

Step inside beloved stories from around the globe in this hands-on exhibit that brings favorite multicultural fairy tales & folk tales to life. *Once Upon a Time... Exploring the World of Fairy Tales* is the first nationally touring exhibit devoted exclusively to fairy tales and the breadth of their cultural significance. Enter the larger-than-life



pages of these seven favorite tales: Anansi and the Talking Melon, Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella, The Elves and the Shoemaker, Jack and the Beanstalk, Lon Po Po and Thumbelina.



Developed by: The Magic House, St. Louis Children's Museum® in partnership with the St. Louis Public Library

Audience: Children ages 2 – 10 and their families

Size: 1,500 – 3,000 square feet.

Minimum Height: 10 feet

Languages: English and Spanish

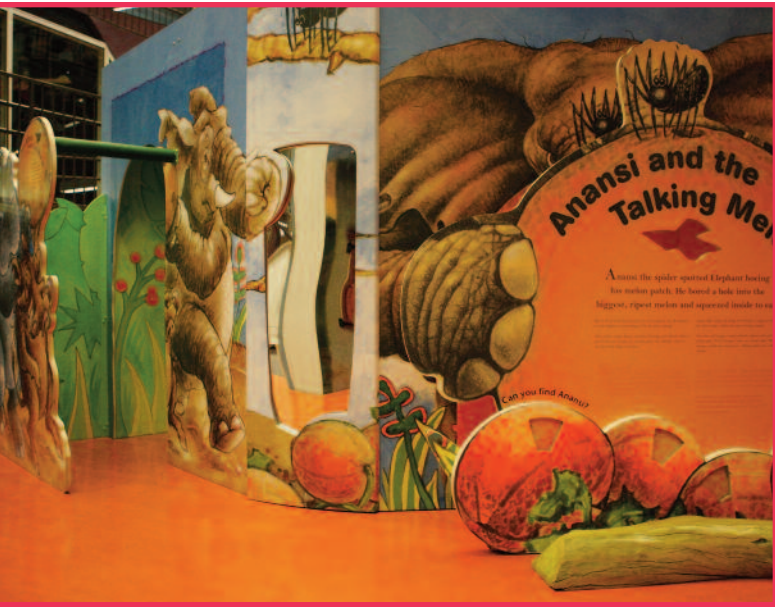
Rental Fee: \$45,000 plus in-bound shipping

Length of Rental: Three months

Magic House provides: Technician to assist with installation and break-down; Installation Manual; On-going Site Support; Education Program materials including activities for school groups and for families; Special Event Manual; Marketing and Publicity materials with sample press release, style guide and print ready photos.

Host Institution provides: Inbound shipping (one truck); insurance; security (moderate). Staff to assist with installation and break down.





Anansi and the Talking Melon

- Explore a jungle environment
- Sit on the Monkey King's throne
- Balance on a jungle log
- Try on animal costumes including a monkey, elephant, ostrich and warthog
- Hunt for Anansi in a melon patch



An African folk tale from the oral tradition, Anansi is a spider who loves to trick his friends. The trickster is a common character in fairy tales, myths and legends. Anansi stories arose in the folktales of West Africa; when African slaves were shipped from their villages, they brought the Anansi stories with them to America. The spider's courage and ingenuity gave the slaves hope.

Beauty and the Beast

- Play a minuet on a harpsichord
- Stand on Beauty's balcony
- Set the beast's banquet table with elegant dinnerware and delicious foods
- Use only the sense of touch to discover Beauty's possessions in her dresser
- Sniff the scented flowers in the Beast's garden
- Dress up as Beauty or the prince



This tale was first published in France in 1756. Like many fairy tales, it illustrates how goodness and virtue triumph; and also shows that you should not judge by appearances – under his Beast's appearance is a man with a generous, kind heart.



Cinderella

- Ride in Cinderella's coach and watch scenery pass-by
- Sweep, mop and cook like Cinderella in front of her kitchen hearth
- Activate images of Cinderella through the ages with a Magic Wand
- Try on the magic glass slipper and see the lights flash
- Dress up as the prince or Cinderella in rags or in her ballgown

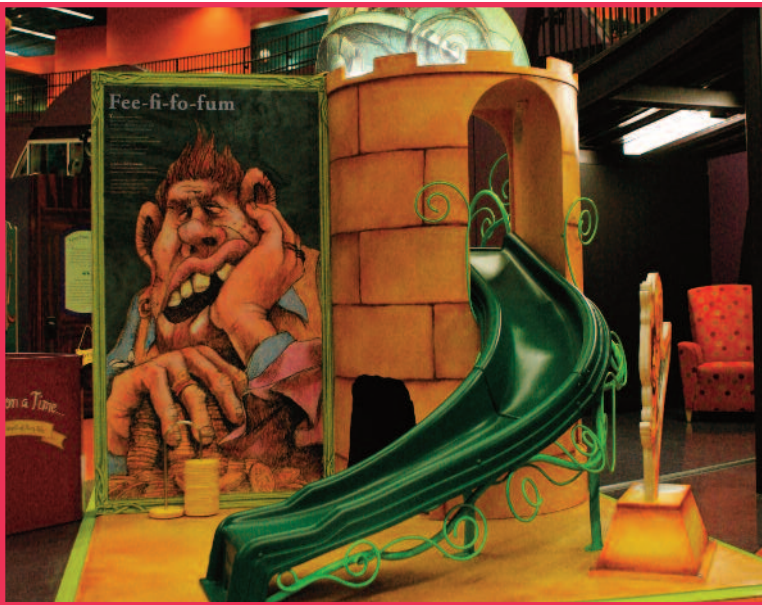


This French story by Charles Perrault was first published in 1697; it is the world's favorite fairy tale and communicates the classic rags-to-riches story. There are more than 1,500 versions of this tale, which has been retold by almost every culture.

Jack and the Beanstalk

- Scramble up a beanstalk
- Slide down into the ogre's lair
- Listen to the music of the ogre's harp
- Hunt for the magic hen's golden egg
- Count gold coins
- Climb onto the ogre's massive stool
- Hide from the ogre in a kid-sized cubby hole

"Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum, I smell the blood of an Englishman." This English tale was first published in 1809. The boy whose magic beans sprout a plant that reaches to the sky tells a tale familiar in many myths around the world: the small triumphs over the giant.



Lon Po Po

- Hoist the wolf to his doom using a pulley
- Try on traditional Asian costumes
- Explore the English and Chinese versions of the story
- Open the window to discover the wolf looking for the children
- Roll the translator to move from English to Chinese writing

This 'Red Riding Hood' story from China illustrates how fairy tales transcend cultures. In this version based on the Caldecott Medal-winning book by Ed Young, three sisters outsmart a hungry wolf (Lon) who disguises himself as the girls' grandmother (Po Po).



The Elves and the Shoemaker

- Assemble pairs of boots and shoes
- Use hammers to pound nails at the shoemaker's bench
- Transform the workshop from night to day
- Measure your own feet for new shoes
- Dress up as an elf or a shoemaker
- Turn large-scale pages to discover other tales by the Brothers Grimm

This popular tale, published by the German Brothers Grimm in 1812, tells the story of industrious elves who come secretly in the night to the aid of elderly cobblers. It illustrates how hard work pays off, and that it is better to give than to receive.





Thumbelina

- Crawl through the mole's eight-foot tunnel and see tiny Thumbelina
- Change the seasons and see the differences
- Discover Thumbelina in her secret hiding places
- Search the sky for Thumbelina as she is carried away by a bird and a beetle
- Wear fairy wings for pretend play



The famous Danish author, Hans Christian Andersen, published this story about the exciting adventures of a thumb-sized girl in 1835. In this tale, a small heroine uses her clever mind instead of size and strength to make her own way in the big world.

Fairy Tale Author



- Select your characters
- Choose where and when your story happens
- Mix in some magic
- Create a heroic deed
- Write a fairy tale ending
- Publish your very own story

The exhibit includes two specially designed computer kiosks where children can create their own illustrated fairy tales, print them and take them home.



For more information

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