

The Victoria and Albert Museum



The Victoria and Albert Museum was set up in 1852.
It moved to South Kensington in 1858.

In 1899, the Queen of England was called Victoria.
Her husband was called Albert.

The government decided to give the museum their names.

The V&A is very big.

It has 11 kilometres of galleries and 4 million objects from different countries.

Yes or No?

1. The museum was started in 1858.
2. Victoria was Queen of England in 1899.
3. The V&A is small.
4. The V&A has a lot of objects.



Now discuss these questions with another student:

- Have you visited a museum before?
- Where?
- What did you see?
- Did you like it?



The Victoria and Albert Museum



The V&A is the national museum of art and design. It was started by the British government in 1852, after the Great Exhibition of 1851. The government wanted to teach designers, manufacturers and the public about good design. In 1858 the museum moved to South Kensington. In 1899 it was renamed the Victoria and Albert Museum, in honour of the Queen and her husband.

The V&A is several buildings linked together. The main building is in Cromwell Road, and it has figures of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert over the entrance. It was opened in 1909. The buildings behind it are older.

The V&A has almost 7 miles (11 kilometres) of galleries and 4 million objects from Europe, Asia and the Islamic world.



Yes or No?

1. The Museum was started in 1858.
2. The V&A is in South Kensington now.
3. Victoria was Queen of England in 1899.
4. The V&A building is new.
5. The V&A building is small.
6. The V&A has a lot of objects, from many different countries.

Now discuss these questions with another student:

- Do you have museums in your country?
- Have you visited any museums before?
- What did you see in the museum?
- Did you enjoy that visit?
- What did you enjoy?

The Great Exhibition

The Great Exhibition was in 1851, in London.

A special building was made for the exhibition. It was made of glass, and it was called the **Crystal Palace**.



Great Exhibition, Dickinson Bros. Litho Print, 1854, Museum no. 19536:11

There were beautiful exhibits from all over the world. Many of them are now in the **V&A**.

Over 6,000,000 people came to see the exhibition.

Yes or no?

1. The Great Exhibition was in London.
2. It was in glass building.
3. The exhibits were only from England.
4. A lot of people came to the exhibition.

The Great Exhibition



Great Exhibition, Dickinson Bros. Litho Print, 1854, Museum no. 19536:11

The Great Exhibition took place in London's Hyde Park in 1851, between May and October. A lot of exhibits from the Great Exhibition are now in the V&A.

A special building was built for the exhibition. It was made of glass and it was called the Crystal Palace. More than six million visitors came to see the exhibition in the Crystal Palace, with its plants and fountains.

There were thousands of exhibits of beautiful craft work from all over the world. There were also machines showing how things were made. Medals were given for the most skilled work. The Indian exhibits were particularly praised for their design; "a synthesis of utility and beauty." (Richard Redgrave 1852).



Can you answer these questions about the Great Exhibition?:

1. When was the Great Exhibition?
2. Where was it?
3. How many people visited the Exhibition?
4. Why was the Exhibition building called the Crystal Palace?
5. What could visitors see at the Exhibition?