

# Anatomy of a Museum label

Most museums have labels to help visitors understand what they are looking at. The way a label looks and where to find it can vary (even within the same museum). Use this guide to help find and read them!

## Where to find them:



Many museum labels can be found directly below or beside the object it describes.



Some can even be found on the glass case that holds the object.

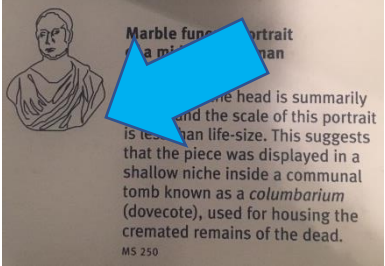


Often, the labels for small objects with numbers next to them...

...will be found nearby, next to the corresponding number



If there isn't a number, sometimes there will be a small drawing to help you locate the label.



## What's in a label:

The title of the artifact. It can be descriptive, or it can be what it was titled originally.

The materials the artifact is made of.

### Statue of a Cat

*Bronze with Gold Leaf*

Unknown Place of Origin

ca. 945–712 BCE (Dynasty 22)

Cats were important animals in ancient Egypt were associated with the goddess of fertility and Bastet. At her cult places were enormous cemeteries containing sacred cat mummies in feline-shaped coffins.

This hollow statue is large enough for a cat mummy to fit inside. An inscribed decoration at the neck depicts a string of beads.

E 14284

When we believe the artifact was made. Usually a date range is given based on evidence and scientific dating methods. In this example, a Dynasty (ruling family) is also included.

Where the artifact is from or where it was found.

A description of the context of the artifact. It may include information about the culture from where it originated or information about its discovery. This isn't always in every label. If missing, there may be more information in text close by.

The object number. This is a way for the museum to keep track of all the artifacts in the museum's collection.

