



Art and
Culture

The British Museum

Classify, Sort, and Draw Shapes



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The Shape of History

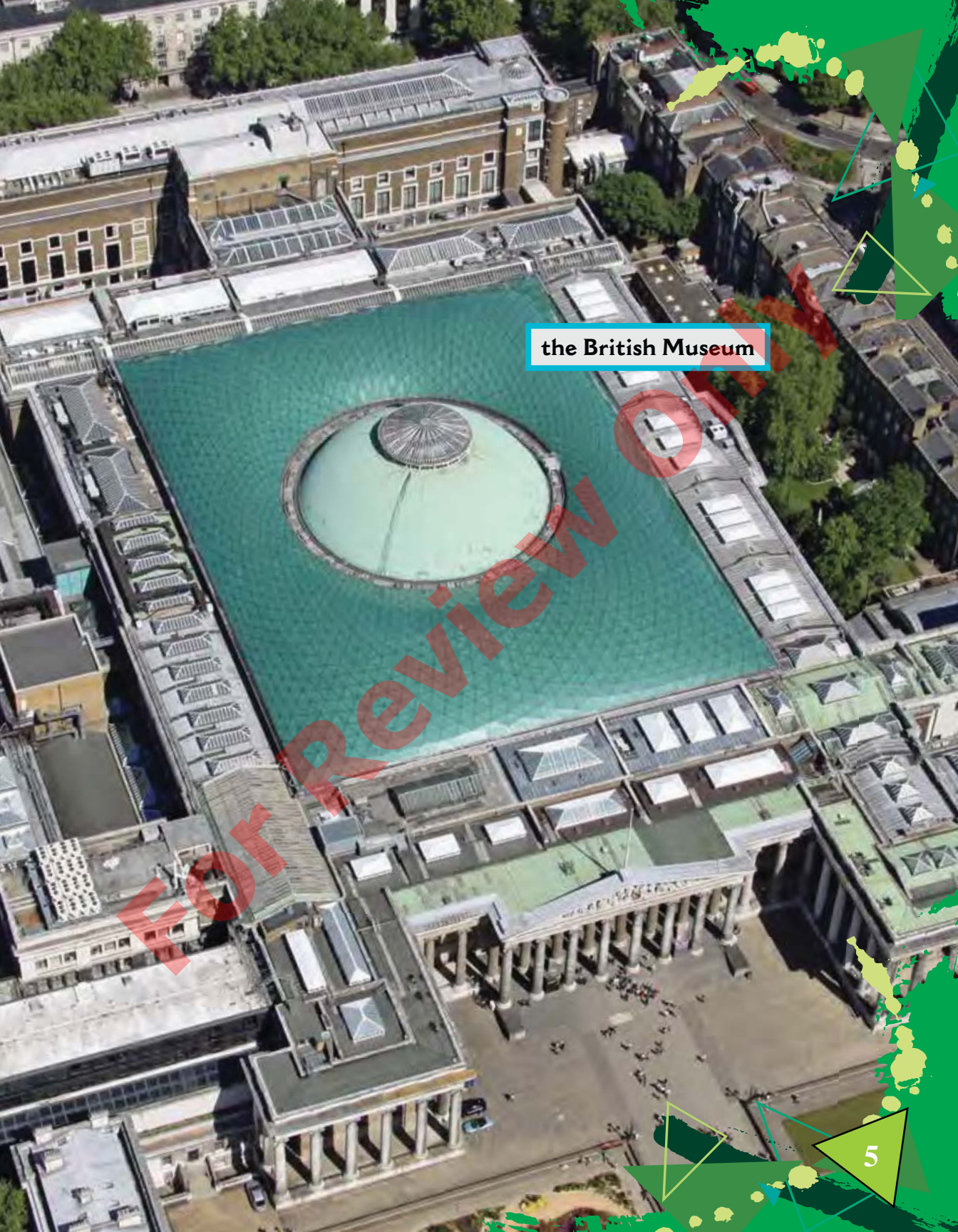
Welcome! This is the British Museum. It is in London, England. The museum first opened in 1759. That was more than 250 years ago!

The museum is one of the best places to see history up close. There are many objects here. Gorgeous paintings hang on the walls. Old sculptures line the walkways. There is so much to see! People spend hours here.

The British Museum is built for exploring. People can go on shape hunts! They can look for hidden shapes in the museum. Guests see if they can spot them all!



The Egyptian section of the museum has many statues and works of art.



the British Museum

Triangles

The museum has a **grand** entrance. A huge courtyard extends in front. Tall Greek columns loom over people as they walk in.

At the top of the entrance is a pediment. Pediments used to be at the tops of temples in Greece. They were decorated with pretty sculptures. They tell what the building is used for. The British Museum's pediment shows people learning. That is what the museum is used for—to help people learn!


Do you see a hidden shape? Look at the shape around the pediment. Count the number of sides and **angles**. There are three sides. And, there are three angles. This first hidden shape is a triangle!



pediment



entrance to the British Museum



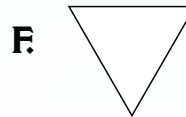
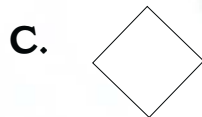
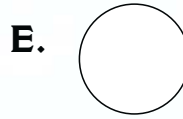
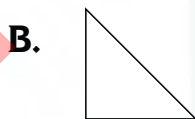
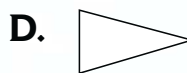
The best place to start is at the museum's center. This is called the Great Court. It is a huge space that links all of the museum's **galleries**. At the center of the court is the world-famous Reading Room.

Above the Great Court is a beautiful glass ceiling. Light pours in on sunny days. There are hidden shapes in this ceiling. Do you see more triangles? They look different from the pediment because of their size. But each one has three sides and three angles. That means they are triangles.

Great Court

LET'S EXPLORE MATH

You can see many triangles in the Great Court's ceiling. Which of these shapes are triangles?



Math Talk

1. What must be true about a shape for it to be a triangle?
2. How are 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes different?
3. Ada is trying to describe a pentagon to Zara, but she cannot remember the shape's name. How might Ada describe the shape?
4. Kato writes in his math journal, "A triangle has three faces." Do you agree or disagree with Kato? Why?
5. Why do you think quadrilaterals have other names?
6. How many different shapes can you find in your classroom?