



## What is a museum?

**EU|COURSES.EU**



**EU|COURSES.EU**

## Galleria Estense, Modena



EU|COURSES.EU

## What is a museum?

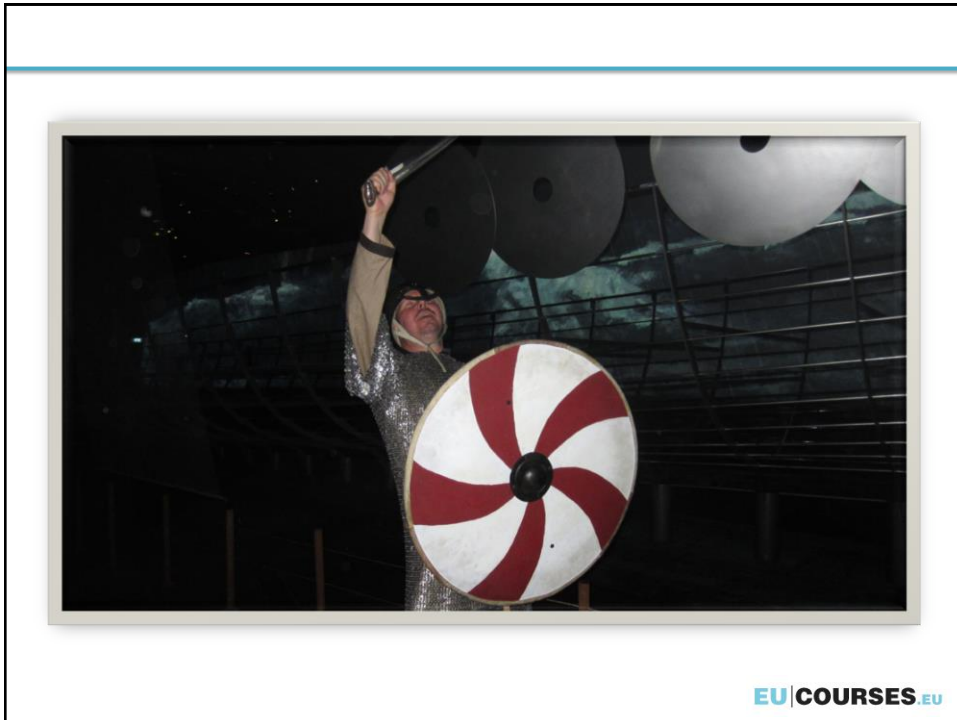
“A museum is a permanent institution in the service of society and of its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment, for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.

**ICOM - International Council of Museums**

“Museums enable people to explore collections for inspiration, learning and enjoyment. They are institutions that collect, safeguard and make accessible artifacts and specimens, which they hold in trust for society.”

**U.K. Museums Association**

EU|COURSES.EU



## The word “museum”

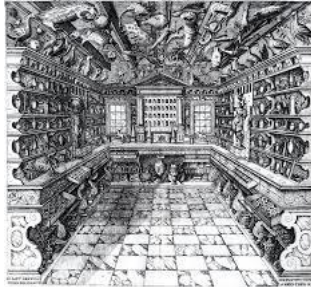
The English "museum" comes from the Latin word, and is pluralized as "museums".

It is originally from the Greek *Μουσεῖον* (*Mouseion*), which denotes a place or temple dedicated to the Muses (the patron divinities in Greek mythology of the arts).

## Museum development

The first museum/library is often considered to be the one of Plato in Athens.

The "Wunderkammer" during Renaissance.



The first "modern" museum is often considered to be the British Museum established in 1753.

EU|COURSES.EU

## Museum development

1850's onwards, large "nationalist" museums to show the "Nation State"

1890's onward, education of the working classes

1960's onwards, development of museums working with social and political issues

1970's onwards, museums leading change in society and museum education



EU|COURSES.EU

## Museums today

---

Mass tourism

The museum as franchise and private enterprises

Educated audience

Dares to question – multiple views

On-line resources, virtual museums

Multi cultural aspect

Competition and diversification