MY LITTLE EXPLORATION GUIDE

Game booklet 7-12 years
PLAN OF MAIN COLLECTIONS LEVEL

A VISIT TO
ASIA

A VISIT TO
OCEANIA

3 4

2

1 2

1

2
A VISIT TO AFRICA

A VISIT TO AMERICAS

WRITE YOUR NAME AS AN EXPLORER:

YOUR MISSION
explore the museum collections
Your journey starts in Oceania, in the Santa Cruz islands. To explore the island, you must find a very precious object that you can use in exchanges. You can’t use your own money here!

Try to find the object with the help of the plan on the first page of the guide – it’s number 1.

This large roll is a money! Isn’t that strange?

10 metres long! It takes about 600 birds to make a roll this size. Because if you look closely, you’ll see that it’s made of thousands of small red feathers from a bird called the “honeyeater”.

The value of the roll depends on its length and the condition of the feathers. You could use it during festivals to show off your wealth. You could also use it to buy wood, boats or pigs – a very precious animal!
GAME

Look at the other type of money presented in this display: in Melanesia, people use what they find in their environment to make coins.

This money... ... is made with:

A feather money  A giant clam shell
A Birvan money  A bat
A Bareke money  A “honeyeater” bird

You can read the labels by the objects if you need help.

Answers to Visit 1:

a-3  b-2  c-1
Oceania includes thousands of islands scattered across the Pacific Ocean. The dugout canoe is the main means of transport. It is used for fishing, but also for military expeditions. The largest dugout canoes can hold up to 100 warriors!

The decoration used is inspired by the gods. Try to find the small figure sticking out its tongue, at the base of the stern. It represents a distant ancestor of the canoe’s owner.

Front or back? The stern is the back part of a boat, while the prow is located at the front.

Keep travelling to a much bigger island: New Zealand. You can travel there by boat. How about if you exchanged your roll of feathers for a dugout canoe? Beware – women and food are not allowed on board!

Try to find the stern of this dugout canoe with the help of the plan on the first page of the guide – it’s number 2.

... exchange your coins for a dugout with a scary face...
GAME

The sculptor didn’t finish the decoration of the stern. Can you continue drawing spirals to help?

Look carefully at the stern in the display to help you draw the spirals.
Why not take a trip to Thailand? You’re in luck, today is the Phi Ta Khon festival and the streets are filled with masks.

To find them, use the map on the front page of the guide – it’s number 3.

Are you afraid of ghosts? Phi Ta Khon means “ghost masks”. These masks depict the faces of the spirits that protect the village. Every year, a festival is held in their honour. This festival combines popular beliefs (ghosts) and Buddhism (a religion or belief that follows the teachings of Buddha).

And there we go! A basket transformed into a mask! Thai artists recycle: they take the baskets used to cook rice and turn them into a work of art.

A colourful parade: costume parades, fireworks, dance contests... Everything is designed to please the spirits and ask for their help in the run up to the rice planting season.
GAME

Are you a recycling pro? Try to turn this simple bamboo basket into a terrifying ghost mask!
Crossing Asia has brought you to the Near East, to the town of Hebron. You’ve arrived at a good time – an important wedding is being celebrated! Why not sneak in among the guests to get a glimpse of the bride?

Her headdress is displayed in the museum. See if you can find it. Use the plan on the first page of the guide to help you – it’s number 4.

... at the village, the bride arrives dressed as a princess from Arabian Nights...
The bride prepares. She has put on a special headdress, which she will wear only today. She has been given it by her parents, and will give it to her children when they marry.

Entirely covered with a veil, she leaves her father’s house to cross the village on the back of a camel and join her husband.

Coins, blue glass beads and coral, like a kind of safe deposit box! These decorations protect her from evil spirits that might be envious of her good luck. The bride is proud of wearing this headdress which shows the wealth of her family.

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**GAME**

The bride has forgotten her headdress for the big day. Can you draw her one? Take inspiration from these beads and small objects that can be hung from it.

- Metal coins
- Lapis beads
- Coral
Destination Africa. Another festival is awaiting you – the celebration of the birth of the son of King N’Jike, in Cameroon.

Try to find the statue that represents the newborn with his mother. Use the plan on the first page of the guide to help you – it’s number 5.
A sculpture to celebrate the birth of a child! King N’Juke ordered it especially from the sculptor Kwayep.

It’s a “Mother and Child”. The queen is feeding her baby with her milk. She also represents the earth, which feeds all humans. This is a very important theme in Africa, but also throughout the whole world.

The sculpture is kept in a separate room known as the “treasury”. Here, the king stores the precious objects that he uses during great festivals and ceremonies.

GAME

Artists often choose materials that they find in the environment around them. What do you think the artist has used to give the sculpture this unusual colour?

a. Powdered wood mixed with palm oil

b. Gouache

c. Coloured pencils

Answer to Visit 5:
- a. Powdered wood mixed with palm oil
Your journey continues in the Congo. Why not take advantage of your trip to visit the diviner? He is sculpting a statuette in the form of an animal.

Can you find it? Use the plan on the first page of the guide to help you – it’s number 6.
A diviner? This man knows hidden things and acts for the good of a person or of the village. In the Congo, he is called the nganga. He can help the village to do things like resolve problems, heal the sick or discover a thief.

This statuette is “magic”: it’s a nkisi. It can take any shape, but it always contains the bilongo, a collection of ingredients (earth, plants, hair, nails, seeds etc.) which the diviner chooses for their different properties and which make it “magic”.

Can you find where these ingredients are hidden? Clue: look more closely at his tummy.

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**GAME**

1. the name of this statuette
2. the name of the diviner
3. the name of the animal represented
4. the name of the magic mixture of ingredients
5. the name of the area of origin of this statuette

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Read the text above carefully. Perhaps you can find the answers there?

**Answers to Visit 6:**

1-nkisi 2-nganga 3-ape 4-bilongo 5-Congo
You are visiting the Yupik in Alaska! Night has fallen, and the villagers have congregated in a large house that is half buried in the ground to keep the warmth in. What are they doing? They are celebrating the great winter festival and watching the shaman dancing, hidden beneath his mask and his costume.

Can you find this mask?
Use the plan on the first page of the guide to help you – it’s number 7.

Tonight, the spirits have visited the shaman. They have breathed inspiration into him, and he is going to sculpt a new mask. This is the mask of the moon spirit.
What is the shaman doing? He is talking to the spirits... He is a very important figure in the community: he is the only person capable of “flying” to the spirit world to ask them for help to heal a sick person, or to ensure a good hunt!

A face that’s half seal, half human. The Yupik believe that animals are capable of thinking and loving like humans. To show the soul of the seal, they have added human features to it!

GAME

Someone has drawn the mask during the festival, but the spirits have added four errors. Try to find them by looking carefully at the mask presented in the museum. If you need help, you can look at the clues around the drawing.

Answers to Visit 7:

- A feather and a finger on the left hand are missing. There is one too many rounds of wood.
- The wolf’s head is missing beneath the head.
Our last stop: the Great Plains of the United States. Here you are in an Indian village. You must first present yourself to the chief. You will recognise him easily from his impressive necklace.

Try to find him. Use the plan on the first page of the guide to help you – it’s number 8.

Beads and grizzly bear claws! This necklace shows the courage and strength of the warrior who has collected the claws of the animal to make a necklace. Only a great warrior can fight a grizzly bear. If you turn around, you can see the portrait of chief “Shon-ta-ye-ga”.

A “Redskin”? The face of the chief is painted red, using clay that contains red pigments mixed with bison fat. These paintings are like a language that different tribes all understood. They allowed tribes to impress their enemies, to show which clan they belonged to and to protect themselves from insects.
**GAME**

- Quiz: test your knowledge about the Plains Indians! To help you with the answers, look at the objects and read the labels next to them.

1. “Shon-ta-ye-ga” means “little wolf”
   - TRUE  FALSE

2. The women made garments from bison skin
   - TRUE  FALSE

3. Indians have naturally red skin
   - TRUE  FALSE

4. All Indians wore necklaces made from grizzly bear claws
   - TRUE  FALSE

5. Indians could change their name several times in their lives!
   - TRUE  FALSE

- Follow in the footsteps of the Indian chiefs Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse or Pocahontas, and choose an Indian name according to your physical characteristics: big, little, quick, strong etc. or your character: happy, dancing, singing etc.

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**Answers to Visit 8:**

Clothing in buffalo or buckskin. The Indians decorated their clothing with fur, feathers, fringes or beads. Men wore shirts embroidered with porcupine quills. Women wore tunics. You can see some of their garments in the displays beside the paintings.
The globetrotters club...

... activities for understanding, learning and being amazed by a wealth of different cultures

- **workshops for 3-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds and 9-12 year olds**
- **narrated family tours** of the Main Collections space
- **family expedition-games** to solve enigmas

At each stop, don’t forget to have your passport stamped. Your globetrotter will receive a present during their third activity!