Spring 1999

Inside:

- Why floor cleaner is ordered in a year,
- How many people visit the Museum,
- What is the new Millennium button,
- And more!

Written by Evan Levy • Designed by Lisa Witler

Cover photo by Bill McCabe

All photos © The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1999.
The greatest number of people to visit the Museum in one day was 52,333 in December 29, 1998. That's at ninety-one jumbo jets. Each year, about five million people visit the Museum, which has two million square feet.

If you would like to know some behind-the-scenes facts about The Metropolitan Museum of Art, read on...

The Museum tells more than ONE and a half MILLION postcards a year.

The Museum uses approximately NINETY RESTROOMS.

The largest framed painting in the Museum is the Adams portrait of the President George Washington. It is over thirty by forty feet.

The Museum lifts your spirits, opens your mind, and gives you ideas.

The Children's bookshop on the second floor of the Museum carries 1,214 different books. It also carries 775 toys, games, puzzles, CD-ROMs, videos, and audio cassettes—in other words, anything that isn't a book.

More than TWO MILLION visitors to TheMET have been accommodated by the Museum, which carries its visitors all around the building.

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If you would like to know some behind-the-scenes facts about The Metropolitan Museum of Art, read on…

**Guess What?**

The greatest number of people to visit the Museum in one day was 52,333 in December 1996. That’s as many people as would fill all ninety-one jumbo jets. Hook, yes, about five million people visit the Museum, which has two million square feet.

**Cleaning Up**

Like every other building, the Museum needs to be clean, both inside and out. The building is so large that enormous amounts of supplies need to be used. Here are some of the supplies that were ordered in one thirteen-month period:

- 1,125 gallons of CARPET CLEANER
- 5,500 gallons of FLOOR CLEANER
- 5,100 cans of AIR DUSTER
- 15,000 lightbulbs
- 52,333 Heavy Traffic!

The Museum uses approximately 250,000 gallons of water a day to clean the building. Ninety million gallons of water are used in one thirteen-month period.

**Kids’ Top 10**

We asked some kids for their main reasons they visit the Museum. Here are the top ten reasons that were given:

1. To see the TEMPLE OF DENDUR.
2. To see the BEAUTIFUL THINGS that are there.
3. To see the GIFT SHOP and to get stuff.
4. To see an EXHIBIT advertised on one of the three flags (banners) outside the Museum.
5. To have FUN.
6. Because people are interested in HISTORY and we get to learn about it.
7. To SEE THINGS WE HAVE NEVER SEEN and to think about them.
8. To see a painting by someone really famous.
9. To learn about DINOSAURS.
10. They MAKE YOU GO there.

**As for the Adults…**

Here are more reasons why adult visitors come to the Museum:

- They want to learn more about the art world.
- They are doing research for a school project.
- They want to learn about a specific art movement.
- They just want to get away from the pressures of life.

**Practically all of them.**

We get the most visitors from England, Canada, Germany, Brazil, France, Australia, and the Netherlands.

**Aren’t most people who visit the Met pretty old?**

A Practically all of them. We get the most visitors from England, Canada, Germany, Brazil, France, Australia, and the Netherlands.

**Yeah, but who do people stay when they visit?**

A The average stay is around 2 to 2.5 hours, although some people stay for four hours or more. It depends on whether they are staying near the Museum or not. It’s also true that the farther away from the Museumpeople live, the longer they stay. Local people are more likely to stay for a shorter period of time and come back again another day.

**The EGYPTIAN DEPARTMENT is one of the many departments in the Museum that can be visited on any given day, and contains many objects that have never been on display anywhere else. THOSE ACTUALLY CONTAIN BODIES—human remains and all.**

**Why do YOU visit the Metropolitan Museum?**

MARC BROWN: The Met is the big apple, open my mind and give me ideas.

**Why is it important for kids to be involved in and exposed to art?**

MARC BROWN: It is one of the ways we talk to each other. Art may be your way of talking to the world, and if you’re not involved in or exposed to it, you may be missing a very important way to express yourself.

LEONARD BURTON: For me and my family, a trip to New York is not complete without a visit to the Met. It’s the best museum on the planet! It is one of the only departments in the Museum that can be visited on any given day, and contains many objects that have never been on display anywhere else. THERE ACTUALLY CONTAIN BODIES—human remains and all.

**When was the Met founded?**

A The Metropolitan Museum of Art was founded in 1870. You can find it right inside the main entrance at 82nd Street.

**Which department of the Museum is the only one that has all its objects on view—at least, 837 of them?**

A The Egyptian Department is the only one that has all its objects on view—at least, 837 of them.

**The Met’s annual budget is about what?**

A The Museum’s annual budget is $40 million.

**A 2,100 gallons of FLOOR CLEANER**

**Q and A**

**Who had more visitors last year, the Metropolitan Museum of Art or the New York Mets?**

A The Metropolitan Museum of Art had 5.4 million visitors last year, more than the New York Mets had combined. And remember, the Yankees won the World Series.

**2,100 gallons of FLOOR CLEANER**

**Are there any visitors who visit the Met every day?**

A Yes, sixty eight percent of visitors, or 3.67 million people, come from outside New York City.

**What foreign countries do visitors come from?**

A Practically all of them. We get the most visitors from England, Canada, Germany, Brazil, France, Australia, and the Netherlands.

**What is the greatest number of people to visit the Museum in one day?**

A The greatest number of people to visit the Museum in one day was 52,333 in December 1996. That’s as many people as would fill all ninety-one jumbo jets.

**Where do people stay when they visit?**

A The average stay is around 2 to 2.5 hours, although some people stay for four hours or more. It depends on whether they are staying near the Museum or not. It’s also true that the farther away from the Museum people live, the longer they stay. Local people are more likely to stay for a shorter period of time and come back again another day.

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**Who are the visitors?**

A Practically all of them. We get the most visitors from England, Canada, Germany, Brazil, France, Australia, and the Netherlands.

**What is the average age of adult visitors?**

A Practically all of them. We get the most visitors from England, Canada, Germany, Brazil, France, Australia, and the Netherlands.

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**Guess What?**

The greatest number of people to visit the Museum in one day was 52,333 on December 30, 1986. That’s a ninety-one-jumbo-jets, back-to-back, with five million people into the Museum, which has two million square feet.

**MUSEUM**

If you would like to know some behind-the-scenes facts by the Museum, which carries more than two million books. It also has 1,214 different books. The Children’s bookshop on the second floor of the Museum carries approximately twenty-five hundred people work in the Museum. Some hundred and thirty-eight of them are volunteers.

**KIDS’ TOP 10**

We asked some kids for their main reasons they should visit the Museum. Here are the top ten reasons that they gave:

1. To see the World DJ Productions.
2. To see the BEAUTIFUL THINGS that are there.
3. To see the BEAUTY OF THE MUSEUM.
4. To see the GIANTS of the Museum.
5. To have FUN.
6. Because people are interested in HISTORY and you have to know about the people who lived before us.
7. To learn about different cultures.
8. To find out what happened to old ANCIENT EGYPT.
9. To learn about CATAPULTS.
10. They are interested in cool stuff.

**Cleaning Up**

Like any other building, the Museum needs to be kept clean. Inside and out. The building is so large that a whole team of people need to be on duty. There are some of the supplies that were ordered in one thirteen-month period:

- 400 gallons of LIQUID WAX for high-traffic areas
- 2,100 gallons of FLOOR CLEANER
- 1,125 gallons of CARPET CLEANER
- 3,500 gallons of Young’s Custard
- 1,115 gallons of Fresh & Clean
- 400 gallons of CLOTHES WASH
- 400 gallons of CLOTHES DRYER

(a) Approximately 25,000
(b) Approximately 20,000
(c) Approximately 15,000
(d) Approximately 10,000
(e) Approximately 5,000

**Why do you visit The Metropolitan Museum?**

There are four reasons why adult visitors go to the Museum:

- **MUSEUM FIRST**: The first object created by the Museum, the Sarcophagus Decorated with Garlands in 1870. You can find it right inside the entrance to the West End, you can see the artifactual form.

**AS FOR THE ADULTS...**

Most people tell us that they are visiting the Museum for inspiration or relaxation. When they are not at the Museum, most people say they are involved in or exposed to art in some form.

**Why do you visit The Metropolitan Museum?**

Many people say that the Metropolitan Museum is a “must” on any visit to New York City. Others say it is the best museum on the planet. And there are those who say it is a trip to the world. It’s the best museum on the island.

After Barto’s trip to the Met, his family, a trip to New York is just not complete without a visit to The Met! It’s the best museum on the island.

LeVar Burton is the host and co-executive producer of the PBS series Reading Rainbow. Marc Brown is the creator of the best-selling Arthur Adventure series. 

**Q & A**

**Q**: Who had more visitors last year, the Metropolitan Museum of Art or the New York Mets?

**A**: The Metropolitan Museum of Art had 5.4 million visitors last year, more than the Mets have combined. And remember, the Yankees won the World Series.

**Q**: Do a lot of people visit from outside the city?

**A**: Yes. Sixty-eight percent of visitors, or 3.67 million people, come from outside New York City.

**Q**: What foreign countries do visitors from come from?

**A**: In 1999, the Museum received visitors from 181 countries.

**Q**: Why do people visit the Met?

**A**: Practically all of them. We get the most visitors from England, Canada, Germany, Brazil, France, Australia, and the Netherlands.

**Q**: Aren’t most people who visit the Met pretty old?

**A**: The average age of adult visitors is about 35 to 40, probably because the age of many of your parents. Ask them. If they’re pretty old. Also, millions of thousands of kids visit the Museum every year.

**Q**: How long do people stay when they visit?

**A**: The average stay is about 2 to 2.5 hours, although some people stay for four hours or more. At 5:00 p.m., it is the point that the farther away from the Museum people live, the longer their stay. Local people are most likely to stay for a shorter period of time and come back again another day.

**Painting by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, 1816-1868**

Gift of John S. Kennedy, 1897, 97.34

Oil on canvas; 149 x 255 in. (378.5 x 647.7 cm)

Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, 1816-1868

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Museum Kids is made possible through the generous support of the Uris Brothers Foundation

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