

The British  
Museum



Families  
Ages 3+

# Museum explorers time to count



The Hamlyn family trails are supported by

**HHT** THE HELEN HAMLYN TRUST

# Welcome

This trail guides you on a journey of exploration and discovery around the Museum. On the way you'll track down some amazing treasures and learn tales of human history. Whichever way you go, and whatever you discover, enjoy yourself! If you ever feel lost, just ask a member of staff for help.

## Useful information for families

- Accessible toilets and baby changing facilities are available. You can breastfeed and bottle feed anywhere on the Museum's grounds but if you would like more privacy, please use the feeding room in the Ford Centre for Young Visitors in The Clore Centre for Education on the Lower floor, Level -1, or one of our baby changing spaces. For details, ask at the Families Desk or Information Desk in the Great Court, or pick up a map of the whole Museum.
- You can leave fold-up pushchairs in the cloakroom free of charge.
- You can find child-friendly food at the cafés. High chairs are available.
- You can use the Ford Centre for Young Visitors to picnic with your family at weekends and during school holidays.

# Museum explorers time to count



In Hinduism, the god Shiva is the lord of time. Can you **count** how many hours it is until your bed time?

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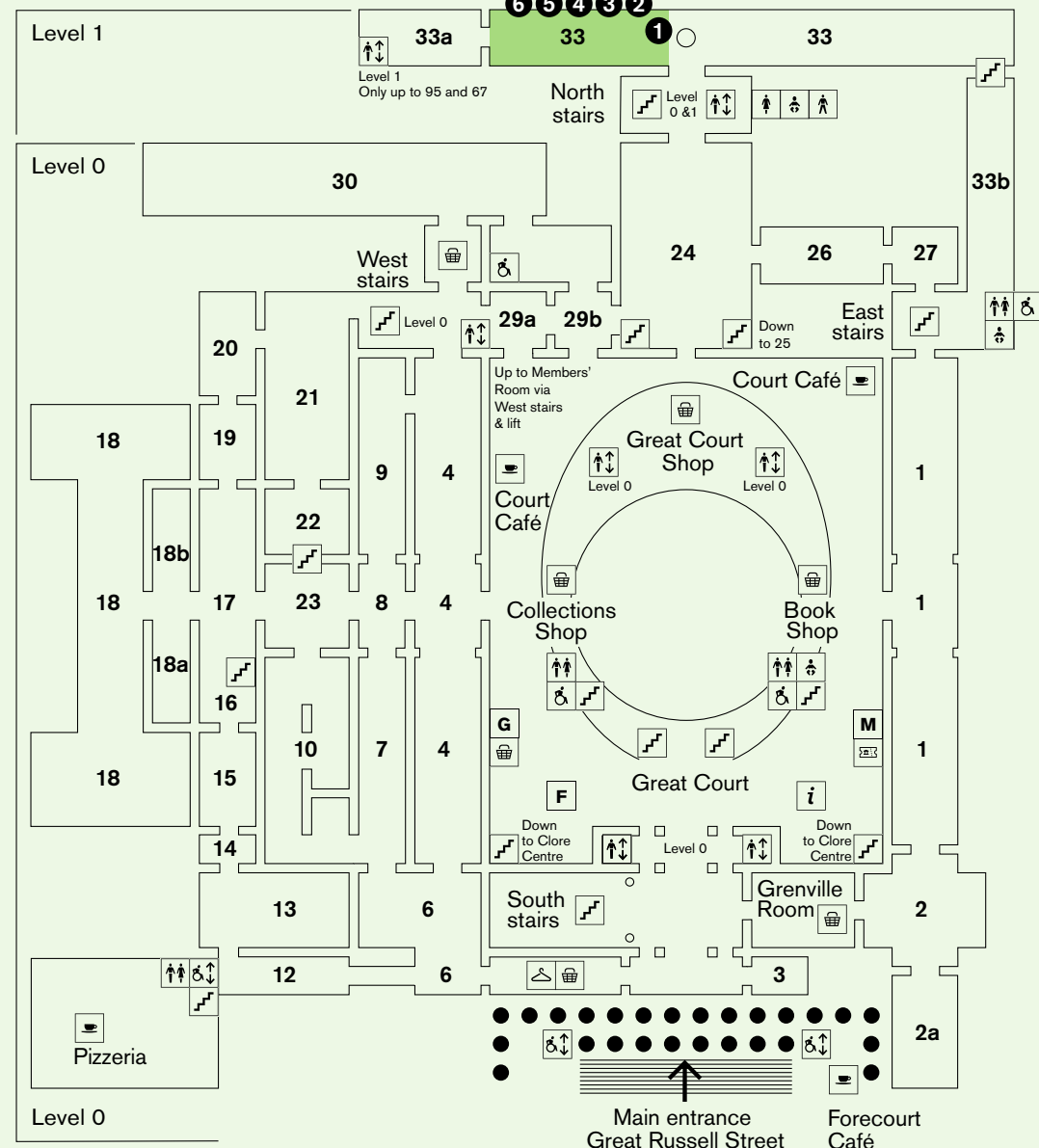
**HHT** THE HELEN HAMLYN TRUST

This map shows the locations of the objects in this trail. You can pick up a map of the whole Museum at the Information Desk in the Great Court. Please note that some galleries may be closed at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances or refurbishment.

\* The Families Desk is open on weekends and school holidays from 10.00–12.30 and 13.15–16.30

- |                   |                  |                        |                   |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Toilets           | Cloakroom        | Membership Desk        | Café              |
| Accessible toilet | Shop             | Families Desk*         | Stairs            |
| Baby changing     | Information Desk | Guide Desk             | Lift              |
| Baby feeding      | Ticket Desk      | Great Court Restaurant | Level access lift |

## Ground floor



Dance, laugh and practise your counting as you embark on an adventure through Asia! What fascinating things will you find on your way?



Your journey starts in Room 33, Ground floor, Level 1. You'll need to go up a set of stairs to access this gallery. If you have a pushchair please use the lift.



Case numbers can be hard to find – don't be afraid to ask a member of staff for help finding an object



**Dancing Shiva**  
Room 33



**Pottery animals**  
Room 33



**I spy**  
Room 33



**Resting Buddhas**  
Room 33



**Big fish**  
Room 33



**Jump around**  
Room 33

# 1 Dancing Shiva



Go to Room 33 and find the statue of Shiva,  
on Plinth 306

My name is Shiva.  
Here you see me as Nataraja,  
Lord of the Dance.  
I dance to make things begin.  
I dance to make things end.

### Time to count!

First count my arms.  
Then count my feet.  
Then count the number  
of legs I am standing on.

### Look at me closely.

Find the snake wrapped  
round my arm.

### Move like me!

Move your fingers so your  
hands look like mine.  
Stand on one leg with your  
arms in the air.

## 2 Pottery animals



Go to Case 47A in the Early societies bay just on your right

You can find the name of each bay in the flag signs on the columns.



We are pottery animals.  
We are made from clay that has been baked in a kiln (an oven made for clay).

### Time to count!

Count our noses.  
Count our horns.  
Count our legs.

### Look closely.

Which of us has the biggest horns?

### Imagine you had horns like us.

How would you walk?  
Grunt like a buffalo at the same time!



### 3 I spy



Find case 50B in the Gandhara bay and sit down in front of the carved stone stair risers



Hello, we are people from the previous lives of **Buddha**. Some of us are humans and some of us are animals.



#### Time to count!

Look at the bottom strip and find:

- One elephant all by itself
- Two horses pulling a cart
- Three people riding in a cart
- Four trees growing tall

#### Look at the second strip just above it.

How many children (*putti*) can you count?

#### Now look at the third strip.

Find one of us carrying a parasol. Hint – it looks like an umbrella!

#### Now look at the top strip.

How many sea creatures can you count?

Well done – excellent counting!  
Give yourself a clap.



'Buddha' means  
'Enlightened one'

## 4 Resting Buddhas



Move to the next bay, Gupta Period, and find the two large Buddha statues



I was once a rich prince. I gave up all my money and left my palace. I did lots of walking and thinking, and now I am called Buddha.

### Time to count!

Count our legs.  
Count our knees.  
Count our toes.

### Look closely at our tummies.

Find our belly buttons.  
Where is your belly button?

### Now look at our ears.

We wore heavy earrings that stretched our earlobes.  
Can you stretch your ears?

### One of us is sitting and one of us is standing.

Can you sit down and then stand up again? Well done!

## 5 Big fish



Find the big sculpture of a fish in the West & Central India bay



I am called **Matsya**.  
Because I am a fish, I am very good at swimming.  
I helped to rescue people during a big flood.



The fish Matsya is an incarnation (avatar) of the god Vishnu

### Time to count!

Look at all the people around me.  
Start counting them.  
What number can you count up to?

### Look closely.

Find the dog sitting above me.

### Imagine you are a fish.

Now swim, splash and swish!





## 6 Jump around

Go to the next bay, Deccan Region, and find the three statues in front of the window

We are **statues** from a temple. We are dancing and playing drums.



These temple statues of female dancers and musicians are about 900 years old!



### Time to count!

Count us: 1, 2, 3.  
Each of us has two small friends standing by our legs.  
How many figures can you count all together?

### Make some noise!

Join in with us and lift your arms like ours. Now pretend to play the drums.

### Show off your moves and dance back to Shiva.

Well done – you must be tired from all that dancing!



# You have completed the time to count trail!

You can find even more fantastic things to see and do in other parts of the Museum:

- Dance like an ancient Greek in Room 17
- Find out all about African masquerades in Room 25



## Head back to the Families Desk to receive a stamp!

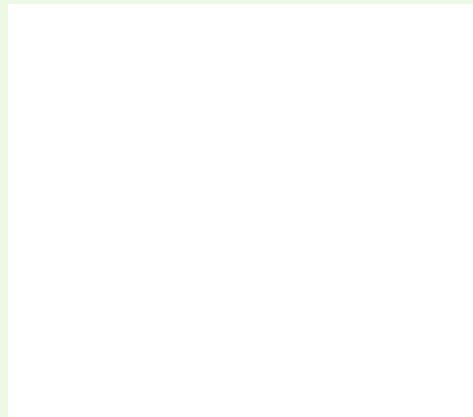
Well done. You've been very busy. What fantastic counting, what amazing looking and what fabulous dancing! Shiva will be pleased. Of all the things you discovered, which was your favourite?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Favourite object \_\_\_\_\_



# At home



Complete the sculpture by drawing the other half and adding your favourite animal at the dancer's feet.

## Other things you could do when you get home:

- Carry on counting – use your fingers and toes to practise counting up to 20.
- Practise looking and listening. Play a game of I Spy – what objects can you describe in your home?
- Create a new dance move! Can you teach it to your friends?

