British Museum has most successful year

17th January, 2014

The British Museum in London had its most successful year ever in 2013. More than 6.7 million visitors passed through its doors. The previous record of 5.9 million was set in 2008. Over a million more people visited the museum last year than in 2012. The biggest attractions were two big exhibitions. One was Life and Death in Pompeii, the other was Herculaneum. The director of the museum said he was very happy that so many people came. He told reporters that many things happened last year. Many exhibits were loaned to the museum. He also said online access meant more people decided to visit. He added: "This is truly a dynamic collection that belongs to and is used by a global citizenship."

The British Museum has many exhibitions about human history and culture. It has about 13 million exhibits from all over the world. Some countries want the museum to return some of them. Greece wants the Elgin Marbles back. They were originally from the Parthenon in Athens. China wants the museum to return many things the British took from China in the 19th century, and Egypt wants the Rosetta Stone. The museum first opened to the public in 1759. Back then, only about 75 people a day visited it. They could look at 71,000 objects, including 40,000 printed books, 7,000 manuscripts, and many stuffed animals, birds and insects. There were also very old objects from Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Near East, the Far East, and North and South America.

Sources: *Independent / Guardian / Wikipedia*

Writing

The British Museum should return the things countries want back. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

museum / successful / doors / record / exhibitions / director / online / collection / human history / culture / 19th century / the public / books / stuffed animals / Far East

True / False

a) 67 million people visited the British Museum in 2013. T / F

b) The British Museum had 5.9 million visitors in 2008. T / F

c) The biggest attractions in 2013 were on Pompeii and Herculaneum. T / F

d) The museum's director said the Internet meant fewer visitors. T / F

e) The British Museum has around 13 million exhibits. T / F

f) Greece wants the Rosetta Stone returned to Greece. T / F

g) The British Museum opened to the public in the 17th century. T / F

h) The museum contained about 40,000 books when it first opened. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	ever	a.	initially
2	passed	b.	earlier
3.	previous	c.	things
4.	loaned	d.	went
5.	global	e.	bugs
6.	return	f.	in history
7.	originally	g.	give back
8.	objects	h.	lent
9.	insects	i.	ancient
10.	old	j.	world

Discussion – Student A

a) Should the British Museum return things to other countries?

b) What's the best thing to have an exhibition on?

c) Do you prefer going to museums alone or with others?

d) Would you become intelligent if you spent a year visiting museums?

e) What's the strangest museum you've heard of?

f) Do you prefer museums with interactive exhibits?

g) Are all museums good for children?

h) What questions would you like to ask the British Museum's director?

Phrase Match

1.   its most successful
2   6.7 million visitors passed
3.   The biggest attractions were
4.   happy that so
5.   a dynamic
6.   exhibitions about human history
7.   exhibits from all
8.   the British took from China
9.   The museum first opened to
10.   There were also very old

a.   many people came
b.   and culture
c.   in the 19th century
d.   through its doors
e.   objects from Egypt
f.   year ever
g.   collection
h.   the public in 1759
i.   two big exhibitions
j.   over the world

Discussion – Student B

a)   What's the best museum you've ever been to?
b)   What are the best museums in your town / city?
c)   What do you know about the British Museum?
d)   Do you think museums should be free to enter?
e)   Would a museum about your life be interesting?
f)   Are all museums important?
g)   Do you think museums in other countries are more or less interesting than those in your own country?
h)   Would you like to work in a museum?

Spelling

1.   its most <u>suscufsecl</u> year ever
2.   6.7 million <u>oritvsis</u>
3.   The biggest <u>iatattnscro</u>
4.   two big <u>hibioextnis</u>
5.   Many exhibits were <u>daolen</u> to the museum
6.   a dynamic <u>otcielnclo</u>
7.   human history and <u>tecrluu</u>
8.   <u>ogilyarinl</u> from the Parthenon in Athens
9.   opened to the <u>ulpcbi</u>
10.   71,000 <u>jbcstoe</u>
11.   <u>lidcgiunn</u> 40,000 printed books
12.   animals, birds and <u>tnscsie</u>

Role Play

Role A – The English language
You think an exhibition on the English language would be the most interesting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): your town's history, the colour blue or Hollywood.

Role B – Your town's history
You think an exhibition on your town's history would be the most interesting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): the English language, the colour blue or Hollywood.

Role C – The colour blue
You think an exhibition on the colour blue would be the most interesting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): your town's history, the English language or Hollywood.
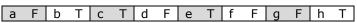
Role D – Hollywood
You think an exhibition on Hollywood would be the most interesting. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least interesting of these (and why): your town's history, the colour blue or the English language.

Speaking - Exhibitions

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

• ancient Egypt
• computer history
• your town's history
• the Moon

• Italian fashion
• robots
• Hollywood
• the colour blue

Answers – True False

a F	b T	c T	d F	e T	f F	g F	h T

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. b	4. h	5. j
6. g	7. a	8. c	9. e	10. i