

Science Museum 1909–2009 celebrating a century of science

Before 1909

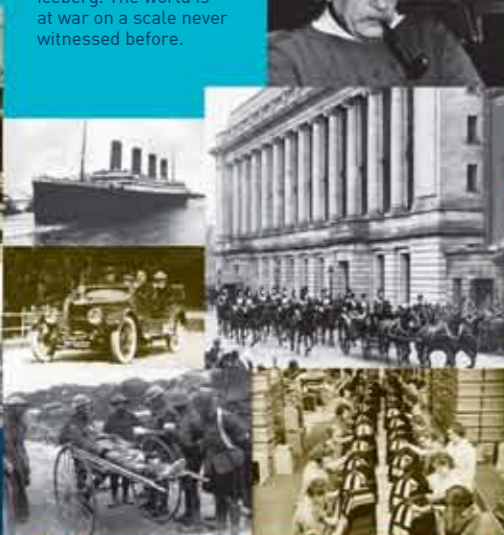
IT ALL BEGINS IN HYDE PARK... with the *Great Exhibition of all Nations* in 1851. Less than a decade later, objects and funds from this extravaganza lead to the creation of the South Kensington Museum.



1909–19

TWO MUSEUMS, ONE WORLD WAR

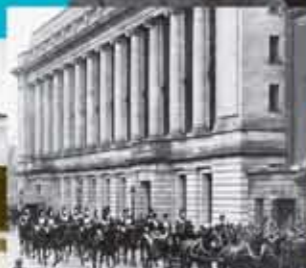
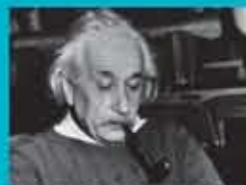
The South Kensington Museum splits to form the V&A and the Science Museum. Cars have started to appear on the roads and planes in the sky. The *Titanic* hits its iceberg. The world is at war on a scale never witnessed before.



1920–29

A BUILDING FIT FOR THE KING

At last the Science Museum has a fitting façade and King George V declares our East Hall open. Elsewhere, Einstein is honoured with a Nobel Prize, insulin is discovered and the public tunes in to the first BBC radio broadcasts.



1930–39

'HANDS ON' IS A HUGE HIT

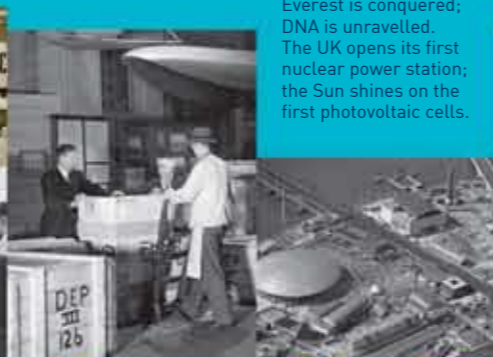
The first *Children's Gallery* brings record visitor numbers. Other exhibitions explain the latest technologies: *Electric Lighting* throws light on the subject; *Television* comes hot on the heels of the first public broadcasts. Amy Johnson flies solo to Australia. Like millions of others she later loses her life in the Second World War...



1940–49

WAR DOMINATES SCIENCE AND MUSEUM

Objects are packed away and a radio repair school moves in. The library and lecture theatre are the scene of wartime research. In science, nuclear physics gathers pace and the atomic bomb is unleashed. Peace finally breaks out in 1945.



1950–59

OPTIMISM UNLIMITED: A FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

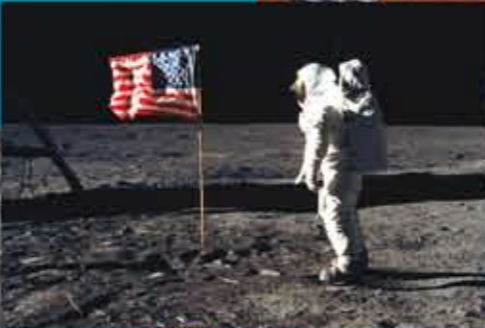
Hosting the *Science Exhibition*, the Museum plays its part in the *Festival of Britain*. The nation cheers as its new Queen is crowned. Everest is conquered; DNA is unravelled. The UK opens its first nuclear power station; the Sun shines on the first photovoltaic cells.



1960–69

CROWDS FLOCK TO SEE SPACECRAFT

Police control queues for a brief encounter with the *Friendship 7* capsule. Astronomy gets its own gallery. *Doctor Who* and *Tomorrow's World* arrive on TV a few years before we land on the Moon. In hospitals, human hearts are transplanted and pacemakers fitted.



1970–79

MEDICAL MIRACLES AND MICROCHIPS

We plan for a new Wellcome Museum of the History of Medicine in a decade that brings CAT scans and MRI – and the first test-tube baby. The birth of the microprocessor inspires Apple 1, a DIY computer.



1980–89

PHENOMENAL PHYSICS AND GLOBAL CONCERNS

Launch Pad opens with a mission to turn kids on to physics. Globally, we act together to tackle AIDS, starvation in Africa and the hole in the ozone layer. The world begins to feel smaller with the birth of the internet and GPS...



1990–99

BUILDING UP TO THE MILLENNIUM

Kids take over the Museum's basement with galleries of their own. Plans start to take shape for a whole new wing... meanwhile genetics hits the headlines with Dolly, GM foods and the soon-to-be-sequenced human genome.



2000–09

FIREWORKS AND FANFARES

The Millennium arrives and with it the Wellcome Wing – contemporary science in breathtaking displays. *Making the Modern World* shows off our incredible collection. The world wakes up to climate change and at CERN we wonder if we'll find out how our universe began.



2010–

OUR FUTURE IS YOUR FUTURE

We're planning ground-breaking new experiences that will make sense of the science that shapes all our lives.

Find out more about the *Museum of the Future* on display in the Energy Hall...



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