








Hands On Learning *with Reading Museum Service*




CARING FOR MUSEUM OBJECTS



Reading Museum Service has been lending objects to schools for many years. Although our objects travel to and from schools and are handled by children and young people of all ages, they are cared for very well by the teachers who borrow them and by the museum staff who check their condition after every loan. We are aware that accidents can and do happen. In order to minimise the chance of damage, please help us by remembering these guidelines when dealing with museum objects:

-  Always assume an object is more fragile than it appears.
-  Remember that objects are most at risk when being moved or on open display.
-  Make sure objects are handled over a table, preferably with a cloth or another soft surface on the top.
-  If objects are left unsupervised and on open display in a classroom they are very vulnerable - please think very carefully before you do this, and if in doubt, please contact us.
-  Objects are affected by their environment - beware of radiators, spotlights and liquids of any sort.

If the worst happens:

-  Please let us know as soon as possible if something has been damaged - we can arrange for repairs to be done at once and, may be able to avoid disappointing another school by withdrawing the item.
-  Do not attempt to repair something yourself - sometimes a poor repair increases the damage. Our collections care officers use conservation grade products.
-  Evaluate the circumstances surrounding the damage - could it have been prevented?

Please do not let one accident prevent you from borrowing other items.

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Explore more at www.readingmuseum.org.uk