

The Louvre is most visited art gallery

31st March, 2013



The Louvre in Paris has topped a list of the world's most visited art museums. The annual survey of galleries and attendance was taken by the "Art

Newspaper". Its results put the Louvre in the top spot with around 9.7 million visitors in 2012. That was a jump of over a million from the previous year. New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art was the second most visited venue, with three London museums filling the third, fourth and fifth positions. The most popular exhibition of the year was the Dutch Old Masters at Tokyo's Metropolitan Art Museum, which attracted over 10,000 art lovers a day. The continuing popularity of the Louvre was boosted last year by the opening of its new wing dedicated to Islamic art.

The survey showed that while traditional art was popular in Japan, contemporary and modern art dominated the top exhibitions in Europe. It also highlighted Brazil as an up-and-coming destination for art. The newspaper said: "The appetite of Brazilians for exhibitions is remarkable...especially for the non-charging shows organised by the Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil. The exhibition halls in its Rio de Janeiro space were crowded thanks to an ambitious visual history of the Amazon." The publication also noted how, "the spiritual power of artifacts" proved popular. Japan's Shoso-in temple exhibition drew over 14,240 visitors a day, "to venerate as well as admire a selection of temple treasures".

Sources: *The Art Newspaper* / *Global Post*

Writing

What are the advantages and disadvantages of going to art museums and looking at art online?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Paris / art museums / annual survey / attendance / exhibition / art lovers / boosted / traditional art / modern art / destination / appetite / remarkable / spiritual / temple

True / False

- The Louvre came top of a list of museums of the past decade. T / F
- The Louvre attracted almost 10 million visitors in 2012. T / F
- Three London museums were in the survey's top five. T / F
- The Louvre was more popular because of a new home for Islamic art. T / F
- Modern art was more popular in Japan than it was in Europe. T / F
- The survey showed the number of art lovers in Brazil declined sharply. T / F
- There was a very unusual exhibition in the Amazon rainforest. T / F
- An exhibition at a Japanese temple drew over 14,000 visitors a day. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. topped | a. drew |
| 2. annual | b. emerging |
| 3. attracted | c. yearly |
| 4. dedicated | d. present-day |
| 5. boosted | e. relics |
| 6. contemporary | f. headed |
| 7. up-and-coming | g. array |
| 8. appetite | h. helped |
| 9. artifacts | i. passion |
| 10. selection | j. devoted |

Discussion – Student A

- Do you prefer modern art or traditional art?
- Which part of the world has the best art?
- Are today's artists as good as the old masters?
- How different would the world be without art?
- Which artist would you like to be in a different life?
- What kind of art should children learn in schools?
- How good are the art galleries in your country?
- What is art?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. The Louvre in Paris has topped | a. visited venue |
| 2. That was a jump | b. destination for art |
| 3. the second most | c. wing dedicated to Islamic art |
| 4. attracted over 10,000 art | d. halls |
| 5. the opening of its new | e. of over a million |
| 6. Brazil as an up-and-coming | f. of artifacts |
| 7. exhibition | g. a list |
| 8. an ambitious visual | h. of temple treasures |
| 9. the spiritual power | i. lovers a day |
| 10. admire a selection | j. history of the Amazon |

Discussion – Student B

- How important are art galleries?
- What do you know about and think of the Louvre?
- What's your favourite art museum and why?
- How do you feel when you visit an art gallery?
- How great is your interest in art?
- What's your favourite genre of art and why?
- Do you ever think a lot of art is not really art?
- Can anyone become an artist?

Spelling

- annual syevru
- the eiopurvs year
- the second most visited enevu
- popular inhoxebiit
- The continuing yuopartlpi of the Louvre
- its new wing edtdeicad to Islamic art
- toopcmrnyrea and modern art
- an up-and-coming iastoidennt for art
- The ptpaiete of Brazilians
- an iaomsubti visual history
- the spiritual power of tsacftira
- temple rureetssa

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. a	4. j	5. h
6. d	7. b	8. i	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Modern art lover - You think modern art is best. Tell the others 3 reasons why. You hate traditional art. Tell the others three reasons why. You think schoolchildren should be taught to express themselves via modern art.

Traditional art lover - You think traditional art is best. Tell the others three reasons why. You hate modern art. Tell the others three reasons why. You think schoolchildren should be taught the history of art. Learning modern art in schools is a waste of time.

Art teacher - You think no art is best – it is all great. Tell the others three reasons why. If you hear someone attacking an art form, tell them they are wrong. You think schoolchildren should spend more time in school studying any art that interests them.

School student - You don't understand why people are so interested in art. You think photos on the Internet are better than art. Ask the others why art is so important. You think it is better to study computer coding at school, not art.

Speaking - Exhibitions

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the one you most want to see at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Leonardo da Vinci
- African sculpture
- Japanese manga art
- Australian Aboriginal
- 14th-century China
- prehistoric art
- graffiti art
- Arabic calligraphy

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.