



ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH



AGA KHAN MUSEUM

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Mission

Through the arts, the Aga Khan Museum sparks wonder, curiosity, and understanding of Muslim cultures and their connection with other cultures.

Vision

To impact lives and contribute to more inclusive and peaceful societies.



WELCOME

Dear Teachers and Educators,

As we approach Islamic Heritage Month this October, we invite you to explore a range of programs designed to bridge the gap between the past and present, fostering a deeper understanding of Muslim culture and its global impact.

With a mission to spark wonder, curiosity, and understanding of Muslim cultures and their connection with other cultures through the arts, the Aga Khan Museum is home to an extensive collection of over 1,200 masterpieces that reflect a broad range of artistic styles within and beyond the Muslim world—from the Iberian Peninsula to China.

Through hands-on inquiry-based exploration, the Museum fosters intercultural connection and conversation through engaging workshops, interactive tours, and immersive experiences tailored for students in grades K to 12. We offer diverse program delivery options, including in-person and virtual experiences, to accommodate various learning environments and preferences.

We look forward to sharing the Aga Khan Museum's objects and stories with you.

Sincerely,

The Education and Public Engagement Department
Aga Khan Museum

learn@agakhanmuseum.org



ON-SITE FIELD TRIPS



EARLY LEARNERS (JK-SK)

Telling Stories

Duration: 45 minutes

Shahnameh (Book of Kings) is an epic book of poems written by a renowned Persian poet Firdausi. Bring your students to hear one story from the *Shahnameh* using an action-packed fun-filled pop-up book. After the storytelling session, students will get creative and make paper puppets inspired by the characters from the story they've just experienced.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to The Kindergarten Program frames of Belonging & Contributing, Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 1-3

Pattern Play

Duration: 2 hours

Patterns play a key role in Islamic art. In this program students to examine various patterns and motifs found within the Muslim world through the Museum Collections. They will design and create hexagon clay tiles inspired by these objects, which can be tessellated to form a larger collective piece.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Visual Arts Algebra and Spatial Sense, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 4-8

Pattern Play

Duration: 2 hours

Patterns play a key role in Islamic art. Bring your students to examine various patterns and motifs found within the Muslim world through the Museum Collections. They will design and create hexagon clay tiles inspired by these objects, which can be tessellated to form a larger collective piece.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Visual Arts, Mathematics: Algebra and Spatial Sense, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 4-8

Persian Paintings

Duration: 2 hours

In Persian Paintings, centuries-old illustrated manuscripts come to life through elaborate detail and vivid colours. This program allows your students to get up close with remarkable examples of Persian painting from the Museum Collections. Explore traditional techniques and methods and create a painting using watercolour and gold leaf.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Visual Arts, Language: Literacy Connections and Applications, Comprehension: Understanding and Responding to Texts, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 4-8

Silk Routes Adventures

Duration: 2 hours

The Silk Routes were ancient trade routes that connected Asia, Africa, and Europe, facilitating the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures, including the spread of Islamic art and influences. Students will learn about the role that trade plays in cross-cultural connections while playing the Museum's custom-made board game, which simulates life along the Silk Routes.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Drama, Mathematics: Number, Financial Literacy, Science: Earth and Space Systems, and Social Science: Heritage and Identity, Early Societies to 1500 CE, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 9-12

Geometric Patterns

Duration: 2 hours

Geometric patterns adorn building surfaces, manuscripts, fabrics, ceramics, and metalwork in Islamic art. Bring your students to learn how to read these geometric designs before creating their own using a compass, ruler, and pencil.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Visual Arts: Creating and Presenting, Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing, Mathematics: Mathematical Thinking and Making Connections, Geometry and Measurement, History: Flourishing Societies and Civilizations, The Legacy of Civilizations, The World, 1450-1650, The World, 1650-1789, The World, 1789-1900, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 9-12

Silk Routes Adventures Simulation

Duration: 2 hours

The Silk Routes were ancient trade routes that connected Asia, Africa, and Europe, facilitating the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures, including the spread of Islamic art and influences. Play a game of barter and trade through a simulation activity and gain a deeper understanding of the Silk Routes.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Drama: Creating and Presenting, Reflecting, Responding and Analyzing, Social Sciences and Humanities: Religious and Spiritual Impulse, Sacred Teachings and Principles, Social and Cultural Contexts, Anthropology, Cultural Expressions, History: Flourishing Societies and Civilizations, The Legacy of Civilizations, Origins to the Fifteenth Century, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 9-12

The Chemistry of Pigment

Duration: 2 hours

In Islamic art, pigments were sourced from natural materials such as minerals, plants, and insects. Learn how medieval artists transformed these basic materials into a kaleidoscope of colours and create your own natural pigments from a variety of natural materials such as turmeric, charcoal, and cochineal.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Science: Chemistry, Chemical Reactions, Quantities in Chemical Reactions, Visual Arts: Creating and Presenting, Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing, History: Origins to the Fifteenth Century, Social Sciences and Humanities: Cultural Expressions, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 9-12

World of Fashion

Duration: 2 hours

Bring your students to explore a variety of artifacts, from luxury items to textiles, highlighting cross-cultural exchange, trade along the Silk Routes, and the impact that geography had on design. Students will design a lavish garment for a historical ruler in a friendly competition where they must navigate materials, the taste of their assigned ruler, and their budgets to create something truly fit for the royal court.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Visual Arts: Creating and Presenting, Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing, Family Studies: Influences on Clothing Choices, Design and Clothing Construction Skills, Influences on Fashion, Marketing, Environmental Responsibility, and Consumer Behaviour, History and Influences, Textile Production, Society, and the Globalized Marketplace, History: Flourishing Societies and Civilizations, The Legacy of Civilizations, Origins to the Fifteenth Century, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



ONLINE FIELD TRIPS

Book an interactive virtual tour with one of our expert educators to explore the rich world of Islamic art and culture. Engage with stunning artifacts, delve into fascinating histories, and discover the beauty of Islamic artistic traditions, all from the comfort of your classroom.

Please note, our sessions are offered through Zoom. If you wish to invite one of our Educators into your virtual classroom through another video-conferencing platform, please let us know and share the link with our team at learn@agakhanmuseum.org.



EARLY LEARNERS (JK-SK)

Telling Stories

Duration: 30 minutes

The *Shahnameh* (Book of Kings) is an epic book of poems written by a renowned Persian poet Firdausi. Immerse yourselves in an interactive live session as we journey through the tale of a King who transforms himself into a dragon to test the courage of his three sons.

What you will need: Pre-printed templates, which will be emailed once the registration is confirmed.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to The Kindergarten Program frames of Belonging & Contributing, Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



EARLY LEARNERS (JK-SK)

From Patterns to People

Duration: 30 minutes

Mehndi, also known as henna, is a form of body art. Listen to a story about the art of Mehndi and create your own Mehndi art inspired by the Aga Khan Museum's patterns!

What you will need: Pre-printed templates, which will be emailed once the registration is confirmed, Pencil, Red Colour Pencil.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to The Kindergarten Program frames of Belonging & Contributing, Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



EARLY LEARNERS (JK-SK)

The Story of Silk

Duration: 30 minutes

Embark on a journey through time as we learn the captivating story of how silk was discovered. Dive into a hands-on experience where children craft their own paper crafted silkworms.

What you will need: Pre-printed templates, which will be emailed once the registration is confirmed, Pencil, Colour Pencil.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to The Kindergarten Program frames of Belonging & Contributing, Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 1-3

Pattern Play

Duration: 60 minutes

Patterns play a key role in Islamic art. Join the interactive virtual tour to examine various patterns and motifs found within the Museum Collections. As we explore you will design your own clothing! Draw a shirt, pants, skirt, or sweater, then add a pattern for a fun twist.

What you will need: Paper, Pencil, Colour Pencil.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Visual Arts , Mathematics: Algebra, Spatial Sense, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 1-3

The Art of Calligraphy

Duration: Duration: 60 minutes

Embark on a virtual tour to explore the exquisite art of Islamic calligraphy, focusing on the elegant square Kufic style. Discover stunning examples from the collection and unleash your creativity by crafting your own unique calligraphic design!

What you will need: Pre-printed templates, which will be emailed once the registration is confirmed, Pencil, Colour Pencil.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Visual Arts , Language: Literacy Connections and Applications, Comprehension: Understanding and Responding to Texts, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 4-8

Pattern Play

Duration: 60 minutes

Patterns play a key role in Islamic art. Join the interactive virtual tour to examine various patterns and motifs found within the Museum Collections. As we explore you will design your own clothing! Draw a shirt, pants, skirt, or sweater, then add a pattern for a fun twist.

What you will need: Paper, Pencil, Colour Pencil.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Visual Arts , Mathematics: Algebra, Spatial Sense, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 4-8

Silk Routes Adventures

Duration: 60 minutes

The Silk Routes were ancient trade routes that connected Asia, Africa, and Europe, enabling the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures. Join our interactive virtual tour to discover the history of the Silk Routes and explore what was traded along these historic highways. The students will design a sundial inspired by the astrolabe in our Collections.

What you will need: Paper OR Paper Plate, Scissors, Chenille stem OR Stick Markers.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Drama, Mathematics: Number, Financial Literacy, Science: Earth and Space Systems, Social Studies: Heritage and Identity: Early Societies to 1500 CE, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 9-12

Geometric Patterns

Duration: 60 minutes

Geometric patterns adorn building surfaces, fabrics, ceramics, and metalwork in Islamic art. Join our interactive virtual tour to learn how to read these geometric designs before creating an eight-pointed star design using a compass, ruler, and pencil.

What you will need: Paper, Pencil, Colour Pencil, Ruler, Compass, Protractor (Optional).

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Visual Arts: Creating and Presenting, Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing, Mathematics: Mathematical Thinking and Making Connections, Geometry and Measurement, History: Flourishing Societies and Civilizations, The Legacy of Civilizations, History: The World, 1450-1650, The World, 1650-1789, The World, 1789-1900, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



GRADES 9-12

Islamic Architecture Building Blocks: Muqarnas

Duration: 60 minutes

In Islamic architecture, domes are often decorated with intricate and complex 3D geometric designs known as Muqarnas. Join our virtual session to learn about the history of Muqarnas through the Museum Collections and create your own Muqarnas out of paper!

What you will need: Printed templates, which will be emailed once the registration is done, Paper, Pencil, Colour Pencil, Ruler, Compass, Scissors, Glue Sticks.

Curriculum Connections:

This program connects to Visual Arts: Creating and Presenting, Reflecting, Responding, and Analyzing, Mathematics: Mathematical Thinking and Making Connections, Geometry and Measurement, History: Flourishing Societies and Civilizations, The Legacy of Civilizations, The World, 1450-1650, The World, 1650-1789, The World, 1789-1900, from the Ontario Curriculum.

For specific strands and overall expectations, please visit agakhanmuseum.org/learn



SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIPS

Embark on self-guided visits at the Aga Khan Museum, where you can explore the galleries at your own pace while supervising your students. All self-guided visits start with a welcome from one of our experienced Museum Educators.

To enhance your visit, educational materials will also be provided for students.

To book your self-guided visit check out our website:

agakhanmuseum.org/learn



ONLINE COURSES

Each of our platform-based virtual experiences provides age-appropriate information on a specific topic related to our Museum Collections. With registration you will receive access to the course and a detailed Teacher Resource Package.

The Course: Each of our expertly crafted courses includes videos featuring a Museum Educator giving a pre-recorded tour through the Collections, which takes approximately 40 minutes to watch. The course ends with hands-on workshop instructions and a 30-40 minute demonstration video.

Teacher Resource Package: This resource package will provide you with the program at a glance, the Ontario Curriculum links, and further extension activities and resources.

Fee: Flat rate \$16 per class. Course subscription is valid for one month.

To learn more visit: learn.agakhanmuseum.org/collections/school



OUTREACH

From object storytelling to hands-on experiences, we bring the Aga Khan Museum to your site.

Explore our wide range of programs inspired by the Museum Collections for different age ranges which all meet Ontario curriculum goals.

Inquire about outreach programs and fees by contacting learn@agakhanmuseum.org.



CUSTOM PROGRAMS

Did not find what you were looking for?

We also offer custom-made programs. Inquire about these programs and fees by contacting learn@agakhanmuseum.org

To book your visit email us at:

learn@agakhanmuseum.org

Or call:

416.646.4677 ext. 7726

