The Lion Guard Curriculum

The Lion Guard Exhibit takes museum visitors on an adventure through the African Savanna to defend the Pride Lands and protect the Circle of Life.

The Lion Guard Curriculum builds upon the self-directed exhibit experiences to enhance the potential learning during a museum visit. The curriculum’s activities are intended to be delivered by a museum educator/facilitator and follows standard museum activity design, such as open-endedness and easy adaptability to large and small groups, different social units, learning abilities, language ability and age range. The activities also offer flexibility in their duration as some museum visitors choose to dedicate varying amounts of time to facilitated engagement.

The goals of this curriculum is to promote inquiry-based learning, excite visitors about the animals of the African Savanna, learn about wildlife conservation, and push forward their individual strengths and fitness, all while discovering the power of teamwork and cooperation.

Museums and Early Education

Museums offer dynamic educational opportunities. For young learners, children’s museums open up a world of imagination and creativity. Children’s museums are comprised of interactive exhibits that empower children to take ownership of their own learning and explore individual curiosities through hands-on play. Play serves as a vehicle for informal learning and advances the development of essential 21st century skills, including communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. Children learn to make decisions, work together and face uncertainties through play. Children’s exhibits provide an appropriate educational environment for play-based learning.
Informal Learning in Museum

Informal learning opportunities are those experiences that exist outside the traditional classroom and often function within the context of a visitor’s community and culture. These opportunities are abundant in all types of museums, including art galleries, science and nature centers, and children’s museums. Museum experience is described as informal and functions are complimentary to the formal education system. Museums, together with formal education, create a network of learning within a community.
Curriculum Activities
Organized by Exhibit Areas

Welcome To The Pride Lands
1. Ball Toss
2. Balance Ball
3. Food Chain Game

Training With The Lion Guard
4. Sunflower Seed Stretch
5. Sun Salute

The Lion Guard Lair
Kion - the fiercest
6. Kion Says
7. Partners in a Pride

Bunga - the bravest
8. Courage is
9. Circle of Courage

Fuli - the fastest
10. Fast Feet
11. Beachball Bash
12. Rollover Race

Ono - the keenest of sight
13. Eye Spy
14. Savanna Hawk
15. Camouflage Creations

Beshte - the strongest
16. Planks
17. Wheelbarrow

Beshte’s Adventure
18. Good Friend’s List
19. That’s Me!
20. The Compliment Game

Ono’s Adventure
21. Optical Illusions

Fuli’s Adventure
22. Red Light, Green Light
23. Animal Prints

Kion’s Adventure
24. Follow the Leader

Painting with Rafiki
25. Alphabet Hieroglyphs
26. Guessing Word Game
Welcome to the Pride Lands

Discussion Points: Circles are a big part of nature. The planets and their moons, the sun and the stars are all circles. Our solar system rotates in a circle around the sun and our galaxy rotates around the universe. Our seasons change and circle back around. Circles also have no end point, they are continuous. Humans, animals, plants and all living organisms are included in the Circle of Life. Circles are equal on all sides, meaning everything in nature is equally as important. We are all part of a great cycle.

Learning Objectives: Guest will be introduced to the Circle of Life concept. They will become familiarized with the balance that is necessary for nature to thrive. They will be able to identify their place in nature’s cycle.

Activity 1: Ball Toss Warm-up
Have guest stand in a circle. Give one person a ball which they will toss to someone else in the circle. When that person receives the ball they must say the first thing they can think of that is in the shape of a circle. (e.g., Earth, orange, Frisbee) Keep it going until everyone has had a turn.

Materials: ball

Activity 2: Balance Ball
In groups of four, have the guest hold one end of each rope so they are parallel and have them pull tightly. Balance a kickball on the 2 ropes. Have them move in the same direction a given distance and back again.

Materials: Two ropes and a ball

Activity 3: Food Chain Game
Give each guest a card representing different organism. Ask the student with the sun card to raise their hand. Give the student the ball of yarn. Next, ask guest “Who is dependent on sun?” Once a correct answer is given, have that guest grab a piece of yarn. Continue to ask guest to make connections until every student has a piece of yarn. Once all the students are all a part of the web discuss how everyone is connected. Discuss how people can help these relationships. Discuss using things like paper that is made out of recycled paper instead of a tree.

Materials: Cards with pictures of animals and plants, card with picture of the sun, yarn
Training with The Lion Guard

Discussion Points: Before starting any physical activity it is helpful to stretch. Stretching increases flexibility and range of motion, allows blood flow to muscles, and reduces the risk of injury. Stretching a few minutes before and after exercise helps you get strong and flexible.

Learning Objectives: Guest will learn new ways to become strong.

Activity 4: Sunflower Seed Stretch
Have guests gather in a circle, everyone starts as a small seed (crouched, hunched), then slowly sprouts and grows, eventually flowering towards the sun (tippy toes, arms outstretched). Repeat, getting faster each time, leading eventually to seeds in unison jumping into the air and letting out loud “ahhhs”!

Activity 5: Sun Salute
Guide guest through the Sun Salutation sequence.

Materials: Print this page as a guide. *note: as you go through the guide use “backside” instead of “buttocks”, and “hips instead of “pubic bone”
Sun Salutation

1. Begin in mountain
2. Raise hands overhead, press pubic bone forward, tighten buttocks, open chest, inhale
3. Forward fold, tail bone up, hands next to feet, exhale
4. Right foot back to lunge - press heel of back foot, lengthen spine, inhale
5. Bring left foot back to plank position - long spine, hold breath in
6. Drag knees, chin and chest to floor, exhale
7. Sweep forward to cobra, inhale
8. Lift tailbone to downward dog, exhale
9. Right foot forward to lunge, inhale
10. Left foot forward to forward fold, exhale
11. Lengthen spine, reaching out and up press pelvis forward, opening chest, inhale
12. Exhale and release back to mountain
**The Lion Guard Lair – Kion**

**Discussion Points:** Kion is a lion cub, the Prince of the Pride Lands, and the leader of The Lion Guard as well as its fiercest member. He says “Till the Pride Lands end, Lion Guard defend!”

**Learning Objectives:** Guests will practice their decision making skills by quickly reacting to a variety of scenarios, problem and delegating responsibilities like Kion.

**Activity 6: Kion Says**
Invite guests to play along in a game of Kion Says, which is like Simon Says except you’ll say “Kion says” instead. Guest will follow the lead of the instructors as they act stylized interpretations of animal natural behaviors. However, every now and then give a command without saying “Kions says” Encourage children to make animal sounds too!
- Lion (roar like Kion)
- Cheetah (run fast like Fuli)
- Tiger (show your claws)
- Elephant (trumpet with your trunk)
- Rhinoceros (swing your horn on your head side to side)
- Gorilla (walk on your knuckles)
- Butterfly (drink nectar with your proboscis)

**Activity 7: Partners in a Pride**
Have guests walk around you while you give directions. Tell them when you call out a number, they will have to huddle with that number of people. If they don’t form a group hug with the correct number of people then they are out.
The Lion Guard Lair – Bunga

Discussion Points: Bunga is a honey badger and the bravest member of the Lion Guard. Honey badgers are related to otters, badgers, weasels and are very common in Africa. They are found throughout most of Africa, south of the Sahara desert in many habitats like savannas, desert and rainforests. Bunga loves to say “Zuka Zamal” which means “pop up, dive in”

Learning Objectives: Guests will gain an understanding for the character trait, courage. Educators will explain to guests that courage is about not being afraid to be yourself and doing what feels right in your hearts.

Activity 8: What Does Courage Look Like?
Have guests draw a picture of what courage may look like or what it means to them. For example, raising your hand in school to answer a question, talking to a new student in class. Have them Title their picture by completing the phrase “Courage is…”

Materials: “Courage is…” worksheet (attached)

Activity 9: Circle of Courage!
Queue some African drumming tracks on a music player. Instruct the guests that they will demonstrate courage by going in the middle of the circle and doing a dance.

Materials: “Music Player”
**The Lion Guard Lair – Fuli**

**Discussion Points:** Fuli is a cheetah and she is the fastest member of the Lion Guard. It is no wonder since cheetahs are the fastest land mammal on Earth! Fuli’s says “Huwezi!” which means “you can’t catch me,” so go ahead and say that while training.

**Learning Objectives:** Guests will train to increase their speed and agility.

**Activity 10:** Fast Feet  
Have guests line up at a wall. Have them face the wall and place their hands on it and set their feet back so their bodies are at a 45-degree angle in relation to the wall. Have them lift one knee at a time and alternate simulating running in place. Add some excitement by setting a timer for one minute and have them count how many times their feet hit the ground.  
*Materials:* Timer

![Fast Feet](image)

**Activity 11:** Beach Ball Bash  
Have guests form a circle. Take a beach ball and pass it to someone else in the circle. They will then hit the ball towards someone else. Guest must keep the ball passing without letting it hit the ground. If the balloon touches the ground near you, then you’re out. Last person standing wins.  
*Materials:* Print this page as a guide. *note: as you go through the guide use “backside” instead of “buttocks”, and “hips instead of “pubic bone”

**Activity 12:** Cheetah Race  
Mark off a start and an end point. At the starting line have children crouch down like cheetahs. When you say “go”, they will get up and race to the end point. First child to cross finish line wins. This can be repeated over and over for different results.
The Lion Guard Lair – Ono

**Discussion Points:** Ono is an egret who is the keenest of sight. Birds have relatively large eyes compared to mammals. In general, bigger eyes allow for better vision. They are able to avoid collisions while in flight and have the ability to spot fast moving or camouflaged prey.

**Learning Objectives:** Visitors will identify camouflage and understand how animals use it in the wild.

**Activity 13:** Eye Spy
Select one person to be the spy. That person will select an object around the room and have the other guests try to figure out what the object is based on their clue. Use adjective to give hints related to the objects: color, height, weight texture, first letter, materials or a word it rhymes with.

*Materials: “Courage is…” worksheet (attached)*

**Activity 14:** Bird’s Eye View
You will need two or three volunteers to be “hawks.” The rest of the group will be prey. Have the group move about the room while pretending to be small animals (such as lizards, snakes, and small mammals). When you call out “Hawk!” the prey must freeze. The hawks will then visually search for movement; whichever guest is moving, even if it is slight movement is out the game. Afterwards, discuss with the group what would really happen in the wild if prey was moving while it was being hunted. Why is camouflage alone not enough protection?

**Activity 15:** Camouflage Creations
Have each guest take a sheet of scrap paper. Pass out some blank cut outs of safari animals. Guest will then paste the cut out to their sheet of scrap paper. Ask each guest to make their animal camouflage to the scrap paper background to the best of their ability. Have them compare the different patterns and colors they used to create their camouflage.

*Materials: Blank animal cut outs, scrap paper*
The Lion Guard Lair – Beshte

Discussion Points: Beshte is a hippopotamus who is the strongest member of the Lion Guard. Hippos are one of the largest living land animals and are viewed as very strong amphibious (live in water and on land) creatures. Beshte’s says is “Twende Kiboko!” meaning “Let’s go hippo” in Swahili

Learning Objectives: Guests will learn new ways to be fit and strong.

Activity 16: Planks
Have guests gather in a circle, everyone starts as a small seed (crouched, hunched), then slowly sprouts and grows, eventually flowering towards the sun (tippy toes, arms outstretched). Repeat, getting faster each time, leading eventually to seeds in unison jumping into the air and letting out loud “ahhhs’!
Extension: Have guests hold the plank position on his forearms with his/her elbows at 90 degrees instead of his hands. If holding his/her whole body off of the floor is too much, try dropping the knees to the floor for support. While in that position, have him/her lift an arm straight out in front and hold. How about an opposite arm and leg?

Activity 17: Wheelbarrow
Pair up guests. Have one of the guest lower themselves onto the floor in push up position. Have their partner stand behind them. The partner that is standing will grab the ankles of their counterpart laying on the floor and raise them to the height of their own waste. The guest in push up position should maintain a straight body without any sagging of the back. The “wheelbarrow” partner walks on his hands as his partner steers him across the floor. Have them switch positions. Make this activity more fun by suggesting guests race against each other.
**Beshte’s Adventure**

**Discussion Points:** Beshte is strong, friendly and easy going. He is the strongest member of the Lion Guard and is a great friend.

**Learning Objectives:** Guests will learn about what characteristics make a great friend. They will also have an opportunity to test their strength and the importance of team work.

**Activity 18:** Good Friend List
Have children sit in a group and have them come up with qualities that make a good friend. For example, someone who shares, someone who is kind, someone who doesn’t yell.

**Activity 19:** That’s Me!
Stand in front of the group and share a fact about yourself, such as your favorite color, favorite animal or cookie. Everyone who also shares that favorite things stands up and yells, “That’s me!”

**Activity 20:** The Compliment Game
A compliment is an act or expression of praise. Explain what a compliment is to the guests. This game teaches how to give and receive compliments. Guests sit in a circle and toss a bean bag to each other. The person who is tossing to bean bag must give a compliment to the person receiving it.

*Materials: Bean Bag*
**Ono’s Adventure**

**Discussion Points:** Ono has the keenest of sight than any other member of the Lion Guard.

**Learning Objectives:** Guest will get a chance to train their eyes to be as keen as Ono’s.

**Activity 21:** Optical Illusions

Have guests look at each optical illusion to train their eyesight.

*Materials:* See attached dittos
What number do you see below?

Answer: You should be able to see the number 26, but people with various degrees of color blindness may only see the 2 or the 6.
How many colors are present in the following image?

Answer: One shade of green and one shade of red! It may look as if the two arms of the “X” use different shades of red, but in fact the whole “X” only uses a single shade of red. Likewise, only one shade of green is present throughout the image.
Optical Illusions

How many legs do I have?

Answer: Four
Which side of inset bar is darker?

Answer: They are both the same shade!
Count all the black dots you can see.

Answer: There are no black dots

If you focus directly on each dot, you'll see that all of them are white.
Are the horizontal lines sloping or straight?

Answer: All of the lines are straight. The black and white blocks are not aligned and thus fool your brain into thinking that the lines are sloping.
Fuli's Adventure

Discussion Points: Fuli is the fastest member of the Lion Guard and is the first cheetah to serve in The Lion Guard. Cheetahs are the fastest land animals. They can reach speeds of up to 60 miles per hour in just 3 seconds. Their long, muscular tail helps control their steering and keep their balance so they are able to change direction very quickly.

Learning Objectives: Guest will work on their ability to accelerate and stop very quickly. They will also have an opportunity to observe differences between animal prints and identify why paws are different and how they help with the animal mobility.

Activity 22: Red Light, Green Light
One person is chosen to be the traffic cop. All the other players stand on the starting line. The traffic cop has his back to the other players. When he says “green light,” players try to run towards the finish line. When the traffic cop says “red light,” and turns around, other players have to stop in their tracks.

Activity 23: Animal Prints
Have guest match animal tracks with corresponding animal foot. Identify animals by observing various animal tracks on cards of paper and matching.

Materials: See attached worksheets
Kion’s Adventure

Discussion Points: Sometimes you may be called upon to either be a leader or a helpful team member. A good leader must make sound decisions and give clear directions, while a helpful team member may have to listen and trust their leader.

Learning Objectives: In this activity visitors will have an opportunity to test their leadership and decision-making skills. Secondary team members will have a chance to practice following directions and trusting others.

Activity 24: Follow the Leader
Put visitors in pairs. Have one person put on a blindfold. Have the pairs go through the pride lands with the person not blindfolded giving verbal prompts to guide their partner through the maze.

Materials: Scarf for blindfold
**Painting with Rafiki**

**Discussion Points:** Rafiki is a wise mandrill who serves as a Royal Mjuzi (a Pride Lands term for someone who is a knowledge keeper and an advisor) for the Royal Family of Pride Rock. Rafiki tells the story of the Lion Guard and the history of the Pride Lands through cave paintings.

**Learning Objectives:** Visitors will get a chance to express themselves through illustrations. They will give symbolic meaning to various subjects and also attempt to interpret other visitor’s illustrations.

**Activity 25:** Alphabet Hieroglyphics
Children can create their own set of hieroglyphics by expressing their own associations with letters and sounds. You can use the whole alphabet or spell the visitors names. Remember each letter should just have one symbol of representation.

*Materials:* Hieroglyphics sheet attached

**Activity 26:** Pictionary
Divide visitors into 4 groups or less. If you only have 3 players, have one person draw clues and the other 2 guess. Pick one team to guess first. Have the illustrator choose a card from the pile. They will then have 5 seconds before they can begin to draw. After 5 seconds are up, the illustrator will have 60 secs to draw their clues. Have visitors play a game of Pictionary on the slate panels.

Hieroglyphic Translation Chart

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