

THE TRUTH
BEHIND THE
MOVIE

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

What's so hard about being a night watchman at a museum of natural history?

Plenty – especially when the statues come to life every night!

In the movie *Night At The Museum*, the trouble starts when Larry the night watchman (played by Ben Stiller) realizes that the magic bringing the museum's inmates to life has been stolen. Now it's up to him and his son, Nick, to get it back.

But how do the film's incredible stars measure up to their real-life historical characters? NG Kids went back in time to find out...

Attila tells Larry and Egyptian King Ahkmenrah (next to Larry) what's what!



Attila the HONEY?

How is Larry supposed to control the statues when he's got a band of barbaric soldiers led by nasty Attila the Hun trying to tear his limbs off? "Our Attila is vicious until near the end, when he becomes Larry's friend," says director Shawn Levy.

Did the real Attila the Hun have a sweet side? Probably not. Thought to have been born around 400 A.D., he destroyed villages, terrorized people, and conquered parts of Europe. He even murdered his own brother!

DINO Hunt

One of the scariest exhibits that comes to life is a huge tyrannosaurus rex, called Rexy. Poor Larry has to make a hasty escape from Rexy to avoid ending up as dino dinner!

Some scientists think that T. rex fed only on already-dead animals, as it didn't have what predators need to hunt live prey: big eyes to see well, strong arms to hold prey, and nimble legs to run fast. Most experts, though, say that T. rex did have good vision and strong jaws, and was fast enough to catch big dinosaurs. That's why they believe that T. rex was probably a predator *as well* as a scavenger. Yikes!

Larry's GIRL GUIDE

Did the Native American girl called Sacagawea really exist? Yes! Sacagawea belonged to the Shoshone tribe. Historians used to think she was an expert tracker who guided two famous American explorers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, on an expedition through the Western United States in the early 1800s. In reality, she was more of a peace-keeper and translator for the intrepid explorers, so she's the perfect partner to help Larry track down the baddies!

Great escape!

Rexy the dinosaur fossil was made on the computer. "Ben Stiller (right) is actually running from me," says director Shawn Levy. "I'm chasing him with my hands cupped like talons. Then the computer animators replaced my image with Rexy's."



Larry, played by Ben Stiller, makes a move – away from Rexy!



Ouch!

After Larry tries to get his keys back from Dexter the capuchin monkey, the cheeky critter bites Larry's nose! Good thing actor Ben Stiller was wearing a flesh-colored nose guard to protect his hooter!

Fast fact

The Neanderthals eat the foam that Larry sprays to put out the bonfire. But the foam was actually whipped cream!

FIRE Hazard

In the film, Neanderthals – early humans who lived in caves and other shelters in Europe and Western Asia until about 30,000 years ago – discover fire and nearly burn down their exhibit! (Larry puts out the bonfire with a fire extinguisher.) But real Neanderthals weren't the ones who discovered fire – experts say that early human ancestors, *Homo erectus*, used fire about 1.5 million years ago.

CONFUSED Columbus

The bronze Christopher Columbus statue is clearly lost in the movie. "He spends a lot of time wandering around with his map," Levy says. The real Columbus was also lost – he just didn't know it!

In 1492, Columbus was looking for a faster route to Asia when he accidentally landed in North America. He was sure he'd arrived in Asia, but he had miscalculated the Earth's size when making his map. He never acknowledged that his map could have been wrong!

