



# MUSEUMkids

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART



## the Just the facts issue

THE NEW MILLENIUM BUTTON,  
WHY PEOPLE VISIT THE MUSEUM,  
HOW MUCH FLOOR CLEANER  
IS ORDERED IN A YEAR,  
AND MORE!

Spring  
1999

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** on December 30, 1986. That's as many people as would fit on about **ninety-one jumbo jets**. Each year, about five million people visit the Museum, which has two million square feet.

The largest framed painting in the Museum is *Washington Crossing the Delaware* by Emanuel Leutze. It measures more than twelve feet high and twenty-one feet long. You can find it in Gallery 223 on the second floor of The American Wing.



Heavy traffic!

Photo by Edie Kutscher.

The Museum sells more than **ONE AND A HALF MILLION** postcards in a year.



The Met  
1000 5th Ave  
NYC 10028

ONE of the following statements ISN'T TRUE. Can you guess which one it is? For the answer, turn this page upside down.

a. The Museum has more than **NINETY RESTROOMS**.

b. The outside of the Museum was originally painted **BLUE, GREEN, YELLOW, AND RED**.

*B is not true.*

More than **TWO MILLION** works of art are owned by the Museum, which has seventeen curatorial departments to take care of them all.

The Museum uses approximately **15,000** lightbulbs a year.

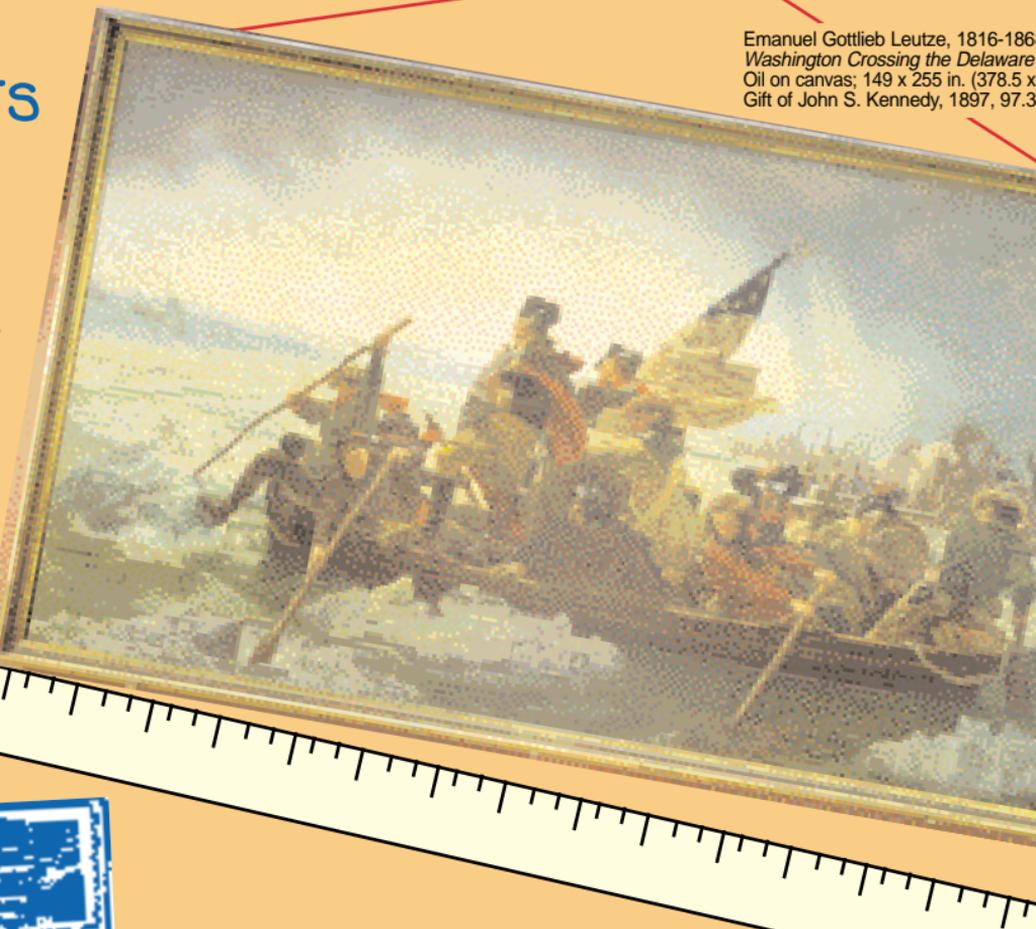
The Children's bookshop on the second floor of the Museum carries **1,214** different books. It also carries 792 toys, games, puzzles, CD-ROMS, videos, and audio cassettes—in other words, anything that isn't a book.



## HOW much soda?!

Food Item	Amount consumed per year
Beef	20,800 pounds
Napkins	2,184,000
Ice Cream Bars	8,500
Soda	582,400 ounces
Rolls	414,960
Milk	15,600 gallons (1,996,800 ounces)
Bagels	21,840
Potato chips	37,440 bags
Bottled water	1,198,080

Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, 1816-1866  
*Washington Crossing the Delaware*  
Oil on canvas; 149 x 255 in. (378.5 x 647.7 cm)  
Gift of John S. Kennedy, 1897, 97.3



Approximately **twenty five hundred people** work in the Museum. Nine hundred and thirty eight of them are volunteers.

## KIDS' TOP 10

We asked some kids for the main reasons they think people 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 art of **DIFFERENT CULTURES** and **COUNTRIES**.
7. To **SEE THINGS WE HAVE NEVER SEEN** and to find out about places we will never get to visit.
8. To find out what happened to old **ANCIENT GREEK** people.
9. To learn about **DINOSAURS**.
10. They **MAKE YOU GO** there.

The lowdown: This Museum does not have dinosaurs. It does have fossils on some of the works of art made of stone, and there are even fossils embedded in the floor in the Medieval Sculpture Hall.

1816-1868  
Delaware  
in. (378.5 x 647.7 cm)  
1897, 97.34



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

**A** The Metropolitan Museum of Art had 5.4 million visitors last year, more than the Mets and the Yankees 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 come from?**

**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 around 35 to 40, probably around the age of many of your parents. Ask them if they're pretty old. Also, hundreds of thousands of kids visit the Museum every year.

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

**A** The average stay is around 2 to 2.5 hours, although some people stay for more than four hours at a time. It seems that the farther away from the Museum people live, the longer their stay. Local people are more likely to stay for a shorter period of time and come back again another day.

On March 2, 1999, the Museum debuted its new **admission button** for the millenium. It comes in sixteen colors.

## Cleaning Up

Like any other building, the Museum needs to be cleaned, both inside and out. The building is so large that **ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF CLEANING SUPPLIES** need to be used. Here are some of the supplies that were ordered in one thirteen-month period:

- 2,100 gallons of **FLOOR CLEANER**
- 1,125 gallons of **CARPET CLEANER**
- 400 gallons of **LIQUID WAX** for high-traffic areas
- forty cases of **GUM REMOVER**
- fifteen cases of **SPOT REMOVER** for carpet stains

The lowdown: All cleaning products used by the Museum are environmentally safe.

**A MUSEUM FIRST**  
The first object accepted by the Museum, was the **Sarcophagus Decorated with Garlands** in 1870. You can find it right inside the main entrance at 82nd Street. Do you see the garlands (ropes and leaves)?



*Garland Sarcophagus*  
Marble  
Roman, Severan period, ca. A.D. 200-225  
Found at Tarsus, in southern Turkey, in 1863  
Gift of Abdo Debbas, 1870  
70.1

The **EGYPTIAN DEPARTMENT** is one of the only departments in the Museum that has all its objects on view—in this case, 33,000—unless they're being cleaned or restored or are being used in another exhibition. Out of all the mummy cases on display, **THIRTEEN ACTUALLY CONTAIN BODIES**—twelve adults and one child.



## AS FOR THE ADULTS...

Here are the reasons that adult visitors gave for visiting the Museum: Most people tell us that they are visiting for **EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES**, for **INSPIRATION**, and for **RELAXATION**. When we ask what they plan to do at the Met, most people say they are going to visit a special exhibition or the permanent collection. A lot of visitors like to go to the shops, too.

## WHY DO YOU VISIT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM?

**MARC BROWN:** The Met lifts my spirits, opens my mind and gives me ideas.

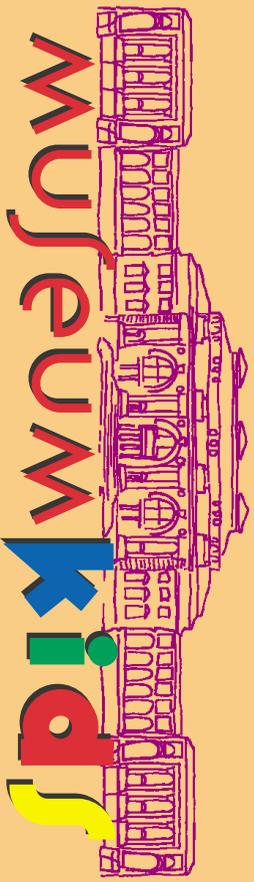
Why is it important for kids to be involved in and exposed to art?

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 art, you may be missing a very important way to express yourself.

*Marc Brown is the creator of the best-selling Arthur Adventure series.*

**LEVAR BURTON:** For me and my family, a trip to New York is just not complete without a visit to the Met. **It's the best museum on the planet!**

*LeVar Burton is the host and co-executive producer of the PBS series Reading Rainbow.*



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Museum Kids is made possible through the generous support of the Uris Brothers foundation @The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1999 ♻️ Printed on recycled paper