

Oxford University Worksheet

Reading

Read the text about Oxford University and find the answers to these questions.

- 1 When was Oxford founded?
- 2 Which university is older: Oxford or Cambridge?
- 3 How many colleges are there at Oxford?
- 4 Why did many English students begin to come to Oxford in the twelfth century?
- 5 What happened to two students in 1209?
- 6 When did Oxford allow women to study?
- 7 When did Oxford allow women to teach?
- 8 Does Oxford have more students from the UK or from abroad?
- 9 Where can you see works of art at Oxford?
- 10 Where can you see a dinosaur at Oxford?

Vocabulary

Look for these words in the text and match them to the correct definition. Please try this without using a dictionary. You can check your answers later with a dictionary if you like.

theology	a first degree student or course
to expel	remains of ancient animals in stone
to hang	things you study at school or university
a lecture	a writer of literature, such as novels or poetry
a lecturer	a very experienced university teacher and researcher
a tutorial	the study of religion and religious ideas
undergraduate	a class at university with a large number of students
postgraduate	to order someone to leave and not return
an author	a small group of 4 or 5 students and one lecturer
fossils	to kill someone with a rope around the neck
subjects	a higher degree student or course
a professor	a university teacher

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The University of Oxford has 38 colleges and six halls of residence. Oxford is one of the top ten universities in the world. Oxford was founded in the 11th century and is the oldest university in the UK. It really began to grow when the University of Paris expelled all foreign students in 1167 and English students returned to England. The most important courses at first were Theology and Latin, because most students wanted to join the church, but Law soon became important too. By the 16th century, there were more students of law than theology.

In 1209, a famous event took place. Two students were hanged for attacking a woman in the town. Many students and lecturers believed they were innocent, and they were so angry that they decided to leave Oxford and start a new university in Cambridge.

For a long time, Oxford was a male-only university. Women could attend lectures from about 1880 but it was only in 1920 that Oxford awarded degrees to female students for the first time. Oxford appointed its first female professor in 1948.

Fourteen percent of full-time undergraduate students come from overseas and 63% of full-time postgraduate students are international students. Oxford uses the tutorial method of teaching as well as lectures. Students really enjoy talking to their lecturers in their rooms with a coffee!

Twenty-five Prime Ministers and 86 Archbishops of Canterbury attended Oxford. Many famous writers, such as Oscar Wilde and J.R.R. Tolkien (author of the Lord of the Rings) also went to Oxford. Among scientists, we can mention Stephen Hawking, Richard Dawkins and Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the Internet.

You can visit many wonderful buildings in Oxford, such as the Ashmolean Museum. It has a large collection of paintings, including works by Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Picasso and Turner. Another museum you can visit is the Natural History Museum. There, you can see a complete Tyrannosaurus Rex and thousands of other fossils and animal remains.

The Times Good University Guide 2008 says that Oxford is the top university in the UK while Cambridge is in second place. Oxford is first in English, Politics, Physiological Sciences, Fine Art, Business Studies, Materials technology, Middle Eastern and African Studies, Music, Philosophy, and also Education and Linguistics which it shares first with Cambridge. Oxford comes second after Cambridge in seventeen other subjects.