

Noah's Ark Exhibit: An Exploratory Museum Journey

Welcome to Noah's Ark at the Skirball!

Here's What to Expect...

As you move through Noah's Ark, notice the different stages:

The Story: This is the universal story of Noah's Ark, not tied to the Biblical story. Various guides tell the story from one culture or another. An extensive list of cultural stories can be found at: <http://www.talkorgins.org/faq/flood.myths.html>

Cross the Bridge of Time: Notice the various miniature arks handmade by various cultures. You will recognize that all the animals are made of recycled and repurposed materials (quite incredible as the exhibit took five years to make!).

The Storm Gallery & Move In Day: Lightning, thunder, and rain: Students will use various devices and their own bodies to make storm sounds. Big Idea: Storms are universal, both in the weather and in our lives. People may experience emotional storms in their lives. Where do you go to take shelter from a storm and where is your "safe" place or ark? Does every living thing have a need to be safe from a storm?

Move In Day: The animals two by two can be placed on a hand-cranked conveyor belt into the ark. How do you think the animals feel moving into a strange place with other animals they may be terrified of? Can you relate to a situation where you were surrounded by strangers, some of whom you were afraid of? How did you cope? Big Idea: Cooperation. What problems can you anticipate when all the different animals are together on the ark? Where will they sleep? Where will they eat? Where will they eliminate?

The Arkade: There is a lot to explore here – up, down, nooks and crannies. The animals have been on the ark a long time now. Observe. What do you notice? Do the animals look comfortable? What would these animals need to be happy and healthy (e.g., food, sleeping spot, the "poop" game, etc.). Have the animals made friends with one another? Can you find examples? Can you find some unusual pairings? (Yes, there's a lion and a lamb.) Do you think they needed to cooperate to survive in this small place? How did they do this?

The Rainbow Room: Celebration & Thanksgiving: The rainbow is a symbol of promise and hope in the future. Why do you think it has this connotation (e.g., a rainbow comes only after a storm, rain, etc.)?

NOTE: A Teacher's Guide is provided in advance to grades Pre-K-2nd grade. For example, the 2nd grade program in the Rainbow Room is about habitats or biomes.

Sample Lessons Ideas for Noah's Ark

(Can be adapted to various grade levels and differentiated for gifted learners for *any* museum exhibit)

Arts Integration:

- Reuse, Recycle. Make your own imaginary animal using recycled materials. Give your animal a name. Use a list of Latin prefixes to help you name your animal. Example: uni (one); bi (two); tri (three); pod(foot); cephal (head); oculi (eyes); dens (teeth); frons (forehead); etc. Write a paragraph explaining the name. Include in your story your animal's habitat and food source. *Think like a Scientist/Zoologist!*
- Paint a rainbow using watercolors. Let the paint dry completely. With a black thin line marker choose a word to put inside the arc that has meaning for you. Examples: Promise; Hope; Future; Covenant; Peace; Life. Older and advanced students may want to put a significant quotation. Some examples include:
 - "Rain maketh the earth to bring forth and bud"
 - "After the rain cometh the sunshine"
 - "Time and tide wait for no man"
 - "Where there's life there's hope"
 - "Hope springs eternal"
 - "Every cloud has a silver lining"
 - "April showers bring May flowers"
 - "Any port in a storm"
 - "Into each life some rain must fall"
 - "Vexed sailors cursed the rain for which poor shepherds prayed in vain"Students must be able to explain the meaning of the proverb or quote and how it relates to the rainbow.

Writing:

- Write your own flood myth. Who would you take with you? How would you decide? Would you take animals with you? Which ones and why? If a flood were to cover the earth, would you rather be on a ship or a space ship? What would your "ark" be like? Make a picture of your ark, with its own unique design.

Science:

- What evidence do we have that water once did cover much of the earth? What do fossils tell us? Most fossils are found in sedimentary rocks, why? Research inland seas (e.g., Dead Sea; Great Salt Lake, Utah; Salton Sea). Why do they exist and what do they tell us? Why is there sand in the desert?

Rainbow Activities:

- A rainbow is a symbol of promise, hope, rebirth and future.
- A rainbow is a color spectrum. What color order does a rainbow always make? There are seven colors in a rainbow always in the same order. There is an acronym that helps us remember the order. It is Roy G. Biv (like a name). The order is red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. Look at a color wheel. Every other color mixed together makes the middle color. R+Y=O; Y+B=G; B+V=I. We call red, yellow, and blue *primary* colors for this reason. The primary colors

make *secondary* colors. Make your own color wheel mixing the primary colors to make the secondary colors.

- Experiment with a prism to bend light, or take a pencil and place it in a clear glass of water. Notice the bend at the water line that makes the pencil look broken. This is refraction caused by light that travels through water slower than air. Rainbows are caused by the sun passing through droplets of rain causing refraction of light in a spectrum of color in a specific order.

Symbolism: “We are more alike than we are different”

- **Doves**, usually white (purity) in color, are used cross culturally as symbols of love, peace or messengers of the God(s). Doves are symbols in Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Paganism. The Biblical (Genesis 8:11) dove was released by Noah after the flood to find land. In the Epic of Gilgamesh, the dove is also released to search for the end of the deluge. The Talmud compares the spirit of God to a dove that hovers over the face of water. The use of a dove and olive branch as a symbol of peace was confirmed by St. Augustine. In Christian iconography, the dove also symbolizes the Holy Spirit. Doves are often associated with peace and pacifism. People whose politics are pacifists in nature are often called “Doves.”
- The **olive branch** is also used to represent peace among living things. It has long been used in the Mediterranean countries to represent honor, prosperity and life. It is used extensively in the Olympic Games symbology.
- Can you make a list of other symbols that we use to represent an ideology? A brand? Think political parties, state and country flags, political cartoons, and product symbols? Why do you think symbolism is so universal?
- Make up your own symbol and explain what it represents.

More About the Skirball Cultural Center

Noah’s Ark:

- Noah’s Ark is a very popular exhibit. Make your school reservations early!
<http://www.skirball.org/education/for-your-students#pre-k-grade-2>
- There is a specific tour for Noah’s Ark for Pre-K to 2nd grade, before public hours, for up to 50 students.

Teachers (with valid teacher ID):

- Free museum entry
- 10% discount at the Book Stores
- School tours will receive six passes to the museum and a \$10 gas card for each attending student
- Transportation and Admission scholarships are available:
<http://www.skirball.org/education/for-your-students/plan-your-school-visit>
- Free Professional development for K-12 LAUSD and LAUSD-dependent Teachers:
<http://www.skirball.org/towta>

Today, Don’t Miss:

- Permanent Exhibit: The Archaeology Discovery Center and outdoor dig site (Gr. 6)
- Revolving Exhibit (April-September 2017 only): Paul Simon: Words & Music

