

# Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery ESOL Resources

## Background information for teachers

### Introduction

Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery is the largest local authority museum service in England. We deliver our service across seven sites in the City:

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Blakesley Hall, Soho House, Aston Hall, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Sarehole Mill and Weoley Castle.

The Museum's mission is:

**“To make our collections, buildings and services accessible for the inspiration, learning and enjoyment of ALL.”**

The ESOL Resources Project works towards this mission by:

- creating opportunities for life long learning and the building of new skills
- providing a welcoming introduction to the Museum for first-time visitors
- providing an insight into local history and culture
- increasing confidence in using the Museum as a leisure and social facility
- creating partnerships with adult education providers.

## How to use the resources

These resources have been developed to use in conjunction with a visit to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BM&AG).

### Who are the resources for?

The resources will benefit adult learners on ESOL courses but are primarily for adult asylum seekers and refugees studying at national ESOL levels Entry 1, 2 and 3.

### Topic and context

Learners should understand that the visit is an integral part of their language learning. It is an opportunity to extend their learning in a safe environment outside the classroom, in the context of stimulating and exciting objects.

### Scheme of work

When including the visit in the scheme of work, many of the component skills from the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum can be covered. The visit and the worksheets provide opportunities for practising all five language skills.

Extending **listening** and **reading** skills: learners will be able to listen to information being given on a variety of topics.

**Speaking** skills: learners can extend their speaking skills with sympathetic listeners through asking questions and discussion with Museum visitor assistants, the ESOL teacher and one another.

The worksheets provide structured **writing** practice.

Learners will extend their **study** skills during the visit itself and with the aid of the post-visit worksheets.

### Role of the class teacher

The success of the visit will to a great extent depend on how the visit is integrated into the learners' classroom work. To facilitate this process **pre-visit activities**, to prepare learners for the visit, and **follow-up activities** have been included in addition to activities for **the visit** itself.

## The worksheets

The number of worksheets selected to work on will vary depending on time constraints and the interests of the different groups of learners. It is not envisaged that all the worksheets will be used for every group. Taking guidance from ESOL teachers, the worksheets are divided into different levels: one for learners operating at the lower end of Entry Level and one for learners operating at the higher end of Entry Level. In some cases worksheets can be used for both levels, in which case they are included towards the end of both packs as mixed level worksheets. In addition, there are some worksheets with extension activities.

The resources for both Higher and Lower Entry Levels are subdivided into:

- Pre-visit
- Visit
- Post-visit

This has been done to assist teachers in planning learner activities.

It is important to bear in mind that the division of the pack is to give tutors a **broad** indication of the levels. It is also important to remember that learners have spiky profiles. This means that a learner may be able to complete a higher level worksheet for reading and listening for example, but may need to work on a lower level worksheet for writing.

Worksheets and activities for the two levels are included for the following galleries at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery:

### **The Round Room**

A selection of Victorian paintings

### **Gallery 12/13**

How Art is Made

### **Gallery 21**

Late 19th/early 20th Century Art

### **Gallery 22**

18th Century Art

### **Gallery 24**

17th Century Art

### **Industrial Gallery**

Applied Art including ceramics and glassware

There is also a worksheet for learners to use to evaluate their visit, please encourage learners to complete it.

The aim of the worksheets is to provide a focus for looking at individual items in some detail as the vast number of exhibits in the Museum & Art Gallery can be overwhelming. In addition the worksheets are aimed at encouraging the use and understanding of language in a new context. Finally, it is hoped the worksheets together with the whole experience of the visit, will encourage learners to pay repeat visits to the Museum & Art Gallery possibly with friends or family members. It can be stressed to the learners that entrance to Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery as well as the community museums is free.

## BM&AG Background information for teachers

Activities on the worksheets include:

- Matching words and pictures
- Drawing
- Comprehension questions
- Yes/no statements
- Finding objects

All the worksheets can be downloaded from our website: [www.bmag.org.uk/esol](http://www.bmag.org.uk/esol)

### Using the worksheets

Learners may need help understanding the activities and language on the worksheets. They may also need support in finding the paintings/objects in the galleries.

Students could work in pairs, small groups or individually to complete the worksheets.

Time will need to be allowed for learners to compare and discuss answers with each other and the teacher.

It is good practice to use a variety of teaching resources and for that reason flashcard activities and audio materials have been included. A copy of the audio transcripts are included. In addition, some of the worksheets encourage the development of ICT skills.

### Worksheet reference system

**Entry Level**

H = Higher

L = Lower

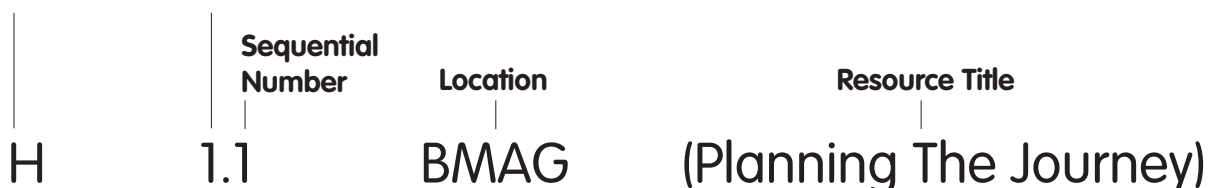
M = Mixed

**Resource Type**

1 = Pre-visit

2 = Visit

3 = Post-visit



## The visit

Teachers will need to prebook the Museum & Art Gallery visit by contacting:

Lorna Harris, Administrator,  
Learning and Outreach Team  
Telephone: 0121 303 3890

### Opening times

Monday to Thursday	10.00am–5.00pm
Friday	10.30am–5.00pm
Saturday	10.00am–5.00pm
Sunday	12.30pm–5.00pm

A member of the museum staff will greet the group on arrival, the visit itself however, will be self facilitated.

**Teachers will need to bring copies of the resources they plan to use,** clipboards will be provided.

### Museum address and contact details

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery  
Chamberlain Square  
Birmingham  
B3 3DH

## Activities after the visit

According to the learners' level, these could include:

- Writing a 'thank you' letter to Lorna Harris (address as before).
- Researching particular paintings/ objects/artists in more detail using the internet if possible.
- Giving short presentations about their visit and debating whether museums should be free or not.

# Vocabulary for the Museum & Art Gallery visit

Learners may not have enough language/ vocabulary to read all the information given about exhibits in the Museum & Art Gallery. The visit will be a good opportunity to extend learners' vocabulary to include words that are not so common in every day use. In addition, the visit and the worksheets will be an opportunity for learners to consolidate existing vocabulary, for example words relating to colour, shapes and materials.

## General museum vocabulary

This includes words such as **gallery, display case, object, exhibit, label, painting**.

Activities to teach the vocabulary could include:

- Learners matching words on flashcards
- Learners labelling the picture
- Using a photograph of a gallery to teach new vocabulary.

## Vocabulary relating to paintings and objects

Depending on learners' oral and literacy levels, activities to help learners understand the meaning of individual words relating to paintings could include:

- The teacher teaching/eliciting new vocabulary relating to the paintings/ objects.

## Oral practice

Activities in pairs or whole group:

- Questions requiring yes/no answers.
- True/false statements about the paintings/objects.
- Literacy work.
- Learners match words to objects.
- Learners build their own dictionary of new vocabulary using pictures or their first language.
- Learners write a description of the paintings/objects and other learners match with the photographs.