

The History of Museums



Vocabulary based on the [TED-Ed video](#) about the history of museums.

Exercise 1: Match the words to their definition. The words are grouped in sets of five:

	A		
1.	Temple	a.	an object, such as a tool, that was made in the past = τεχνούργημα, χειροποίητο αντικείμενο
2.	Curator	b.	a building used for the worship of a god or gods in some religions = ο ναός
3.	Artifact	c.	the art of creating objects out of material such as wood, clay, metal, or stone, or a work of art of this type = γλυπτική
4.	Sculpture	d.	the past, esp. before the Middle Ages (= before the sixth century), or something of great age = Αρχαιότητα; relics and monuments of ancient times = κειμήλια της αρχαιότητας
5.	Antiquity; antiquities	e.	A person in charge of a museum = έφορος μουσείου
	B		
6.	Ingenuity	f.	someone's ability to think of clever new ways of doing something = ευφυΐα
7.	Evolution	g.	an individual, item, or part considered typical of a group, class, or whole = δείγμα
8.	Menagerie	h.	the way in which living things change and develop over millions of years = εξέλιξη
9.	Specimen	i.	an object from the past, esp. one that has no modern use but is often valued for its meaning or importance in history = κειμήλιο, αντίκα
10.	Relic	j.	a collection of wild animals that are kept privately or to show to the public = θηριοτροφείο

	C		
11.	Spoils of war	k.	able to be reached or easily got = προσβάσιμο
12.	Cabinet	l.	goods, advantages, or profits obtained by winning a war or being in a particular position or situation = λάφυρα πολέμου
13.	Accessible	m.	a thing, person, animal, or event that is extremely unusual or unlikely, and not like any other of its type = τέρας, φρικιό, έκτρωμα
14.	Freak	n.	a piece of furniture with shelves, cupboards, or drawers, used for storing or showing things = ντουλάπι, ερμάριο
15.	To preserve	o.	to keep something as it is, especially in order to prevent it from decaying or being damaged or destroyed

Exercise 2: Complete the gaps with one of the words above, in the correct form.

16. In Ancient Greece, people built _____ to worship their gods.
The Parthenon is one of the most famous. (A)
17. The museum of Acropolis is full of treasures from the ancient town of Athena. However, works of Greek art exist everywhere and the artistry of the Greek artists in _____ can also be admired in the statue of *Nike of Samothrace*, which is exhibited in the Louvre. (A)
18. I really enjoy museums which exhibit every day tools and _____ because I like seeing how people lived in the past. (A)
19. Taking something traditional and presenting it in a different, more modern way takes _____. (B)
20. Museums will pay large amounts of money for good dinosaur fossil _____. (B)
21. It is important that museums are _____ to people with mobility problems. (C)
22. _____ have a responsibility to _____ the work of arts that are housed in the museums they are responsible for. (A,C)
23. "Barnum's American Theatre" housed a _____ with strange and exotic animals and advertised _____ shows, like "the Bearded Lady" or "the Siamese Twins". (B, C)

Watch the video and choose the correct option.

1.	People asked from the ancient Greek deities, the Muses, to give them ...			
a.	objects of art	b.	a forward way of thinking	c. fame
2.	The first curator in history was			
a.	of noble birth	b.	a collector of Greek antiquities	c. interested in hosting parties.
3.	Curiosity cabinets were ...			
a.	a collection of objects which were thought to be interesting, rare or strange.	b.	where the wealthy kept their valuable items.	c. filled with books, such as encyclopedias.
4.	The collections of the 17th century ...			
a.	were openly shown to the public.	b.	were never shown to people; their owners kept them for themselves.	c. were kept in the homes of their collectors.
5.	Museums, today,			
a.	act as scientific and exhibition centres.	b.	do not differ much in purpose to museums in the past.	c. are private businesses which aim to profit.