

■ 3. British Museum

Unit 1 Step 14

Before watching

1 Answer these questions about the British Museum (don't worry if you don't know the exact answer).

- When was the British Museum founded?
☐ a. 1665
☐ b. 1753
☐ c. 1815
- How many objects are there in the Museum?
☐ a. 1 million
☐ b. 3 million
☐ c. 7 million
- To enter the British Museum, you have to pay
☐ a. £2
☐ b. £5
☐ c. nothing
- The Great Court in the British Museum is similar to
☐ a. the Louvre in Paris
☐ b. the Reichstag parliament in Germany
☐ c. the Scala in Milan.
- The British Museum receives
☐ a. 1 million
☐ b. 6 million
☐ c. 12 million visits every year.

2 Match the word on the left with the definition on the right.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. to collect | <input type="checkbox"/> a. to create for the first time |
| 2. to found | <input type="checkbox"/> b. to take different things and keep them together |
| 3. exhibit | <input type="checkbox"/> c. to destroy a building, usually to build another one |
| 4. admission | <input type="checkbox"/> d. money that you offer voluntarily |
| 5. to knock down | <input type="checkbox"/> e. an object you can look at, usually in a museum |
| 6. donation | <input type="checkbox"/> f. in a distant country separated by water |
| 7. facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> g. important cultural aspects from the past |

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 8. heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> h. money you pay to enter a museum or cinema for example |
| 9. overseas | <input type="checkbox"/> i. services available to people |
| 10. excavation | <input type="checkbox"/> j. the process of digging to find valuable objects |

While watching

3 Watch the video and check your answers to the exercise 1.

4 Match the dates and numbers with what they refer to in the video.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. 6,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> a. the number of visitors each year |
| 2. 1250 BC (before Christ) | <input type="checkbox"/> b. the year the museum was first opened |
| 3. 1759 | <input type="checkbox"/> c. the number of windows in the Great Court |
| 4. 1,656 | <input type="checkbox"/> d. the year the Great Court opened |
| 5. 2000 | <input type="checkbox"/> e. the start of excavations abroad |
| 6. 1840 | <input type="checkbox"/> f. the age of the Ramesses bust |

5 Watch the video and mark the statements True (T) or False (F).

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The Museum was founded by the King of England. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The Museum is still in its original building. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Exhibits in the British Museum come only from Britain and its Empire. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Museum admission is free. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The Great Court was designed by a Japanese architect. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Excavations in other countries started in 1840. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. There are three Egyptian Galleries. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. There are 6 million visitors each year. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6 Now watch again and answer the following questions.

1. Who founded the British Museum?
.....
2. When did the British Museum first open?
.....
3. Why did they change the building?
.....
4. How many exhibits does it have?
.....
5. Why did they re-introduce free admission?
.....
6. What structure is the Great Court based upon?
.....
7. What facilities are there in the Great Court?
.....
8. What are the names of two famous Egyptian works?
.....
9. What particular objects does Greece contest in the British Museum?
.....
10. How many people visit the museum each year?
.....

After watching

7 Find the following information about the Wallace Collection (<http://www.wallacecollection.org>).

1. Cost of admission:
2. Opening hours:

3. Location:
4. Special exhibitions currently on:
5. Main themes, types of work in collection:
.....

8 Write a description of a museum local to you. Describe the type of exhibits, the cost of visiting, the opening hours and the layout (number of floors, location of exhibits).

9 For more museum-related listening practice: <http://www.esolcourses.com/content/lifeintheuk/museums/museums-and-galleries-quiz.html>.

10 Try a British Museum quiz at <http://arts.guardian.co.uk/quiz/questions/0,,970415,00.html>.

11 Mini Project work: design a leaflet to promote the British Museum specifically to young people. Use the following websites to get more information about the Museum:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Museum
- <http://www.britishmuseum.org>.

a. Divide into 3 groups

- 1 group prepares graphic materials for the leaflet
- 1 group prepares brief descriptions of the different exhibitions
- 1 group prepares practical information (opening hours, facilities for visitors, guides etc).

b. Put the information together and print out your leaflet and put it on the classroom wall.