



Teacher's Guide for Treehouse Tours

Focusing on Treehouse's beautiful *One World Village* and *Millennium Tales* exhibits, this tour will introduce students to four fabulous folk tales and traditions from around the world. The *One World Village* exhibit features miniature houses representing four countries – China, Germany, England, Mexico, and Mongolia. In each house are activities inspired by the traditions and stories of that country.

The *Millennium Tales* exhibit features four wold folktales – “The Fisherman” from Japan, “The Clever Daughter” from Russia, “Magic Tricks” from Kenya, and “The Gentle People” from Argentina. These are stories we think are so good that children and families in the new millennium should know them too. Each story comes to life in a giant, eight foot “pop-up book,” featuring beautiful layered illustrations and activities to try.

Prior to Your Visit to Treehouse we Suggest You:

1. Discuss with your students what a “folk tale” is. Talk about the cultural elements represented in the stories.
2. Make a brief introduction of the location, language and culture of the four countries featured in the Millennium Tales exhibit.
3. Share with your students other folk tales. Some suggested titles are:

The Talking Eggs retold by Robert San Souci (American South)

The Empty Pot by Demi (China)

The Talking Pot retold by Virginia Haviland (Denmark)

The Hatseller and the Monkeys retold by Baba Wagué Diakité (West Africa)

It Could Always be Worse retold by Margot Zemach (Yiddish)

Lon Po Po translated by Ed Young (China)

Matreshka by Becky Hickox Ayres (Russia)

The Mitten adapted by Jan Brett (Ukraine)

Abiyoyo by Pete Seeger (South Africa)

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters adapted by John Steptoe (Africa)

During your visit:

Treehouse tour guides will introduce students to the Museum's *Millennium Tales* exhibit by leading brief discussions about the stories we focus on and the artifacts displayed. Your tour will include an art activity inspired by the Kenyan folk tale, *Magic Tricks*, and, in the Treehouse Theater, a ParticiPlay™ using students to retell a popular folk tale from yet another country, this time from Japan. Your visit will also include up to 25 minutes of exploration time for students to explore the Museum's exhibits in small groups with their adult chaperones.

After your visit:

1. As a class, choose and adapt a folk tale to act out in your classroom, or perhaps for other students or parents.
2. Have students write their own folk tales which incorporate elements of their culture and heritage, and perhaps a little magic.

Treehouse School Tours are designed to assist teachers in meeting state and national core objectives in Fine Arts, including Theater and Visual Arts, Language Arts, and Social Studies. Please contact us if you have questions about how Treehouse's curriculum meshes with your curriculum.



Treehouse Museum is a nonprofit, educational organization whose mission is to be the magical place where children and families “Step into a Story.”

Elizabeth Stewart Treehouse Museum
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