

Family Life – Refugee Toys and Play
School/Group Program (To be facilitated by Museum Staff)

Related Exhibit Area: Toys and Play

Duration of Class: 45 minutes

Concepts/Skills:

- Toys and Play
- Comparing and Contrasting
- Creativity and Imagination

Materials:

- Various authentic refugee toys (*Included in Education/Program Props sent with the exhibit*)
 - Clay Pot
 - Clay Phone
 - Clay Camera
 - Straw Dolls (2)
 - Straw Mat
 - Wooden Spoon
 - Wooden Cell Phone
- “Garbage” and/or “Recycled” Materials (*Samples listed below included in Education/Program Props sent with the exhibit – Museum will need to collect materials for students to use during class*)
 - Wood
 - Fabric (pants used as sample – can use old clothing as fabric samples)
 - Aluminum Foil
 - Plastic Bags
 - Raffia (1 package)
 - Rope (1 package)
 - String/Twine (in baggie)
 - Fishing Wire (in baggie)
 - Wooden Sticks (in baggie)
 - Flip flops (1 pair)
 - Skewer/Bamboo Sticks

The items listed above are just a sample of the items that can be used for this activity.

The idea is that the items should be “found” objects similar to what would be available to refugee children. The museum can be creative with adding other items, i.e. you may decide to add clay to assimilate mud/clay used in the authentic toys listed above.

Educational Goals/Objectives:

- To provide exposure to authentic toys made by refugee children
- To nurture a sense of creativity and imagination

- To experience/simulate creating toys from what appears to be trash/garbage
- To highlight the limited availability of materials common to American children
 - Found items, garbage, is now valuable and could serve a new purpose
- To provide exposure to how ‘toys and play’ may take on different meaning for different children and how it may certainly differ for a refugee child

Outline:

- Assemble the group of students
- Ask questions to introduce the concepts and to evaluate the audience knowledge base.
 - What does play mean to you?
 - How many toys would you say that you have?
 - What kinds of toys do you usually play with?
 - Where do you get these toys from? Do you make them yourselves or are they purchased from the store?
 - What materials are they typically made out of?
- Show some examples of authentic toys created by refugee children. **Presenter Note: If you have time, take the students by the Toys and Play exhibit within the *Torn from Home* exhibit so they can see the more elaborate toys. Point out the soccer balls (made of plastic bags and twine) since you do not have a sample of the balls to use in the class. Also point out that some of the toys are very elaborate and creative use of materials, i.e. using plastic bags and gum wrappers to decorate/design the mats, using flip flop as the wheels on the scooter, etc.**
- Now that you have seen what kinds of toys refugee children make and play with, we are going to give you the opportunity to create your own toy.
 - Be creative in your design – think outside of the box
- Provide the opportunity for students to create a toy from the materials available
 - Presenter should walk around and encourage participants to use their creativity and imagination to create a toy from the materials provided.
 - Ask questions that will encourage participants to think outside of their normal thought processes, when they think of play
- Let’s share some of the creative toys that we were able to build.
 - Hold up your toy and allow the group to see if they can figure out what it is.
 - Tell us what your toy is and why you chose to make that toy
 - Describe your experience – was it difficult to make your toy, is this something that you would do at home, how does it differ from the toys that you would normally play with?

- How do you think play and toys for the typical American child differs from that of a refugee child?

- Questions/Answers

- Thank you for visiting the museum and the exhibit today and enjoy the remainder of your time in the exhibition