



BOULEVARD

TIMELINE: BRITISH MUSEUM OBJECTS

Pre-History-1200 BC

During this enormous span of time, the first human societies appeared, nomadic hunter-gatherers began to settle into small farming communities, and stone and wood tools enabled organized agriculture. Distinct cultures emerged in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and eventually Europe and the Americas, as large-scale migrations spread over the globe. The harnessing of bronze led to the increasing specialization of weaponry, crafts, and trades. Mathematics and written language evolved to meet the demands of societies' ever-expanding activities.

Stone chopping tool, c. 1.8 - 2.0 million years old

Red deer antler headdress, c. 8000 BC

The Royal Game of Ur, 2600 - 2400 BC

Jade Cong, 2500 BC

Mold Gold Cape, c. 1900 - 1600 BC

Nebamun Hunting In The Marshes, Nebamun's tomb-chapel, c. 1350 BC

Book of the Dead of Nahkt: Worshipping Osiris, New Kingdom, c. 1336 - 1294 BC

Mummy of Katebet, c. 1300 - 1280 BC

Bust of Ramesses II, c. 1250 BC

1200 BC-0

This period was marked by the growth of several sophisticated civilizations around the globe. Egypt, Mesopotamia, and parts of the Mediterranean were an arena of especially intense competition for power. Egyptian dynastic rule slowly declined. The Achaemenids overturned Assyrian dominance, then engaged in long and disastrous battle with the Greeks. Hellenic culture was further propagated by Alexander the Great's vast conquests, including the Persian Empire and Egypt. In the end, however, these territories were subsumed within the expanding Roman Empire.

Human-headed Winged Bull, North West Palace of king Ashurnasirpal II, 883 - 859 BC

Sphinx of Taharqa, c. 680 BC

Lion Hunt Relief, North Palace of king Ashurbanipal, 668 - c. 631/30 BC

Flood Tablet, 7th century BC
Oxus Chariot, 5th - 4th century BC
Bronze Mirror, c. 480 BC
Parthenon Sculptures, East Pediment, c. 438 - 432 BC
Alexander Coin, c. 325 - 323 BC
Rosetta Stone, c. 196 BC

0-500 AD

The tumultuous trajectory of the Roman Empire is the hallmark of this period. The expansion of the empire across Europe eventually culminated in the dramatic fall of Rome and its Western territories at the hands of Northern invaders. However, Byzantium, the Eastern outpost of the Roman Empire, survived and became the most powerful economic, cultural, and military force in Europe for the next several centuries. Emperor Constantine's conversion in 312 AD paved the way for the rise of Christianity.

Portland Vase, c. 1 - 25 AD
Jennings Dog, 2nd century AD
Neck collar, c. 100 - 200 AD
Head of Hadrian, 117 - 138 AD
Lycurgus Cup, 4th century AD
Hinton St. Mary Mosaic, mid-4th century AD
Stone Yoke/Mexican Ballgame Belt, c. 300 - 1200 AD
Casket, c. 420 - 430 AD

500-1500 AD

This period witnessed immense religious and political shifts, including the founding of Islam, the unification of much of Western Europe under Charlemagne, and the rise of the powerful and culturally-rich Ottoman Empire. The Ming Dynasty and Incan Empires also reached a peak of influence and achievement. While enduring devastating events such as the Black Plague, the period also saw great advances, like the invention of the printing press, resulting in a universal rise in literacy.

Sutton Hoo Helmet, early 7th century AD
Tang Tomb Figures, c. 728 AD
Human Head Pendant, 9th - 10th century AD
The Lewis Chessmen, c. 1150 - 1175 AD
Korean Sutra Box, 13th century AD
Sloane Astrolabe, c. 1300 AD
Gold Llama, 14th - 15th century AD
Cloisonné Jar, c. 1426 - 1435 AD

1500 -1800 AD

A time of global exploration and colonialization, religious reformation, scientific invention, and political struggle, this period laid the foundations for our modern global society. Sparked by a renewed interest in Classical humanist values, Europe experienced a cultural Renaissance. Protestantism changed the face of Christianity. European nations warred with one another and France and America underwent political revolutions. Grand projects, such as the Sistine Chapel and the Taj Mahal, demonstrate the artistic ambitions of the age.

Albrecht Dürer, *Rhinoceros (Rhinoceros)*, c. 1515 AD

Tughra of Suleyman the Magnificent, c. 1520 - 66 AD

Mexican Codex Map, 16th century AD

Mechanical Galleon, c. 1585 AD

A'a - a deity from Polynesia, 16th - 17th century AD

Kava Bowl, 18th century AD (before 1778)

Factory of Josiah Wedgwood, *Cameo*, c. 1790 AD

1800-2016 AD

The modern era is characterized by vast social and political shifts. It has witnessed the formation of the modern nation state, the abolition of slavery in the West, the industrial revolution and a growing dependence upon technology, two world wars, the birth of Communism, and an increasingly global economy. This age has also experienced unforgettable events, like the first moon landing, and produced several influential figures, such as Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, and Mahatma Ghandi, who have shaped our contemporary perspectives.

Wayang klitik puppet, late 1700s to early 1800s AD

Ocean navigation chart, 19th - 20th century AD

Russian Playing Cards, late 19th century

Workshop of Oomersee Majed, *Teapot*, c. 1900 AD

Grayson Perry, *Map of an Englishman*, 2004 AD

Grayson Perry, *The Rosetta Vase*, 2011 AD

Susan Wraight, 'Sentinel', *Netsuke*, 2016 AD