

It's impossible to see the whole museum in one afternoon so look at a few things and spend time looking carefully.

Take photos and make notes, so you can find out more on our website later. www.britishmuseum.org

To give you some ideas follow this route and answer the questions on your way.

Start in the Great Court



When did the Great Court open?
(Look up)

When looking at the objects think about....

❑ **Where and when was it made?**

What was happening at the time locally and globally?

❑ **Who made it?**

Think about the people who made it as well as the people who owned it or paid for the work. Why spend the money and the time?

❑ **Why was it made?**

Every object was made for a reason – was it historical, political, practical, social or purely decorative?

❑ **What can it tell us?**

What specific evidence of life in the past does it provide?

❑ **How and why did it find a home in the museum?**

Were they discoveries, gifts or purchases? Would it be possible to buy such objects now? Should they remain here, or where?

❑ **What more do you want to know about the object?**

What questions would you ask? Where can you find the answers?

Welcome to the British Museum

Before you start, take a minute to look at the building.

Can you answer these questions?

- How old is the museum?
- What is in the museum?
- Why are you here?



- The British Museum first opened to the public in 1759.
- The collection now contains more than 8 million objects telling the history of the world's cultures: from the stone tools of early man to twentieth century prints.

We learn a lot about life in the past through the objects of the dead. Climb the stairs (or take the lift) to find out about life in Ancient Egypt



Room 61 Egyptian Life and Death

How have these objects changed in 3000 years?

toys / games tools	
jewellery	



Cradle to Grave has two rows of pills to show the life of an average man and woman in Britain.

**Which is the man?
Which is the woman?**



Room 1 was built for a collection of books known as the King's Library. Which king gave the books to the museum? (look up)
King George = GR _____

Why do you think he gave the library to the museum?



Go down the West Stairs to Room 4

Many of the objects in this gallery have writing on them. Copy some hieroglyphs here

Do you know what it says?



Find this stone

Why is it so important?



Finally, look around you.

Can you see the huge statue of Ramesses II, or the enormous statue of a winged, human headed bull from Assyria?

How were they transported here?

When and why?

What should the museum do with them now?

There are objects from all around the world in this gallery. How are traditions different from yours?



Room 24 Living and Dying

Draw / describe an object of another animal.

Go into Room 26. North America



Where is it from?

What is it made of?

Why a snake?

Go to Room 27 to find this object



Find this sculpture of **Sir Hans Sloane**

Who was he?

When did he die? _____

On 7th June 1753 an Act of Parliament established the British Museum.

71,000 objects were from Sir Hans Sloane's collection.

Look around. Why collect these things?

List of some of the objects from his collection

