancients never saw</b> <i>Given by Vincent Daniels</i>	Room 62	15.00

### Wednesday 12 March

Gallery talk Free	<b>Turquoise mosaics from Meso-America</b> <i>Given by Andrew Middleton and Caroline Cartwright</i>	Room 27	13.15
Gallery talk Free	<b>Medieval Arab and Persian metalwork</b> <i>Given by Susan La Niece</i>	Room 34	15.00

### Thursday 13 March

Drop-in Workshop 5+ (suitable for schools) Free	<b>Horrible writing</b> Drop-in and learn how to write in cuneiform from ancient Mesopotamia and hieroglyphs from ancient Egypt. <i>Presented by Neal Spencer and Irving Finkel</i>	Room 4	11.30-14.30
Gallery talk Free	<b>Classical metal working</b> <i>Given by Paul Craddock</i>	Room 69	13.15
Gallery talk T (16 places) Free	<b>It will never last</b> Find out what we do to preserve the collections in the galleries and behind the scenes. This talk will include a visit to the Japanese plant rooms. <i>Given by Susan Bradley</i>	Room 62	15.00

### Friday 14 March

Drop-in 5+ (suitable for school) Free	<b>Science fair</b> Find out about the inside story of science and technology at the Museum: demonstrations galore and many fascinating secrets revealed by the scientists. <i>Presented by Department of Conservation and Science</i>	Great Court	10.00-16.00
Drop-in 5+ (suitable for school) Free	<b>Counterfeit currency</b> An opportunity to investigate fake money through the ages. <i>Presented by BMF volunteers</i>	Room 68	11.00-16.00

### Saturday 15 March

Drop-in 5+ Free	<b>Science fair</b> Find out about the inside story of science and technology at the Museum: demonstrations galore and many fascinating secrets revealed by the scientists. <i>Presented by Department of Conservation and Science</i>	Great Court	10.00-16.00
Drop-in Family event 5+ Free	<b>Counterfeit currency</b> An opportunity to investigate fake money through the ages. <i>Presented by BMF volunteers</i>	Room 68	11.00-16.00

### Sunday 16 March

Family event 5+, T (300 places) Free	<b>Egyptian mummies</b> 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?	Clare Education Centre	13.00-15.00
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# 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.

Your details

Mr / Mrs / Miss / Ms (delete as applicable)

First name

Family name

Address

Postcode

Telephone: DaytimeEvening

Email

YFBM number if applicable

Concessionary rates apply to senior citizens, students, registered unemployed and registered disabled. Proof of status may be required.

Please tick if you are a:

senior citizen☐ student☐ unemployed☐ disabled☐

Payment details

\*If you are booking for a number of events please write the maximum sum on the back of your cheque and leave the amounts blank. If some events are fully booked, The British Museum will enter the reduced total on your cheque.

Payment method: credit card☐ \*cheque☐ Switch☐

Please debit my Mastercard/Visa/Switch card (please delete)

Card number

Name on card

Expiry dateIssue no. (Switch only)

Amount £Signature

Event	Date	Time	Number of tickets	Price (£)
Total				

☐ Please tick this box if you would like to receive information about exhibitions and events from The British Museum.



## National Science Week 2003

Education Department  
Telephone 020 7323 8511/8854  
Facsimile 020 7323 8855  
Minicom 020 7323 8731  
[education@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](mailto:education@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

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# THE BRITISH MUSEUM

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[www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)

Front cover image:  
**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.