

"If you are tired of London, you are tired of life"

(Samuel Johnson)

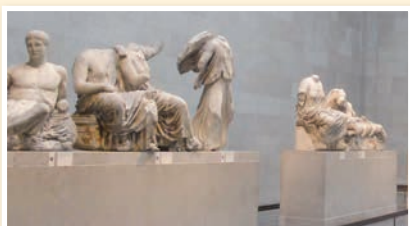


READING

17 K Read the text about the British Museum and then answer the questions. Choose the correct answer (a, b or c).

THE BRITISH MUSEUM

The British Museum is a museum of human history situated in London. Its collections of over thirteen million objects document the story of human culture from its beginnings to the present day. The museum was established in 1753, based on the collection of objects of the physician and scientist Sir Hans Sloane. The museum was like a display of curiosities: Egyptian mummies, watches, hats and maps. When it opened to the public in 1759, only



10 people an hour could visit it. A 12-year-old visitor, John Coltman, wrote to his brother: "First we saw the Egyptians dead many years ago, next we saw the skull of an elephant and, after that, the hat of a queen, the brim of it is like the carpet in our living room". After the defeat of the French Campaign in the Battle of the Nile, in 1801 the British Museum acquired many Egyptian sculptures and it presented the Rosetta Stone, the key to the deciphering of hieroglyphics. In 1818 the Italian Belzoni brought the colossal bust of Ramesses II from Thebes. Belzoni said he found the bust with its face smiling at him, happy to go to England! Today the 11 galleries of the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan



house a very large collection of antiquities of immense importance for their quality. The collection of the Department of Greek and Roman antiquities includes the Parthenon Marbles and part of the Mausoleum of Halikarnassos, one of the seven wonders of the Ancient World. In the Department of Asia and in the Department of Africa, Oceania and the Americas the collections of objects span two million years and tell the history of man from continents of different cultures.

- The British Museum is
 a. an Art Gallery
 b. a museum of Natural Science
 c. a museum of History and Culture
- In 1753 the museum was a display of
 a. Sir Hans Sloane's objects
 b. curiosities from the world
 c. British antiquities
- When John visited it in 1759, he saw
 a. mummified wild animals
 b. the furniture of a queen
 c. Egyptian mummies
- The museum started growing after
 a. 1759 b. 1818 c. 1801
- The Rosetta Stone showed the way of
 a. growing Egyptian flowers
 b. understanding Egyptian writing
 c. building Egyptian pyramids
- According to Belzoni, the bust of Ramesses asked him to
 a. leave it in Thebes
 b. leave to England
 c. take it to England
- The Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan displays
 a. only a small part of Egyptian objects
 b. a lot of precious antiquities
 c. 11 mummies
- You can see part of the Mausoleum of Halikarnassos in the Department of
 a. Asia
 b. the Ancient World
 c. Greece and Rome

establish = fondare
physician = medico
display = esposizione
skull = teschio
brim = bordo
acquire = acquisire/
 procurarsi
house = ospitare
wonder = meraviglia
span = abbracciare



LISTENING AND READING



18a 1.36 Glenda is going to London. It's her first visit and she's going to see a lot of sights. Listen to her conversation with Karen and number the pictures in the order you hear them.

Big Ben



Tower Bridge



St Paul's



Tower of London



London Eye



Houses of Parliament

18b Match the pictures (1-6) with the appropriate description (a-f).

- a. ☐ Built as a fortress in 1070, it became a royal palace, then a prison. Today the Crown Jewels are here and the Queen's guards, the Beefeaters, protect it.
- b. ☐ Christopher Wren built it from 1675 to 1710 after the Great Fire of London in 1666. Many royal events and religious services are celebrated here.
- c. ☐ It is a very big observation wheel. Each cabin can have 25 people. It takes 30 minutes to go round.
- d. ☐ This is the seat of the Parliament. The Queen visits once a year, in November, to open Parliament.
- e. ☐ The bridge with two towers was completed in 1894. It opens to let boats pass four or five times a week.
- f. ☐ Visitors often think it is the name of the clock. Actually it's the name of the bell in the tower.



WRITING

19 There are so many things to see in London! Trafalgar Square (www.london.gov.uk/trafalgarsquare), Westminster Abbey (www.westminster-abbey.org), Portobello Road (www.portobelloroad.co.uk), Buckingham Palace (www.royal.gov.uk/TheRoyalResidences/ResChannel.aspx), Hyde Park (www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/hyde_park), Madame Tussaud's (www.madametussauds.com)... You can pick and choose. Look for some simple information from the Internet about two or three sights you are going to visit on your next trip to London. Write what you are going to do, to see, to try..., how long you are going to stay, who you are going with, what your experience is going to be like. Start like this: *At last I'm leaving for London. I'm going to...*

SPOKEN INTERACTION

20 Tell your classmates about your plan for the visit to London. Get ready to answer their questions about what to see, what to do, how long to stay, who to go with. Try to make your report interesting by showing some pictures of what you are going to visit.