

# LEARNING Safari

2009-2010

Three free preschool classes per month, provided by the African American Museum of Iowa  
For more information, contact Erin Thomas at 319-862-2101 or [education@blackiowa.org](mailto:education@blackiowa.org).

## ♪ September—Music ♪

### Goodbye, Haiti!

Sept. 2 @African American Museum

We're going to take one last look at our Haitian art exhibit, *Spirits & Sequins*, which will inspire preschoolers' own sparkly works of art. Then get ready to dance as we learn the Ibo—a traditional dance that Haitians brought with them from Nigeria.

### S is For Swahili

Sept. 4 @Hiawatha Public Library

A Learning Safari favorite, we're going to learn to count to ten in Swahili from a book about African animals. Then we'll make our own percussion instruments and learn a Swahili children's song from Kenya, complete with a dance!

### Hep Cats' Harlem Jazz

Sept. 10 @Westdale Library

Meet one of the most famous musicians from the Harlem Renaissance era, listen to some of the best jazz music, and play along with percussion instruments you make yourself!

## ♀ October—Mummies ♀

### How to be a Pharaoh Oct. 7 @African American Museum

How did King Tut become a king at the age of 8? What did Ancient Egyptian pharaohs wear? Did they go to school? Make your own costume so you can dress like a pharaoh while you learn all about them!

### Unwrapping Egypt Oct. 8 @Westdale Library

Read a story about some rambunctious mummies, then make a mummy of your own. There's even a mummy game to get "wrapped up" in! A super-fun way to learn about the cool—and occasionally yucky—process of mummification!

### Treasures of Egypt Oct. 9 @Hiawatha Library

Don your archaeologist caps and get ready to dig up some dirt on Egypt! We're going to learn why Egyptian pharaohs tried to take all their treasures with them, make treasures of our own, and embark on a treasure hunt for "artifacts"!

## 🕷 November—Spiders 🕷

### Anansi's Feast

Nov. 4 @African American Museum

Anansi the spider trickster stars in Ghana's famous folk tales. In this tale, Anansi tries to outsmart his friend Akye the turtle for the sake of a good meal. We'll make a pocket art project inspired by the story, and play a little spider game.

### The Spider Weaver Nov. 6 @Hiawatha Library

This folk tale from Ghana tells the story of how an artistic little spider created *kente*, the cloth of kings. We'll make beautiful webs to match the multicolored creations in the book, and then "weave" our own webs in a group dance.

### Anansi's Magic Rock Nov. 12 @Westdale Library

Anansi the spider is back in another Ghanaian folk tale, and this time, he's playing tricks on all the other animals! But, as usual, it could backfire. Make a colorful spider and then use it for a spider game!

## 🕯 December—Kwanzaa 🕯

### **Ready, Set, Kwanzaa! Dec. 2 @African American Museum**

It's easy to decorate for Kwanzaa! Learn about what goes on the traditional Kwanzaa table, and then make decorations for the holiday—tissue paper muhindi (ears of corn) and Kwanzaa celebration sticks—a craft *and* a snack!

### **Happy Kwanzaa! Dec. 4 @Hiawatha Library**

Learn all about the African American celebration of family and togetherness—Kwanzaa! Preschoolers will learn a bit of Swahili, practice counting and colors, and even turn some candy into a Kwanzaa candle.

### **Kwanzaa Gifts Dec. 10 @Westdale Library**

The best part of Kwanzaa for most children is the zawadi, or homemade gifts. We'll read a story about a family's Kwanzaa celebration, and then make gifts to give to your own family for the holidays.