

KEY FACTS ABOUT THE Smithsonian Institution

19 MUSEUMS
9 RESEARCH CENTERS
1 ZOO

\$106 MILLION
PRIVATE FUNDS RAISED
IN 2015

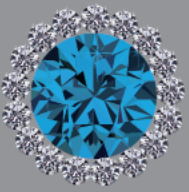
The Smithsonian Institution was established in 1846 "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge." This group of museums and research centers is administered by the U.S. government.

1829: English chemist and mineralogist James Smithson leaves his estate to the U.S.

1846: Smithsonian Institution established

1855: The Smithsonian is opened

MOST VISITED ITEMS



HOPE DIAMOND

National Museum of Natural History



RUBY SLIPPERS

National Museum of American History



ORIGINAL WRIGHT FLYER

National Air & Space Museum

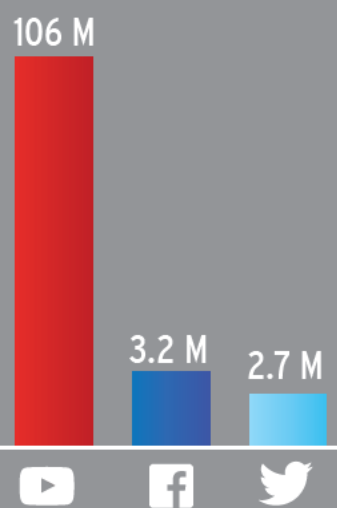
28 MILLION
Visitors in 2014

MOST VISITED MUSEUMS

National Air & Space Museum
(6.7 M)

National Museum of Natural History
(7.3 M)

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWING



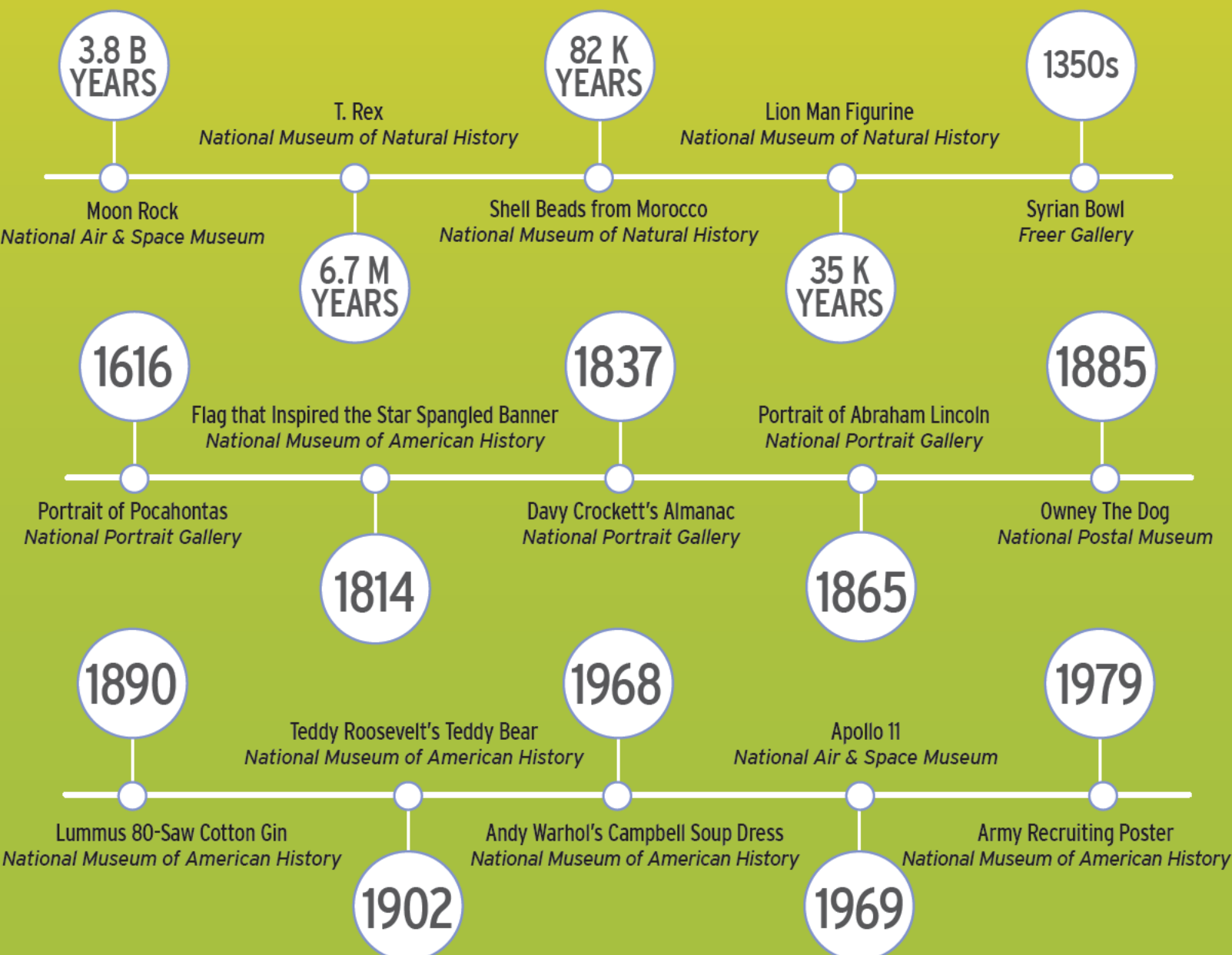
WEIRDEST ITEM



World's Longest Beard
18.5 FT LONG

National Museum of Natural History

ARTIFACT TIMELINE



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
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