

Museum language

A museum is a building or institution that houses and conserves a collection of artefacts and other objects of scientific, artistic, or historical importance and makes them available for public viewing through permanent or temporary exhibits for purposes of study, education, and enjoyment.

Archaeology museums specialise in the display of archaeological artefacts. Many are in the open air, such as the Acropolis of Athens and the Roman Forum. Others display artefacts found in archaeological sites inside buildings.

An art museum, also known as an art gallery, is a space for the exhibition of art objects from the visual arts, such as paintings, illustrations, photos, and sculptures. They may also house collections of drawings and old prints or of applied art, including ceramics, metalwork, furniture, ancient books, and other types of object. Probably the most famous art gallery in the world is The Louvre in Paris. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and the National Gallery in London are other two world famous art museums.

Museums of natural history and natural science typically exhibit work of the natural world. Exhibitions may vary from environmental issues to biodiversity. Notable museums of this type include the Natural History Museum in London and the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle in Paris.



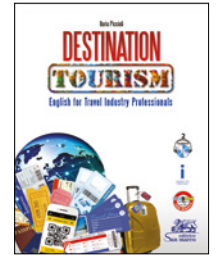
ACTIVITIES

1 Match each of the terms below with its definition.

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|----------------|--|
| 1 Gallery | A Something made or given shape by man, such as a tool or a work of art |
| 2 Display case | B A surface decoration made by inlaying in patterns small pieces of variously coloured glass, stone, or other material |
| 3 Exhibit | C A room for the exhibition of works of art |
| 4 Mosaic | D A glass container used to store and display items |
| 5 Artefact | E A sculptural relief in which forms extend only slightly from the background |
| 6 Bas-relief | F A large-scale public showing |

2 Provide the Italian equivalent for each of the following terms.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|
| A Metals | ..... | C Stone | ..... | E Other Materials | ..... |
| 1 Bronze | ..... | 1 Alabaster | ..... | 1 Crystal | ..... |
| 2 Brass | ..... | 2 Gemstone | ..... | 2 Fur | ..... |
| 3 Copper | ..... | 3 Basalt | ..... | 3 Ivory | ..... |
| 4 Gold | ..... | 4 Granite | ..... | 4 Leather | ..... |
| 5 Iron | ..... | 5 Limestone | ..... | 5 Jade | ..... |
| 6 Silver | ..... | 6 Marble | ..... | F Processes | ..... |
| B Ceramics | ..... | 7 Sandstone | ..... | 1 Carved | ..... |
| 1 China | ..... | D Fabrics | ..... | 2 Embroidered | ..... |
| 2 Earthenware | ..... | 1 Brocade | ..... | 3 Enamelled | ..... |
| 3 Clay | ..... | 2 Cotton | ..... | 4 Lacquered | ..... |
| 4 Fritware | ..... | 3 Linen | ..... | 5 Woven | ..... |
| 5 Porcelain | ..... | 4 Muslin | ..... | 6 Glazed | ..... |
| 6 Stoneware | ..... | 5 Silk | ..... | 7 Decorated | ..... |
| 7 Terracotta | ..... | 6 Velvet | ..... | 8 Inlaid | ..... |
| 8 Glazed | ..... |  |  | 9 Painted | ..... |



- 3 While reading the description of the Greek head, fill in the blanks with the following words: knot – underworld – cavity – hair – carved – goddess – back – statues. In antiquity, heads were often 1 separately from the 2 for which they were intended. The heads were made with a convex tenon (i.e. a projecting part cut on the end of a piece of wood for insertion into a corresponding hole in another piece to make a joint) that could be set into a specially prepared 3 in the statue. The juncture was concealed by a line of drapery (i.e. a decorative piece of material usually hung in loose folds and arranged in a graceful design). This finely carved example must represent a 4 because of its colossal size. Persephone (the daughter of Demeter and wife of Hades, the god of the 5) and Hygeia (the daughter of Asklepios, the god of medicine) were often represented with 6 separated into thick coils pulled back to the top of the head and tied loosely in a 7. Such a knot was probably affixed to this head using three large holes that remain in the 8.

(Adapted from www.metmuseum.org)



Title: Marble head of a goddess
Medium: Marble
Culture: Greek
Period: Late Classical
Date: 4th century BC
Dimensions: H. 21 3/4 in. (55.25 cm)
Classification: Stone Sculpture
Credit: Line Rogers Fund, 1910
Accession Number: 10.142.1

- 4 Write a description of this perfume bottle using the notes below. Then make an oral presentation to the class.

Title: Glass perfume bottle

Medium/Technique: Glass; blown, trailed (i.e. with zigzag trails), and marvered (i.e. rolled and shake on a hard, flat surface of stone, wood, or metal)

Culture: Roman. **Period:** Early Imperial

Date: Early to mid-1st century AD

Dimensions: H. 6.07 cm. **Classification:** Glass

Credit Line: The Cesnola Collection, Purchased by subscription, 1874–76

Accession Number: 74.51.195

(Adapted from www.metmuseum.org)



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