

The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia

21st Dec 2013

to

25th Feb 2014

This exhibition is organized by
The British Museum and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya
in partnership with
Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Sir Ratan Tata Trust and Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

THE CYRUS CYLINDER AND ANCIENT PERSIA :

Teacher's Guide to the Exhibition

Plan your Visit to - The Cyrus Cylinder and Ancient Persia: A New Beginning from the British Museum Collection displayed at the CSMVS

The Museum is an extensive building full of amazing things. We know it can seem large and confusing at first, but hope these tips will make the Museum a favorite destination for you and the children in your life.

Exhibitions as communicative media

Museum exhibitions are products of research, organized and designed to convey ideas. Each gallery in the museum has an exhibition that communicates, must educate and excite the mind and the senses; when communication is optimal it creates an affect among spectators and audiences.

Exhibitions generally utilize the same basic elements to tell the stories: they employ objects either made and used by human beings or drawn from the natural world; they require texts, most often in the form of label, wall panels, headlines and banners; and they incorporate other graphic elements, such as photographs, maps, charts and drawings.

Please remember

Remind everyone about Museum behaviour

- Do not touch works of art; oil and dirt from your hands, damages the art.
- Always walk, don't run.
- Please enjoy food and beverages in the dining areas only.
- Children under 14 must always be accompanied by an adult.
- And remember, security guards protect you and the art; please respect their requests.

Tips for Teachers

Explore the galleries alongside your children to discover art that you are BOTH drawn to. Let your children's interests guide you.

Take your time and LOOK CLOSELY at just a few things during your visit. Don't feel like you have to see the entire Museum in just one day.

Looking closely

Labels are typically written for adult visitors, so it's a good idea for adults to read labels to themselves and then provide kids with a few fun facts that they can relate to.

Ask open-ended questions about the art to inspire children to talk about what they see and encourage discovery.

- How does this work of art make you feel? Why?

Repeat or paraphrase what children say. Let them know that people can experience the same work of art in many different ways.

You might follow a statement like this with "What do you see that makes you say that?" Each child sees art in his or her own way. Validating your children's opinions fosters confidence in looking at art.

After Your Visit

ON YOUR WAY HOME discuss your visit. What was your favorite object or gallery and why? What was your child's favorite work of art and why? Talk about what to see and do during your next visit.

CREATE A WORK OF ART at home. Children and adults alike, sketch a favorite object, create a sculpture using found objects or clay, or build a collage with pictures from magazines or pamphlets from your visit.

Identify questions that you would like to ask the students depending on the age group and class level you are handling.

Discuss what students have seen. Use this discussion to give basic information about the Exhibition on Cyrus Cylinder.

What have historians learned about the Achaemenian society?

What can we learn from studying the various types of coins?

What are some of the challenges faced by historians who study the ancient scripts?

Topics have been identified with the following class levels

ICSE – History and Civics Classes 6, 9 and 10

CBSE – History and Civics Class 6, 10

SSC – History and Civics Class – 6 - 9

References

Content contained in these teachers notes are sourced from the following locations;

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- Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas, Romila Thapar, Oxford University Press. 1961
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