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America to Zanzibar: Muslim Cultures Near and Far

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America to Zanzibar: Muslim Cultures Near and Far was developed by the Children’s Museum of Manhattan.
I am going on a trip to the Please Touch Museum. I may take a car or a bus to get to the Museum.

When I enter the museum I will have to stand in line to get a ticket.

A friendly staff member in a blue shirt will sell us tickets and answer any of our questions.

If I get lost or have a question I can always find someone in a blue shirt to help me.
Today I am going to the Please Touch Museum to see the exhibit America to Zanzibar. This exhibit will be visiting the Please Touch Museum until September 2019. In America to Zanzibar I will learn about Muslim culture in America and all around the world.

In this exhibit I will see a courtyard. I can sit at a table in the courtyard and play an object guessing game on an Ipad.
I can go to the Muslim instrument display case and look with my eyes at the instruments in the case. I can also tap the iPad and listen to the instrument sounds. The three iPads in the courtyard are meant for one person to play at a time, so I may have to wait to use an iPad. I can sit on a bench in the courtyard while I wait.

Next I will see a Pakistani truck, camel, and dhow. In this area I will explore the Silk Road and trade routes.
On the outside, I can decorate the Pakistani truck with magnetic tiles. On the inside, I can sit next to a friend or adult and ask them, “Where would you like to drive to?” I will listen to their response, and turn the wheel as I pretend to drive the truck.

Next I can climb aboard a camel and learn about the Silk Road, an ancient trade route. I will read how people used camels to cross the desert because camels can carry heavy loads and don’t need much water.
Then I can climb aboard a life-sized Dhow, a sailboat found in the Indian Ocean. Here I can work together with a friend to load and unload goods shipped from around the world. If I would like a turn at the conveyor belt and a friend is using it, I will say, “Excuse me, can I try turning the wheel?”

Next I will explore the Global Market Place, an area to practice buying, selling, and trading objects from around the world. Some of these stalls include:
Zanzibar Fish Market

Here I can use a scale to practice weighing fish I caught in the make believe Indian Ocean.

Morrocan Rug Market

Here I can use my fingers to touch different fabrics and my eyes to explore the different rug patterns.
Egyptian Spice Store

Here I can use my sense of smell to sniff the different spices found in Egypt. If I do not like a smell I might make a yuck face and say, “I don’t like this smell.” If I like a smell I might make a happy face and say, “This smells delicious!”

NYC Sengalese Fashion Shop

Here I can play with fabric and dress up as a fashion model! I might choose to put fabric around my body as a shirt, around my head as a hat, or around my waist as a skirt. I can ask a grownup for help by saying, “Can you please help me put this on?”
When I play in the Global Market I can share my toys with other friends by making eye contact and asking, “Would you like to trade?” If they say yes, I can share the toy I am playing with. If they say no, I can say, “Okay, maybe later.”

Next, I will walk down a hallway and see an American Muslim Home. I can use my close looking eyes to see what Muslims in America and in Philadelphia wear and play with everyday. When I open the drawers I might hear music play. I can also push a button to hear a Muslim person tell me a story.
Next I will see an area with artwork from a local Philadelphia artist who is in residence at the Please Touch Museum. In residence means this artist is working at the Please Touch Museum just for a few months. When I visit this area I might see a picture titled Queen “Culture Portrait” done by artist Keisha Whatley.

Lastly I will see an area to explore Muslim Architecture. I will walk through this arch way into a dark room.
In here I can touch an ipad to get a 360° view of a mosque from somewhere around the world. A mosque is a special building Muslim people visit to pray. If I get dizzy easily, this may not be the best room for me to go into.

Also in America to Zanzibar is a Prayer Room at the very end of the exhibit. If I am Muslim, I may take my shoes off and use the Prayer Room to pray.
When I want to leave America to Zanzibar
I will say, “I am all done playing in here.”
And when I walk out of America to Zanzibar
I will turn to my grownup and say, “Thank
you for taking me here today.”

THE END