

Theft in the Sainsbury Gallery

A British Museum logic puzzle for grown-up detectives · free printable

The Story

Overnight, during final preparations for the Bayeux Tapestry exhibition, a ceremonial gold needle used in the display has gone missing from the Sainsbury Gallery. Five members of staff were on site that night, each working late, each studying a different scene from the tapestry as part of the installation. Use the clues below to work out where everyone was, what they were studying, and, crucially, who took the needle and where they hid it.

Clues

- 1 Elena was the first person seen that night.
- 2 Marcus was seen exactly one hour after Elena.
- 3 Tomas was seen exactly one hour after Priya.
- 4 Sofia was the last person seen that night.
- 5 Whoever was seen at midnight was in the Sainsbury Gallery.
- 6 Sofia was in the Loading Bay.
- 7 Elena worked in the Conservation Studio that night.
- 8 Marcus was not in the Print Room.
- 9 Whoever was in the Print Room was studying the Ships scene.
- 10 Tomas was fascinated by the depiction of Halley's Comet.
- 11 The Oath scene was being studied by whoever was in the Great Court.
- 12 Elena was not looking at the Feast scene.
- 13 Whoever was studying the Oath scene left a thread snagged near the curtain hem in the Sainsbury Gallery.
- 14 A charcoal pencil belonging to the press officer was found tucked inside the rolled linen cloth in the Conservation Studio.
- 15 Whoever studied the Ships scene left their access badge near the courier crate.
- 16 Elena was not connected to the fire extinguisher case.

Fill In the Grid

Write a Time, Location, Scene, and Hiding Spot for each suspect. Each option is used exactly once.

Suspect	Time	Location	Scene Studied	Hiding Spot
Elena				
Marcus				
Priya				
Tomas				
Sofia				

Word Bank

Times: 9pm · 10pm · 11pm · Midnight · 1am

Locations: Sainsbury Gallery · Conservation Studio · Loading Bay · Great Court · Print Room

Scenes: The Ships · Halley's Comet · The Feast · The Battle · The Oath

Hiding spots: Bench (Great Court) · Curtain hem (Sainsbury Gallery) · Courier crate (Print Room) · Fire extinguisher case (Loading Bay) · Linen cloth (Conservation Studio)

*Solutions are available as a separate download, **adults-puzzle-answers.pdf**, so you can check your work once you've had a proper go.*