LEARNING AT THE AGA KHAN MUSEUM
A CURRICULUM RESOURCE GUIDE FOR TEACHERS
GRADES ONE TO EIGHT
The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto, Canada is North America’s first museum dedicated to the arts of Muslim civilizations. The Museum aims to connect cultures through art, fostering a greater understanding of how Muslim civilizations have contributed to world heritage. Opened in September 2014, the Aga Khan Museum was established and developed by the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC), an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). Its state-of-the-art building, designed by Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki, includes two floors of exhibition space, a 340-seat auditorium, classrooms, and public areas that accommodate programming for all ages and interests.

The Aga Khan Museum’s Permanent Collection spans the 8th century to the present day and features rare manuscript paintings, individual folios of calligraphy, metalwork, scientific and musical instruments, luxury objects, and architectural pieces. The Museum also publishes a wide range of scholarly and educational resources; hosts lectures, symposia, and conferences; and showcases a rich program of performing arts.
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How to Use This Guide

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The Arts of Muslim Societies: Cultural Connections

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Learning at the Aga Khan Museum: A Curriculum Resource Guide for Teachers, Grades One to Eight gives teachers ideas and resources for using the Aga Khan Museum collections, exhibitions, and performing arts programs to teach core competency skills in Arts, Sciences, Mathematics, Literacy, and Social Studies while fulfilling specific expectations in the Ontario Ministry Curriculum.

As a teacher, you can use this Guide in the classroom and access other resources such as high-resolution images on the Aga Khan Museum website. You can also use the Guide as additional help in the galleries during a class visit to the Museum.

The Guide is divided into five sections:

**Section One: Introduction** gives a general introduction to the Aga Khan Museum and ways to understand its core mission, vision, and values, as well as a brief background on the significant cross-cultural exchanges that have always characterized the history of the arts in Muslim civilizations.

**Section Two: Art-Based Learning** describes the ways teachers can use works of art — whether visual or performing arts — to foster learning and understanding with their students.

**Section Three: Learning with Aga Khan Museum Resources** gives examples from the Aga Khan Museum Permanent Collection, or from performances in the Museum’s auditorium, to illustrate the method of art-based learning for specific school grades. This method involves posing questions and conducting activities that engage students in active inquiry.

**Section Four: Lesson Plans** includes lesson plans that demonstrate step by step how to use the Museum’s resources to fulfill the Ontario Curriculum requirements.

**Section Five** features a glossary of terms and a list of resources for further exploration.