

International African American Museum (B2)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like visiting museums? If so, what kinds of museums?
2. Are there any interesting museums in your town that are dedicated to local history?
3. What do you think the International African American Museum is dedicated to?
4. What do you know about this subject?

B – Listen and answer

Listen to the introductory article (without reading) and mark these statements T (true) or F (false).

1. Charleston, South Carolina, was an important port at the time of the slave trade.
2. Gadsden's Wharf was named after a notorious slave trader.
3. The International African American Museum has only been open a short time.
4. Some historians claim that most of the enslaved Africans entering the US arrived at Charleston.
5. The museum space is divided into nineteen galleries.
6. In the museum there is a resource centre that can help African Americans to trace their ancestors.

C – Read and answer

Read the introductory article and answer the questions.

1. What happened to enslaved Africans after they arrived in the US?
2. What does the museum aim to do?
3. What can visitors learn about the Africans who were enslaved and brought to America?
4. What kinds of exhibits does the museum contain?
5. How are the ancestors of today's African Americans commemorated at the museum?

D – Listen to the interview (Optional)

N.B. This interview is graded as C1, so don't be discouraged if you find it difficult. Try to understand the main points.

Read these statements. Then listen to the interview with Martina Morale, without reading, and write T (true) or F (false).

1. It took only a few years to find the money to build the museum.
2. The museum building is placed next to the African Ancestors Memorial Garden.
3. The museum follows the journeys of Africans across the Atlantic and through US history.
4. Nearly all Americans know a lot about their ancestors.
5. Martina Morale says at present there's an interest in African American history.
6. According to Martina, not all Americans want the true story of African Americans to be told.

E – Listen, read and check your answers

Listen to the interview while reading the text. (If you did Exercise D, check your answers while reading.)

F – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change from plural to singular.)

1. The town council carried out a _____ to find out what people thought of the new park.
2. Last year the school _____ money for a local charity by organising a sponsored marathon.
3. Our teacher gave us a useful _____ on how to study for the exam.

4. The _____ of this meeting is to discuss the company's future development.
5. A _____ is an area in a port where a ship stops in order to be loaded or unloaded.
6. The drawing wasn't finished. There were just a few _____ of people and buildings.

G – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2)

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word for each gap.

When we think about slavery, we usually have mental images of transatlantic ships carrying people in chains. In fact, ¹ _____ is calculated that about thirteen million Africans were captured and sold ² _____ slaves between the 15th and 19th centuries. However, strange as it ³ _____ seem, more people are enslaved today than at ⁴ _____ other time in history.

According to the International Labour Organization of the United Nations, over 40 million people are living in some form of slavery today – ⁵ _____ than three times the number of those enslaved during the transatlantic slave trade. ⁶ _____ these, 71% are women and 25% children.

⁷ _____ modern slavery is most prevalent in Africa and Asia, surprisingly, there is no country in the world in ⁸ _____ it does not exist.

H – Write about it

Write about a recently-built museum in your country. Mention:

- when/where it was built;
- where the funds to build it came from;
- what it's about;
- what you can see there;
- how many people visit it.

Answers

B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. F – It was named after an 18th-century politician, Christopher Gadsden, who was also a slave owner (as were many politicians and land owners, including George Washington). 3. T
4. F – They estimate that over 45 per cent arrived there. 5. F – There are nine galleries. 6. T

C – Read and answer

1. They were held for months in brutal conditions, separated from their loved ones and finally sold into servitude. 2. It aims to honour the experiences of the enslaved people by telling their untold stories. 3. Visitors can learn about their cultures and knowledge systems, as well as their experiences and achievements and those of their descendants. 4. It contains artefacts related to the slave trade, as well as films, images and other media. 5. There's an Ancestors Memorial Garden, a place of reflection and contemplation, which has a fountain, botanic gardens and artistic installations.

E – Listen, read and check your answers

1. F – It took twenty years. 2. F – It's placed above it. 3. T 4. F – Around a third don't know anything about their great-grandparents or beyond. 5. T 6. T

F – Learn it! Use it!

1. survey 2. raised 3. tip 4. aim 5. wharf 6. outlines

G – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. it 2. as 3. may/might 4. any 5. more 6. Of 7. Although/Though/While 8. which