**MENA Workshop**

**Time:** 45 minutes

**Goals:**

To further familiarize participants with Jewish life, culture and history from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and encourage deeper interest in this topic following ANU visit throughout their Israel visit and beyond

**Materials:**

MENA workshop cards

Whiteboard/markers

**Location:**

Classroom and museum galleries

**Instructions for guide:**

Intro in classroom (10 minutes)

1. Meet your group in the classroom. Introduce topic of MENA- Jews from the Middle East and North Africa. Example intro:

“Hi everyone, welcome back to the classroom. That was a great tour upstairs in the gallery, but now I want to focus in on a specific subject: Jews from the Middle East and North Africa. This is a diverse geographical region, and we understand that each community comes with its own unique culture, history and traditions. The goal of this workshop is to introduce important people, places and items from Jewish communities in MENA. This should encourage curiosity and connection with these Jewish stories after your ANU visit.”

1. Ask participants to name countries they know in the ME/NA. Write on the board. Fill in countries if there are some missing.
2. Watch short video on MENA.
3. Give instructions for next part of workshop:

Have participants gather in groups of three. Give each participant a card from the MENA workshop kit. Each of the three participants should have a different card.

1. Each card features a person, place or item found in the museum core exhibition. The card signifies which floor it is on, and what kind it is (color system based on person, place or item).
2. Shortly the group will go back upstairs to the gallery and find the person, place or item on their cards in their group of three. They will learn about it in depth using the gallery information, and record notes on the back of the card.
3. Each group should focus on the following questions, and use one of them to create a mini-collection connecting their three cards:

* What are their common origins? (Ex: Using the information in the gallery, we learned that all three of these communities were impacted by Jews escaping the Spanish Inquisition.)
* What commonalities do they share? (Ex: Each card shows connection to traditions, or each card tells a historical story)
* How do their stories connect to my personal story? (Ex: The three cards all reflected some type of celebration or ceremony. In my community, we celebrated \_\_\_\_\_ holiday also, but in this way \_\_\_\_.)
* What values are reflected on the cards? (Ex: Each of the cards shows an element of ahavat Israel or bravery.)
* How have I interacted with elements of their modern communities here on my trip in Israel? (Ex: I’ve visited a Yemenite synagogue, we learned about North African spices in the shuk, or my tour guide told us about their Iraqi-Israeli roots and the story of their grandparents coming to Israel from Iraq.)

Activity in Museum (20 minutes)

1. Bring up group to galleries. Instruct them to complete the search and discussion element of the workshop.
2. Guide should walk around 3rd and 2nd floors checking on groups, making themselves available for questions.

Closing in Classroom

1. Ask 2-3 groups to share their mini-collection in front of the class, using their cards. Have them start with basic info about what is on their cards, and then the question from above that they are answering.
2. Encourage questions and dialogue.
3. After, have each group put their cards on the floor and connect each collection to another.
4. Summarize workshop and tour. Remind participants this should be the first of many conversations that allows them to explore the diverse mosaic that makes up the Jewish story.
5. Participants can take cards home with them.

