



## **BBC Radio International A History of the World in 100 objects Catalogue**

Neil MacGregor, former Director of London's British Museum, presents the story of humanity's two million year journey through the things it made and left behind.

Each of the 100 episodes focuses on a different object from the British Museum's collection, which may be anything from a mundane tool, to a great work of art, but which must be man-made. Neil MacGregor tells the fascinating stories behind each item.

The series is chronological, beginning with some of the earliest objects from Tanzania dating to almost two million years ago, and running up to the present day. It also explores the key developments in human history, and tells of parallel developments which highlight often unexpected connections and universal themes.

This is a BBC/the British Museum co-production. The full series consists of 100 programmes, 14 minutes duration each.

The programmes can be licenced as a stand-alone pieces, per historic period or as a whole series.

### **Making Us Human (2,000,000 – 9000 BC)**

1. Mummy of Hornedjitef - the story of Hornedjitef's mummy case, an Egyptian priest who died around 2,250 years ago
2. Olduvai Stone Chopping Tool - two million years ago in Tanzania a simple chipped stone marks the emergence of modern humans.
3. Olduvai Stone Handaxe - as early humans move beyond their African homeland, they take with them one essential item - a hand axe.
4. Swimming Reindeer - a carving of two reindeer found in France and dating back 13,000 years.
5. Clovis Spear Point - a deadly hunting weapon, used by the first inhabitants of the Americas around 13,000 years ago.

### **After the Ice Age: Food and Sex (9000 – 3500 BC)**

6. Bird-shaped Pestle - a pestle from Papua New Guinea.
7. Ain Sakri Lovers Figuerine - a palm-sized stone sculpture found near Bethlehem.
8. Egyptian Clay Model of Cattle - four miniature clay cows made from Nile mud long before the time of the pyramids or the pharaohs.
9. Maya Maize God Statue - a stone Maize God, discovered on the site of a major Mayan city in present-day Honduras.
10. Jomon Pot - the story of a 7,000-year-old Japanese clay pot, and a forgotten people.

### **The First Cities and States (4000 – 2000 BC)**

11. King Den's Sandal Label - A small label attached to the sandal which one of the earliest known kings of Egypt, King Den, took to his grave.

12. Standard of Ur - a set of mosaics found at a royal burial site in the ancient City of Ur, southern Iraq.
13. Indus Seal - a series of small stone seals from the Indus Valley in modern-day Pakistan.
14. Jade Axe - The story of a 6,000-year-old axe found in Kent.
15. Early Writing Tablet - the earliest example of writing: a 5,000-year-old tablet about beer.

### **The Beginning of Science and Literature (1500 – 700 BC)**

16. Flood tablet - an account of a great flood much older than the one told in the Bible.
17. Rhind Mathematical Papyrus - man's earliest calculations on an Egyptian papyrus fragment.
18. Minoan Bull Leaper - a Minoan treasure, and a dangerous hobby from 1700 BC.
19. Mold Gold Cape - the story of a gold cape found in Wales and made over 3500 years ago.
20. Statue of Ramesses - The world of Egypt as ruled by Ramesses II seen through one of his giant statues.

### **Old World, New Powers (1100 – 300 BC)**

21. Lachish Reliefs - images of war made over 2,500 years ago.
22. Sphinx of Taharqo - how Egypt was conquered by Sudan and how a black sphinx proves it.
23. Chinese Zhou Ritual Bowl - a spectacular bronze bowl used around 3,000 years ago for feasting.
24. Paracas Fragment – one of the remarkably well-preserved textiles discovered in the Paracas peninsula on the southern coast of Peru.
25. Gold Coin of Croesus - the world's first proper coins, which made King Croesus so rich.

### **The World in the Age of Confucius (500 – 300 BC)**

26. Oxus Chariot Model - The story of a tiny gold chariot from ancient Persia.
27. Parthenon Sculpture: Centaur and Lapith - some of the world's most disputed objects.
28. Basse Yutz Flagons - the early world of the Celts explored through two bronze drinking flagons.
29. Olmec Stone Mask - the story of a forgotten people of ancient Mexico.
30. Chinese Bronze Bell - a Chinese bronze bell from the age of Confucius.

### **Empire Builders (330 BC – 1 AD)**

31. Coin with Head of Alexander - the story of Alexander the Great told through a small silver coin.
32. Pillar of Ashoka - the life and legacy of the great Indian ruler Ashoka told through a fragment of one of his great pillars.
33. The Rosetta Stone - one of the best known inhabitants of the British Museum and its famous decipherment.
34. Chinese Han lacquer cup - a beautiful lacquer cup, and the imperial ambitions of Han Dynasty China.
35. Head of Augustus - the 2,000-year-old bronze head of one of the world's most famous rulers – Caesar Augustus.

### **Ancient Pleasures, Modern Spice (1 – 600 AD)**

36. The Warren Cup - the story of a Roman silver cup with the power to shock.
37. North American otter pipe - a 2,000-year-old stone pipe found in Ohio, North American.
38. Ceremonial ballgame belt - a large stone belt, a ceremonial version of those used in an ancient ball game in Central America.

39. Admonitions Scroll - an ancient Chinese scroll that rules on how women should behave.
40. Hoxne pepper pot - Neil uses a silver pepper pot to tell of the Roman spice trade with India.

### **The Rise of World Faiths (200 – 600 AD)**

41. Seated Buddha from Gandhara - the story of one of the world's best known figures – the Buddha.
42. Gold coin of Kumaragupta I - the rise of religious imagery in India under the Guptas.
43. Silver plate showing Shapur II - a dramatic image of power and faith from ancient Iran.
44. Hinton St Mary Mosaic - Neil encounters one of the earliest images of Christ.
45. Arabian bronze hand - A mysterious bronze hand helps tell the story of religious belief in Arabia before Islam.

### **The Silk Road and Beyond (400 – 700 AD)**

46. Gold Coins of Abd al-Malik - how Damascus became the centre of a new Islamic empire, told through two gold coins.
47. Sutton Hoo helmet - the sensational East Anglian burial discovery, which has been hailed as the 'British Tutankhamen'.
48. Moche warrior pot - the story of the Moche people explored through a pot in the shape of a warrior.
49. Korean roof tile - an artefact from Korea, now a source of modern-day electronic components.
50. Silk princess painting - a fragile painting from the Buddhist kingdom of Khotan, now in Western China.

### **Inside the Palace: Secrets at Court (700 – 950 AD)**

51. Maya Relief of Royal Blood-Letting - a disturbing image from the ancient Mayan civilisation.
52. Harem Wall Painting Fragments - mysterious faces from a harem in an ancient city north of Baghdad.
53. Lothair Crystal - an engraved crystal ... and royal intrigue at the heart of Europe.
54. Statue of Tara - the beguiling statue of the Buddhist deity Tara.
55. Chinese Tang Tomb Figures - a collection of tomb figures from Tang dynasty China.

### **Pilgrims, Raiders and Traders (900 – 1300 AD)**

56. Vale of York Hoard - Neil explores a great Viking silver hoard discovered in North Yorkshire.
57. Hedwig Glass Beaker – a glass vessel linked with a saintly miracle worker.
58. Japanese Bronze Mirror – the story of a bronze mirror found in a sacred pond in Japan.
59. Borobudur Buddha Head – a stone head of the Buddha from Borobudur on the island of Java.
60. Kilwa Pot Sherds – Neil sifts through broken pot fragments from an African beach.

### **Status symbols (1200 – 1400 AD)**

61. Lewis Chessmen – Neil examines a board game found in the Outer Hebrides.
62. Hebrew Astrolabe - an extraordinary astronomical instrument.
63. Ife Head – a magnificent brass head from the African city of Ife.
64. The David Vases – a pair of porcelain cases from Yuan dynasty China.
65. Taino Ritual Seat – the story of a ritual seat from a lost Caribbean culture.

## Meeting the Gods (1200 – 1400 AD)

66. Holy Thorn Reliquary - a stunning Christian reliquary from medieval Europe made to house a thorn from the crown of thorns.
67. Icon of the Triumph of Orthodoxy – the story of a 14th-century icon from the Byzantine Empire.
68. Shiva and Parvati Sculpture – a stone sculpture of the Hindu deity Shiva and his consort Parvati.
69. Statue of Huastec Goddess – a sculpture of a goddess made by the Huastec people of Mexico.
70. Hoa Hakananai’s Easter Island Statue – one of the extraordinary giant figures from Easter Island.

## The Threshold of the Modern World (1375 – 1550 AD)

71. Tughra of Suleiman the Magnificent – the personal monogram of the great Ottoman ruler, a contemporary of Henry VIII and Charles V.
72. Ming Bank Note – a 14th-century bank note from Ming dynasty China.
73. Inca Gold Llama – a model of a llama, the animal behind the Inca Empire.
74. Jade Dragon Cup – a jade cup that belonged to a great leader of the Timurid Empire.
75. Durer’s Rhinoceros - Albrecht Durer’s famous print of an Indian rhino, one of the most enduring images in art history.

## The First Global Economy (1450 – 1600 AD)

76. The Mechanical Galleon – a clockwork galleon designed for a grand dinner table.
77. Benin Plaque – some of the best examples of African art.
78. Double-Headed Serpent – an Aztec serpent, one of the stars of the British Museum.
79. Kakiemon Elephants - a pair of fine white porcelain elephants, the size of small dogs, from Japan.
80. Pieces of Eight – silver pieces of eight, the first truly global money.

## Tolerance and Intolerance (1550 – 1700 AD)

81. The Shi’a Religious Parade Standard – a powerful symbol from Shia Iran.
82. Miniature of a Mughal Prince – a miniature painting from Mughal India.
83. Shadow Puppet of Bima – Neil explores religion and politics in SE Asia through a shadow puppet.
84. Mexican Codex Map – Neil explores the Spanish religious conquest of Mexico with a map.
85. Reformation Centenary Broasheet – a souvenir of the 100th anniversary of the Protestant reformation.

## Exploration, Exploitation and Enlightenment (1680 – 1820 AD)

86. Akan Drum – an African drum taken to America during the slave trade.
87. Hawaiian Feather Helmet – a feathered helmet given to Captain Cook by Pacific Islanders.
88. North American Buckskin Map - a map, roughly drawn on deer skin, probably drawn up by a Native American around 1774.
89. Australian Bark Shield – an aboriginal bark shield brought from Australia by Captain Cook.
90. Jade Bi – a jade ring from the 18th-century Chinese Enlightenment.

## Mass Production, Mass Persuasion (1730 – 1914 AD)

91. Ship’s Chronometer from HMS Beagle – the chronometer that accompanied Darwin to South America.
92. Early Victorian Tea Set – the story of the global trade in tea told through a Victorian tea set.

- 93. Hokusai's The Great Wave - an image that rapidly made its way around the world, and became emblematic of the newly emerging Japan.
- 94. Sudanese Slit Drum – a wooden drum from Sudan that Kitchener presented to Queen Victoria.
- 95. Suffragette-Defaced Penny – a penny coin defaced by suffragettes with the words 'Votes for Women'.

### **The World of Our Making (1914 – 2010 AD)**

- 96. Russian revolutionary plate - the remarkable story of a Russian plate painted over as a propaganda tool for the new Communist Revolution.
- 97. Hockney's In the Dull Village - the emergence of legally enshrined human rights explored with the aid of a David Hockney print.
- 98. Throne of Weapons - the impact of guns in the modern world, especially Africa, told through a throne made from decommissioned guns.
- 99. Credit Card - the morality of modern global finance and a credit card that is compliant with Islamic Sharia law.
- 100. Solar-powered lamp and charger - an object Neil believes can revolutionise the lives of poor people around the globe.

END

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