

WRITTEN BY
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LOCKED

IN THE

MUSEUM

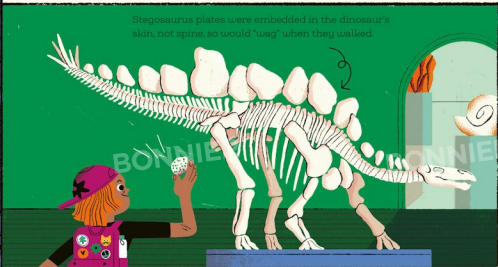
WITH SIX
PANORAMIC
FOLD-OUT
GALLERIES TO
DISCOVER

COVER NOT
FINAL

... THE MOST MARVELLOUS MISTAKE



Fifteen, siiiiiixteen, se-ve-nteeeee. There are seventeen plates on a stegosaurus. That settles it then, you can tell Liam at school tomorrow that he was **WRONG**, and that clearly his brain is no bigger than a stegosaurus, which as it happens had a brain the size of a lime. You're still the undisputed champion of dinosaur facts.



Stegosaurus plates were embedded in the dinosaur's skin, not spine, so would "wig" when they walked.

As you look for the exit, you notice you've got the Dinosaur Gallery all to yourself.

In fact, it's eerily quiet in the corridor too.

Then, just as you reach the gift shop, the lights go out.

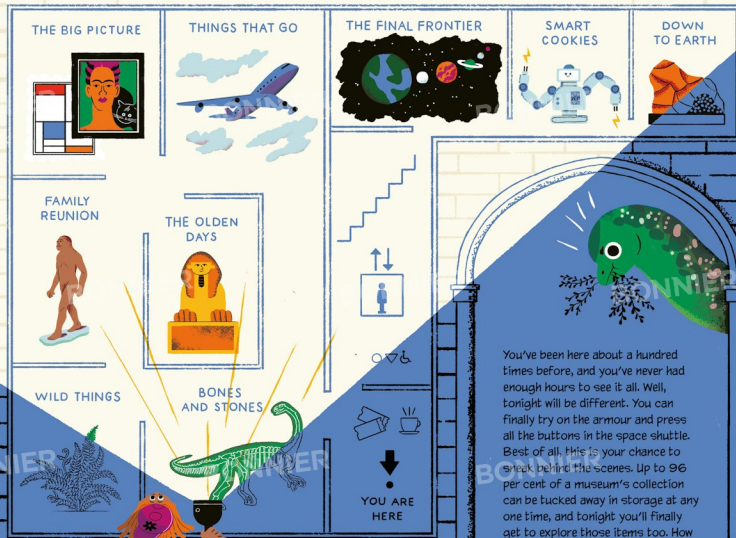


Uh oh, you were so distracted by the dinosaurs, you must have missed the announcement for closing time, and now... **YOU'RE LOCKED IN THE MUSEUM!**



All alone in the museum, eh? No queues. No shushing when you're too loud. Just you and the greatest treasures ever found on the planet.

This is going to be **THE BEST NIGHT EVER!**



You've been here about a hundred times before, and you've never had enough hours to see it all. Well, tonight will be different. You can finally try on the armour and press all the buttons in the space shuttle. Best of all, this is your chance to sneak behind the scenes. Up to 96 per cent of a museum's collection can be tucked away in storage at any one time, and tonight you'll finally get to explore those items too. How much can you pack in before the sun rises and the guard's keys jangle in the door? It's time to find out.



Armed with a map and torch, you gallop across the polished marble floor, making a beeline back to the Dinosaur Gallery.



BONES AND STONES

THE DINOSAUR FOSSIL GALLERY

Hmm, that's odd, it looks fuller in here than it did a minute ago. It's as though the room has somehow gained a million more bones, which might have a little something to do with this guy. Craning your neck, up, up, up, you take in a replica cast of the mighty titanosaur (Patagotitan mayorum) - the world's biggest dinosaur. It's so big, it almost doesn't fit inside the museum.

The big BOOM!

Dinosaurs are prehistoric reptiles that ruled Earth for 180 million years before going extinct 66 million years ago in a sudden, disastrous event that scientists still can't agree on. Was it an asteroid, or a volcanic eruption? Perhaps it was both in one catastrophic BOOM! Either way, the world around the dinosaurs would have changed incredibly fast - too quickly for them to adapt and survive. Good thing too, imagine meeting one on the school run?

At 37-metres long, titanosaur is twice as long as a car transporter!

Almost 100 million years ago this giant roamed the forests of Argentina in South America. A relative of diplodocus, she would have chomped through the equivalent of 516 round lettuces in vegetation each day.

Everywhere you look there are bones and fossils with one type dominating them all ... dinosaurs.

Forming fossils

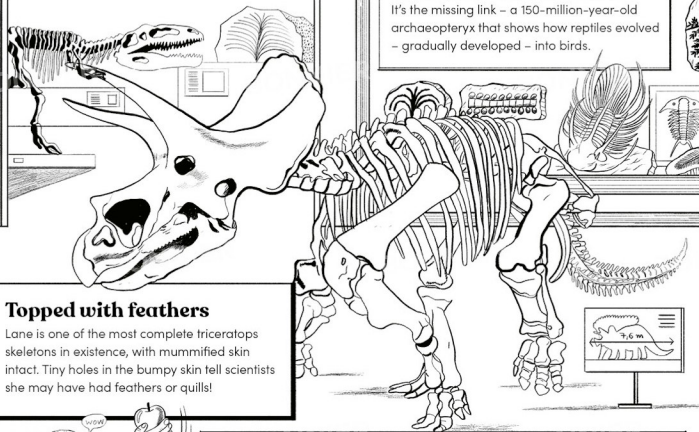
Today, palaeontologists are dinosaur detectives, piecing together the story of their time on Earth by digging up fossils. Most fossils are created when layers of sand or mud settle on top of a living thing that has died, but before it can rot or get gobbled up by something else. The soft parts of the body break down and the hard parts, like the skeleton, are left behind; slowly buried and compacted until they turn into rock. Other times footprints, eggshells and even poo are fossilised - clues to what the living thing did when it was alive.

In a little over 300 years, nearly 11,000 dinosaur fossils have been discovered, helping palaeontologists to name around 700 species. And then there are all manner of other fascinating fossils from across the animal kingdom.

You stomp into the next room to see them all.

FRIGHTFUL FOSSILS

The room is packed with fascinating fossils that bring the past to life – from dinosaurs and their petrified poos to mammoths and marine monsters!



Topped with feathers

Lane is one of the most complete triceratops skeletons in existence, with mummified skin intact. Tiny holes in the bumpy skin tell scientists she may have had feathers or quills!



You are what you eat!

At 67 centimetres long, Barnum is the world's biggest coprolite (pronounced ko-pruh-life) – fossilised poo. Coprolites help palaeontologists better understand a dinosaur's diet. Barnum is full of bones as it once belonged to a meat eater known as a T. Rex, proving this species ate every part of its prey.

The world's first bird

At first glance this might look like a fossilised bird, except it has teeth and clawed hands. It's the missing link – a 150-million-year-old archaeopteryx that shows how reptiles evolved – gradually developed – into birds.

Worm from the deep

Hallucigenia sparsa (pronounced hal-oo-suh-gen-ee-ah) is a 500-million-year-old marine worm. It had 10 clawed legs, curved spines that would have been its back, and what we previously thought was its bum was now known to be a mouth lined with backwards-facing spiny teeth.

Meet Beelzebub – a huge African frog with armoured skin and the biteforce of a lion – making him strong enough to eat baby dinosaurs!

The shark-like helioprion (pronounced hel-ee-cope-ree-on) from 270 million years ago had a spiral-shaped jaw, earning it the nickname "buzzsaw" shark.

A near-complete skeleton of a 13,000-year-old mastodon, the ancestor of today's elephants, unearthed by an American couple while digging their backyard pond.

A small caribourous dinosaur called Sinosauroptryx is the first ever discovered with preserved feathers.

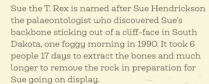
Megaloceros, an extinct giant Irish elk.

Suddenly, there's a monstrous rumbling next-door that makes the bones shake and your knees knock. Before your brain can tell your feet to stop, they've carried you through the door bringing your face to face with ...

A TOOTHY T-REX

High up on a mobile platform, an archaeologist is cautiously vacuuming the brown bones of a T-Rex, who's purring like a giant contented cat.

"Twice a year we like to blow the dust off of Sue," he smiles. "It's delicate work, we wouldn't want to . . . upset her."



Sue the T. Rex is named after Sue Hendrickson the palaeontologist who discovered Sue's backbone sticking out of a cliff-face in South Dakota, one foggy morning in 1990. It took 6 people 17 days to extract the bones and much longer to remove the rock in preparation for Sue going on display.

Hang on a minute . . . did Sue just . . . smile at you?

Sue the T. Rex is kind of a big deal – one of the most famous fossils in the world! She's one of only 30 or so T. Rex skeletons ever discovered, and is not only the oldest and largest, but the most complete. About 90 per cent of Sue's 380 bones are accounted for, including most of her enormous, serrated teeth – some as big as bananas.

"Want to have a go?" the palaeontologist says, handing you a feather duster. "This is good for getting into all those fiddly spots without causing any cracks."

You cautiously dust along Sue's jawbone. Is it just you, or are her eyes following you?

You then reluctantly dust between Sue's teeth. Pooees, 65-million-year-old bad breath is the worst.

And as you lean in closer to dust Sue's nostrils . . .

"Aaaaaaaaachoo!"

she roars, blasting you onto your bottom.

It seems Sue was very dusty.

THE NATURE GALLERY

...Henry the African elephant. At 4 metres tall, Henry towers above you, with his trunk held high, letting out another blast. All around you dead creatures slowly twitch back to life. Welcome to the nature gallery – a celebration of Earth's biodiversity.

Animal close encounters

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, explorers collected exotic animals from far flung corners of the world for scientific study, and to put on display in museums to the amazement of people at home. It was a chance for a 'close encounter' with an exotic animal. One way to preserve these animals was through the art of taxidermy, which is still practised today.

An animal's skin, muscles and organs are removed, and it's placed in a tank with Dermestid beetles. The beetles get to work laying eggs on the animal's body. As the larvae hatch, they eat the animal's soft tissue, cleaning the skeleton in as little as a week. Once the animal's skin has dried out, it's stretched and shaped over a wire frame to create a lifelike display.

Dermestid beetle larvae are bigger than the adult beetles. And when they grow up, they no longer eat flesh – only pollen!

The skin and skulls on taxidermy specimens are usually real, but reptiles and fish may be repainted and varnished, and lips, tongues, and eyes are often made from glass or plaster.

Taxidermy today

Today animals on display in museums often died of old age and were donated by zoos and wildlife parks, although a few, like Henry, originally came to museums because of trophy hunting – when people hunt wild animals for sport. Specimens like Henry would not be accepted by museums today – times have changed. Those already part of museum collections now provide an invaluable reminder of the threat of poaching – the illegal hunting and killing of animals – and how we must work together to conserve threatened species. Find out more on page

A Japanese spider crab with a leg span of over 5 metres.

A giant clam that once held the world's largest pearl!

Not a sabre-toothed cat but a Smilodon populator. More closely related to a lion, though twice as large!

Henry swings his trunk, and, as you duck out the way, you spot a line of flesh-eating beetles scuttling through the door...

THE NATURE GALLERY

The room is packed with fascinating fossils that bring the past to life – from dinosaurs and their petrified poos to mammoths and marine monsters!

Big bird

Only two full dodo skeletons exist in the world, helping scientists create 3D models to understand how this extinct species evolved. They've found that around 26 million years ago, this pigeon-like bird lived on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. With no natural predators it evolved to grow bigger as its wings became smaller. By the time Dutch sailors arrived in the sixteenth century, dodos were flightless.



Cast away

Lonesome George became the last of his kind when he died in 2012; all the other Pinta Island tortoises had been eaten by humans long ago. It's believed George lived for over 100 years on the Ecuadorian island of Santa Cruz off the west coast of America. He's now there once more reminding visitors to live in harmony with nature.

Famously flawed!

This walrus, originally taken from Hudson Bay in Canada in the early nineteenth century, is famous for being anatomically wrong. It was preserved by a Victorian taxidermist, who had never seen a wild walrus. This one was overstuffed until there wasn't a single wrinkle left on its body!



A living rainforest

The specimens in Universeum, Sweden's national science centre, are truly alive. A hot and humid rainforest is housed inside the museum, providing a home to sloths, birds, toucans, tamarins, a majestic kapok tree and a thunderous waterfall.

Leaf libraries

In some museums plants are dried and pressed in libraries known as herbariums. They provide a record of different species and how they evolve.

The art of mimicry

Collections from the past highlight fascinating species we might otherwise miss in the wild. For instance, this cabinet isn't displaying dried out leaves, they're dead leaf butterflies – a fascinating example of mimicry where a species replicates another to avoid getting eaten!

The thylacine

Known as the Tasmanian Tiger, the thylacine went extinct in 1936, just two months after the Australian government introduced official protection for it.

Dressing fleas

The lost, delicate art of dressing fleas, created by Mexican nuns in the nineteenth century. The fleas were often collected from pets and dressed as musicians, or a bride and groom!

To your horror, you realise something has got you by the leg!
And that something looks an awful lot like...



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WHAT LIES BENEATH

...a tentacle covered in teeth-filled suckers! It pulls you down into the Spirit Room where some 22 million specimens are preserved upside down in jars of alcohol. In the middle of the room is a very long tank. That tank – and that tentacle – belong to

... ARCHIE, the giant squid!

The curator explains that you're stood in a puddle of formal saline, a mix of saltwater and a preserving chemical called formalin that Archie is submerged in. It's fumes are highly explosive and toxic, which is why the tank room is in the basement – the only floor that could support the tank and Archie's enormous 5 tonne weight!

Wandering around the room, you learn that giant squid live up to 600 metres below the ocean's surface in the cold, dark depths. Their eyes are as wide as dinner plates to help them see through the gloom. We only know about these fascinating

Archie has taught scientists that the giant squid's eight arms and two long feeding tentacles are covered in teeth-filled suckers!

Archie was accidentally caught alive in a trawler net off the coast of the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic Ocean in 2004. Weighing over 200 kilograms, she literally broke the scales. It makes her one of the largest and best-preserved giant squid in the world. Each creature is carefully preserved to help scientists better understand how they lived and how we can protect them.

Jars with yellow lids, came from Charles Darwin's five-year voyage on the HMS Beagle in 1831 – they're known as "type specimens" – the original used to describe an entire species!

"Quick, grab the mop!"
the curator calls.
"We've sprung a leak!"

As the curator plugs the leak, you notice all eyes are on the door. The specimens have spotted something you haven't...

THE HUMAN ORIGINS GALLERY

Walking into the room, you come face-to-face with 7 million years of history, from the humblest stone tools to ground-breaking fossils that changed everything we thought we knew about human evolution.

Lucy – the famous fossil

3.9 to 1.4 million years ago

Known as 'Lucy', this female *Australopithecus afarensis* skeleton was found by accident in the Ethiopian desert in 1974, when her forearm was spotted sticking out of a gully as though waving. Lucy's skeleton showed that *Australopithecus* could walk upright, although her long fingers suggested they were better suited to spending time in trees.



Peking Man

400,000 years ago

In the 1920s and 30s, over 200 human bones were discovered in the caves of Dragon Bone Hill, near Beijing in China. They belonged to a previously unknown subspecies of *Homo erectus*, known as Peking Man. When World War II broke out, the fossils were placed in crates and shipped to America never to be seen again. Fortunately, casts were made before the fossils were lost and they were used to create bronze busts.



Homo floresiensis skull

50,000 years ago

At around 1 metre tall, *Homo floresiensis* is an unusually short human species. It made its way, perhaps by boat, to a remote Indonesian island. Each generation became smaller than the last, probably because of limited food on the island.



Neolithic polished stone necklace
60,000 years ago



Nutcracker man

2.3 to 1.2 million years ago

The skull of an early human known as *Paranthropus boisei*. These ancestors used sharp-edged stones to prepare food, a huge evolutionary leap forward that allowed them to eat large animals, such as hippos. *Paranthropus* then evolved to grow strong jawbones to eat these solid foods, earning them the nickname 'nutcracker man'.

Turkana boy

1.8 to 1.3 million years ago

Homo ergaster had a body very similar to ours. Their name translates as 'workman' because of the large stone tools found near their fossils. The fossils of Turkana Boy found in 1984 in Kenya proved *Homo ergaster* could do more than walk... he could run!



Stone Age figures

30,000 years ago

The Venus of Willendorf are some of the oldest works of art ever found, created by the Gravettian hunter-gatherer people, during the late Stone Ages in Europe. These clay, ivory, bone and stone carvings are thought to be self-portraits created by female sculptors.



The fire starts to flicker and that's when you spy snowflakes dancing across the floor in the next room. Pulling your jacket tight, you're transported through time...



A HAIRY SITUATION

... onto the snow-dusted plains of prehistoric Europe, where you're unwittingly stumbled into a dangerous situation - a hunt is underway! A huge, shaggy beast looms before you. It's a woolly rhinoceros - as long as a giraffe is tall, and thankfully it's rather short-sighted, so it hasn't spotted you. Not yet. Quick... HIDE!



Woolly rhinoceroses were fantastically furry and... yellow! Scientists know this, thanks to perfectly preserved remains, complete with fur, unearthed in the frozen grounds of northern Europe and Asia.

The rhino's ears twitch and you suddenly remember you're in a very dangerous position. Although clearly strong and brave, it's unlikely a Neanderthal could take down such large prey on his own. He'd usually call on help from neighbouring men and women. And that's when he silently gestures to you to join the ambush.

It gives you a chance to study him. Neanderthals are our closest human relatives, with their time on Earth overlapping with the arrival of modern humans. Some of us even have two per cent Neanderthal DNA! Neanderthals looked a lot like us too, although they had bigger noses to warm cold air and were a bit shorter and stockier to conserve body heat in the extremely cold climate.

Researchers believe Neanderthals were highly intelligent. They made tools and jewellery out of eagle talons and animal teeth, created beautiful cave wall paintings, and while they probably didn't talk, they cared for their sick and buried their dead.

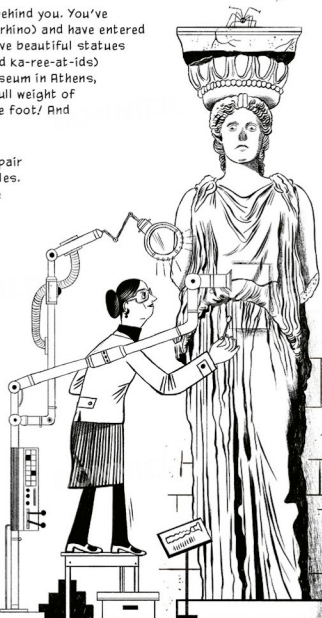
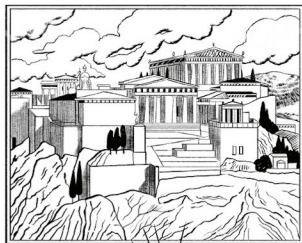
You can't help but let out a scared squeak immediately alerting the rhino to your whereabouts. It replies with an angry snort - it's breath billowing like a cloud around its horned head, and then... it charges!

Your Neanderthal friend safely scrambles up a tree as you dive for safety in the next gallery...

The Ancient Civilisations Gallery

... warm sunshine streams through the window behind you. You've thankfully left behind the Ice Age (and the woolly rhino) and have entered the Golden Age of Greece in around 407 BCE. Five beautiful statues stand before you. They are caryatids (pronounced ka-ree-at-ids) - sculpted female figures from the Acropolis Museum in Athens, Greece. These are sisters who once carried the full weight of a temple on their heads, all while balancing on one foot! And today, they're getting a makeover.

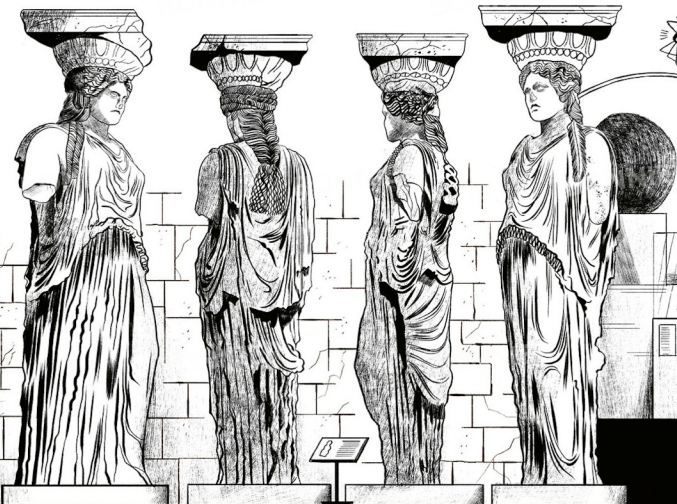
A conservator, whose job it is to preserve and repair priceless objects, hands you a pair of dark goggles. She's using an infrared laser to zap soot off the Caryatids' flowing robes, restoring the sisters' marble from a rusty colour to a dazzling white.



Six Sisters

Six marble sisters once stood as pillars, supporting the porch of the Erechtheion (pronounced ee-rek-tie-un), a temple on the north side of the Acropolis in Athens. Each sister was unique with their own facial expressions and hairstyle. They would have been brightly coloured, holding out jars as offerings to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, warfare and handicraft.

By 1978, centuries of pollution had damaged the caryatids and they were moved to the Acropolis Museum. Today, five sisters gaze through the window and across the city to the ancient Acropolis, where replicas now stand in their place. The sixth sister can be found in the British Museum in London (learn more about her story on page 57).



Acropolis means 'high city'. These hilltop settlements which were used as forts, palaces and places of worship, were a common sight in ancient Greece. The Acropolis in Athens (built 460-430 BCE) is the most famous of them all and included many beautiful temples.

The walls of the next room are lined with rows of drawers and cabinets of curiosities waiting for you to explore.

Anglo Saxon era 410 - 1066 CE -

An Anglo-Saxon king's iron and copper helmet found at Sutton Hoo in England.

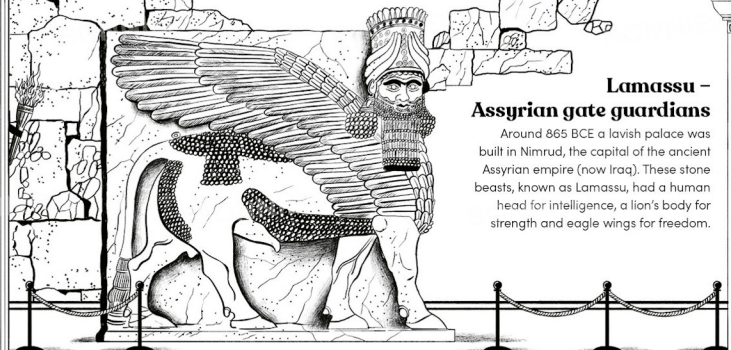
The Nok Empire 1500 BCE to 500 CE -

A terracotta figure from the ancient Nok farming society of West Africa.

The Vikings Age 793-1066 CE

Leuis Chessmen, eleventh Century Viking chess pieces.

This 5,000-year-old carving is possibly the first depiction of a dragon in ancient China.



Lamassu – Assyrian gate guardians

Around 865 BCE a lavish palace was built in Nimrud, the capital of the ancient Assyrian empire (now Iraq). These stone beasts, known as Lamassu, had a human head for intelligence, a lion's body for strength and eagle wings for freedom.



Antique Samurai Armour

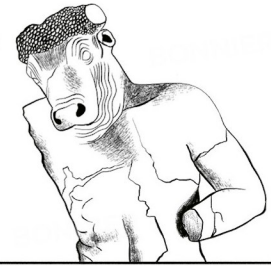
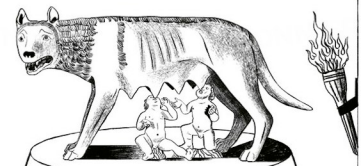
The Samurai were warriors who took control of the military to peacefully rule Japan from 1185 to 1868. They wore armour made from metal pieces connected with silk laces.

The Benin Bronzes – royal palace decorations

In the rainforest of West Africa, in what is Nigeria today, the Edo people of the Benin Empire (1200-1800) built one of the world's first cities. Inside walls four times longer than the Great Wall of China, the king's lavish palace was decorated with statues and plaques now known as the Benin Bronzes (read more on page 57).

The Capitoline Wolf – a legendary Roman sculpture

According to Roman legend, two young boys, Romulus and Remus, were abandoned on the banks of the Tiber River in Italy and a wolf saved them. The boys eventually founded the Roman Empire (625 BCE- 476 CE), the longest lasting empire in recorded history.



Minotaur – statue of a monster

This statue from 450 BCE brings to life the legend of a minotaur – a half-human half-bull monster – that lived in a labyrinth beneath the Minoan Palace of Knossos on the Mediterranean island of Crete.



You hear a loud hammering echoing down the corridor. Frightened, you switch on your torch and bravely step into the Egyptian room...

Stone of the Sun – an elaborate Aztec calendar

With a sun at its centre, the Piedra del sol (Stone of the Sun) was a 260-day calendar that helped the Aztecs (1300-1521 CE) who lived in Mexico to schedule crop planting and harvesting. It may also have been used as a sacrificial platform!

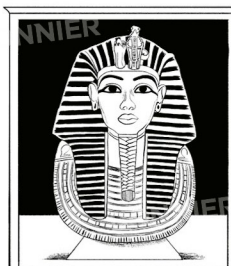


THE UNLUCKY MUMMY

In the darkness of the Ancient Egyptian Room, the Hammering suddenly stops. A deathly silence descends on the room and the temperature seems to plunge.

A woman seems to murmur in the dark.

You spin around, in the direction of the voice, your torch illuminating a glass cabinet containing a beautiful mummy board carved with images of Ancient Egyptian gods and baboons worshipping the sun.



The gold funerary mask of Tutankhamun – Egypt's shortest reigning pharaoh (1332–1323 BCE). It would have been placed inside the young pharaoh's coffin.

Mummy boards are richly decorated wooden covers that were placed over a mummified body inside a wooden coffin. They acted as a portrait of the person inside. Some people claim the mummy board is Amen-Pa, an Ancient Egyptian princess, but her identity remains unknown because the actual mummy was left in Egypt along with the coffin with her name on.

HAVE YOU COME TO GAZE ON THE UNLUCKY MUMMY?

An Egyptologist steps out of the gloom, a scientist who studies ancient Egypt and pieces together the stories of the people who lived during that time. And she's all too happy to tell you the unfortunate stories linked to the Unlucky Mummy from the British Museum in London, UK.

She LOVES scaring tourists, but pay her no mind!

MEOW!

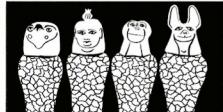
Ancient Egyptians believed cats brought good fortune so they fed them treats and dressed them in jewels. When the owner died, their cats were mummified too so they could join them in the Afterlife – the Egyptian underworld where the dead could live again.

Mummy of misfortune

She says the Mummy Board was bought by an English traveller in the 1860s and is thought to date from 950 BCE. Historical accounts suggest the traveller and his three companions either died or were seriously injured. Their servants who handled it – died. And as for the sister who inherited the mummy board, well misfortunes befell everyone in her house too. In the end, a clairvoyant apparently told the board's owner she could feel an evil influence in the house. With that, the mummy board was swiftly handed over to the British Museum in 1889, but not before it supposedly killed a photographer and the guy who moved it too.

Eventually the museum moved me into this fancy cabinet to see if that would keep me quiet. **IT HASN'T!**

BONNIER



Rather than seeing what the Unlucky Mummy is capable of, you quietly edge towards the exit.