



The British Museum

Task A

Look at the objects. Discuss these questions in groups.

- Where can you see objects like these?
- What do you think these objects are?

Task B

Match the words to the definitions

Word	Definition
1. statue	A. someone who travels to places where no one has ever been in order to find out what is there
2. ceremony	B. in the past, a large flat object made of metal or leather that soldiers held in front of their bodies to protect themselves
3. kingdom	C. a small, metal object that is shot from a gun
4. shield	D. an object made from a hard material, especially stone or metal, to look like a person or animal
5. bullet	E. the money that is used in a particular country at a particular time
6. explorer	F. a game played by two people on a square board, in which each player has 16 pieces that can be moved on the board in different ways
7. currency	G. (a set of) formal acts, often fixed and traditional, performed on important social or religious occasions
8. chess	H. a country ruled by a king or queen

Definitions are sourced from: <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/learner-english/>

Task C

Three students write about their experiences of visiting the British Museum. Read the text. Which objects from Task A are they writing about?

The British Museum

John Ho

I really enjoyed my trip to the Museum. It was my first time. I'll definitely go back with my daughters. I think they'll find it very interesting. I'll show them my favourite objects: the Hoa Hakananai'a Easter Island Statue and the Statue of Ramesses II. I think they're two of the biggest statues in the Museum. Hoa Hakananai'a is a Polynesian stone statue of a person. He's got the strangest face. I love the way he looks down at people. People think they used statues like Hoa Hakananai'a for a religious ceremony. Ramesses II is from Egypt and he was the ruler of the country for 67 years. He definitely looks like the most powerful man in the kingdom. It's amazing how they brought such a heavy thing to this country.

Yusuf Bolat

We saw a lot of interesting things at the Museum. It's such a great place for people to learn about the past. My favourite objects were the Olduvai handaxe and the Australian bark shield. The handaxe is 1.2 million years old; it's one of the oldest objects in the museum. I like looking at it and thinking about our ancestors cutting meat and making things from wood all those years ago. It was probably the most useful thing that people had then. The shield is not the prettiest object in the Museum but I like it because it tells an interesting story. There's a small hole in it; people think it's a bullet hole. The person who made it was probably on the famous British explorer Captain James Cook's ship when they went to Australia in 1770. Imagine that!

Abebe Tesfaye

I enjoyed looking at the coins called 'pieces of eight' from Spain. I read that they were the most reliable and therefore the best currency in the world at the time. I've always been interested in the history of money. I've got a box full of coins from different countries in my flat. I sometimes add to it when my friends send me examples from other countries. But the most exciting thing for me was seeing the Lewis chessmen. My favourite hobby is playing chess. I play with my friends everyday, so seeing these little figures from more than a thousand years ago was amazing. It's great to think of people playing and enjoying the game so long ago, just like I'm doing now. The fact that people discovered this Norwegian chess set in Scotland makes it even more amazing.

Task D

Look at the text again. Answer these questions.

1. What is the text?
 - A an article in a college magazine
 - B an information leaflet for tourists
 - C an advertisement for the Museum

2. Who says the Museum is a good place for studying history?
 - A John
 - B Yusuf
 - C Abebe

3. Who writes about what he does in his free time?
 - A John
 - B Yusuf
 - C Abebe

4. Who says he will return to the Museum with his family?
 - A John
 - B Yusuf
 - C Abebe

5. What does John like about Hoa Hakananai'a?
6. Look at Yusuf's text. What did people use the Olduvai handaxe for?
7. What does Abebe collect at home?
8. What does **it** mean in Yusuf's text?
 - A the shield
 - B the story
 - C the bullet hole

Task E

What are the superlative forms of the adjectives in the table? Look at the texts in Task B to help you.

adjective	comparative	superlative
<i>big</i>	<i>bigger</i>	1. (John's text)
<i>strange</i>	<i>stranger</i>	2. (John's text)
<i>powerful</i>	<i>more powerful</i>	3. (John's text)
<i>old</i>	<i>older</i>	4. (Yusuf's text)
<i>useful</i>	<i>more useful</i>	5. (Yusuf's text)
<i>pretty</i>	<i>prettier</i>	6. (Yusuf's text)
<i>reliable</i>	<i>more reliable</i>	7. (Abebe's text)
<i>good</i>	<i>better</i>	8. (Abebe's text)
<i>exciting</i>	<i>more exciting</i>	9. (Abebe's text)

What are the rules for making superlative adjectives?

Task F

- Would you like to visit the British Museum to see the objects in Task A?
- Which object is the most/least interesting for you? Why?
- Discuss in groups.

Extension / Homework

- Find out more about one of the objects in Task A or any other object that interests you in the British Museum.
- Prepare a presentation on it and then give your presentation to the class.

When you are finding information about your object, answer these questions:

1. What is the object called?
2. Where does the object come from?
3. How old is the object?
4. How did people use the object?
5. Who brought the object to the Museum?
6. Why is the object interesting for you?