

## shirini (Kurdish pumpkin pudding)

This recipe for shirini, a Kurdish pumpkin pudding, is a typical Middle Eastern treat, sweet and syrupy. If fresh pumpkin isn't available, squash or yams can be used instead.

1 1/2 cups sugar  
1 cup water  
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
3 to 4 cups bite-size pieces peeled and seeded fresh pumpkin (or squash or peeled yams)  
1/2 cup coarsely chopped walnuts, for garnish  
1 cup thawed, frozen whipped topping, or yogurt, for garnish

Equipment: Medium saucepan with cover, wooden mixing spoon

In medium saucepan, combine sugar, water, ginger, and cinnamon. Bring to a boil over high heat, add pumpkin (or squash or yams) and stir. Reduce heat to low, cover, and cook for about 20 minutes. Remove cover and cook for about 10 minutes, until almost all the syrup is absorbed and pumpkin (or squash or yams) is tender. Stir frequently to prevent sticking.

Serves 4 to 6.

Source: Webb, Lois Sinaiko. *Holidays of the World Cookbook for Students*. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1995, pp. 59-60.



## TO THINK ABOUT AND DO

Did you enjoy our version of *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*? There are so many creative ways to tell great stories like this one. Here are a few ideas you could use: a book • a song • an essay • a play • a poem • a drawing • a dance • a cartoon. . . or your very own puppets! How would YOU tell this story? Every artist is unique and interesting—please feel free to show us your creation sometime. We can't wait to see what you come up with!

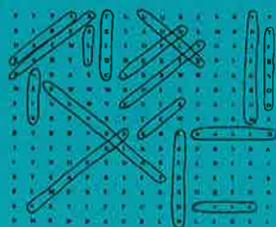
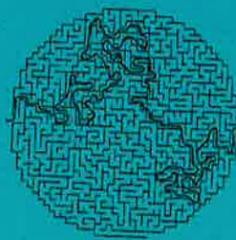


### WISHING CHAIR PRODUCTIONS

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Info: 862-5785



## ANSWERS



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# ALI BABA & the Forty Thieves

An Original Puppet Play Based on the Tales from the Arabian Nights



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According to legend, "one thousand and one nights" is the time it took to tell about 200 stories, which include the adventures of such well-known characters as Aladdin, Ali Baba, and Sinbad. Perhaps the most famous of all Arabic literature known to us in the West today, these tales had been told aloud for many, many years before they were first written down over 500 years ago in Arabic, the official language of ancient Arab nations including Arabia, Egypt, India, and Persia. Many English words that we use in the West each day come from the Arabic including *algebra*, *checkmate*, and *magazine*.

"Open, Sesame!" has been the password meaningful to generations as the key able to unlock mystery, or allow us permission to magically enter hidden spaces, just as it makes the doors to the robbers' cave fly open in the Arabian Nights tale of *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*.

It is a phrase that children's librarians and entertainers often hear shouted gleefully by children anxious to enter the magical space of the story room at their library, or to beckon a favorite puppet character to appear from the depths of the puppet house, or to urge a magic trick to unfold. Perhaps one mystery that is unlocked for us by the vast and vivid literature from Arabia is the understanding of how our stories link us each to another, and that in the end, it is our honesty that will be the biggest benefit for one and all.

Victoria Elliott,

Nashville Public Library

\*Sesame is an East Indian herb used for both its oil for dressings, and for its seeds that have a delicious taste and are used to flavor breads and candies.

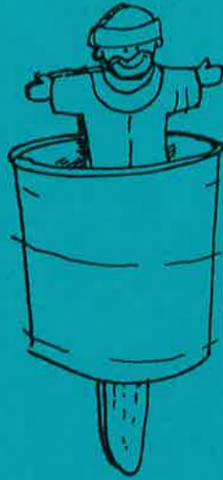
## PRODUCTION NOTES

**Script and Lyrics** by Brian Hull  
**Music Composed** by Dan Landes  
**Music Production** by Jeff Taylor and Dan Landes  
**Recorded** at Heartdance Studios  
**Engineered** by Eddie Bedford  
**Vocal Talent:** Pete Carden, Cindy Sterling, Timothy Hughes, Michael Lusk, Jeff Taylor, Dan Landes and Brian Hull  
**Puppets by Wood and Strings** - Clarissa Lega and Leon Fuller  
**Set Construction** by Pete Carden, Cindy Sterling, Kerlin Richter and Brian Hull  
**Special Thanks** to Tahir Hussain, Cameron Wani and Betsy Dooley

This project is funded under an agreement with the Tennessee Department of State, Office of the Secretary of State, and the Library Services and Technology Act.

## POP UP PUPPET THEATER

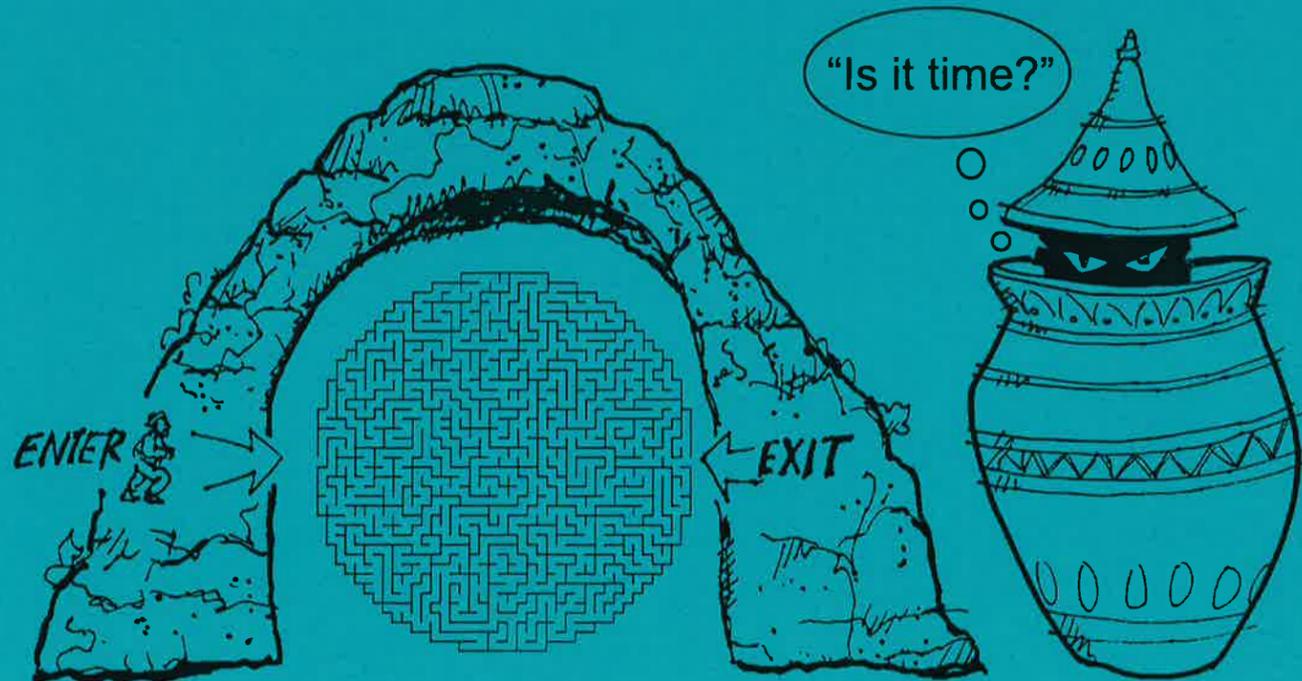
Did you laugh when the thieves popped their heads out of the jars to ask "Is it time?" Well, you can make puppets like that with just a few things you have at home. Remember, the most important part of any arts and crafts activity is . . . your imagination!



- Old coloring books, magazines, catalogs, or family photos
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Small craft sticks
- Craft glue
- Small paper cup

1. Choose your character (either from your own drawing or something cut out of a magazine, etc.) We chose to make an Ali Baba puppet.
2. Spread glue halfway down one side of a craft stick.
3. Lay your picture of Ali Baba on top of the glue and let it dry.  
Make sure it is not any bigger around than the top of the cup. Set that aside.
4. Cut a small opening in the bottom of a paper cup to fit the craft stick.
5. Decorate the paper cup any way you would like.
6. Carefully poke the Ali Baba stick puppet into the cup.
7. Now, you can "hide" Ali Baba until you want him to POP up!
8. Repeat as often as you would like with other characters from the story and stage your own puppet show—Have fun!

## MAGICAL CAVE OF WONDERS MAZE



## ALI BABA AND FRIENDS: TALES FROM THE ARABIAN NIGHTS



*The Arabian Nights: Their Best-Known Tales.* New York: Scribner's, 1993. Call number: j398.22 A658

Kerven, Rosalind. *Aladdin and Other Tales from the Arabian Nights.* New York : DK Pub., 1998. Call number: j398.22 K41a

Lattimore, Deborah Nourse. *Arabian Nights: Three Tales.* New York: Harper Collins, 1995. Call number: j398.22 L36a

Zeman, Ludmila. *Sindbad: From the Tales of the Thousand and One Nights.* Toronto : Tundra Books, 1999. Call number: j813.54 A53s

Zeman, Ludmila. *Sindbad in the Land of Giants.* Toronto: Tundra Books, 2001. Call number: j398.22 Z53s

## FIND THE MAGIC WORDS

ALI  
CHIEF  
GOLD  
KING  
SESAME  
WONDERS  
BABA  
DONKEY  
KASIM  
MORGIANA  
THIEVES  
CAVE  
FORTY  
KER  
OPEN  
WATER

P	F	P	A	R	F	G	G	Q	K	J	X	U	A	P
X	I	B	E	A	E	V	A	O	O	L	M	D	N	Y
O	A	T	M	L	I	T	O	P	L	Y	G	X	A	E
B	A	H	T	J	H	H	E	E	T	D	N	I	I	K
W	G	D	A	Y	C	N	B	R	W	H	C	G	G	N
W	N	S	W	W	M	R	O	F	X	P	D	T	R	O
P	I	U	E	W	V	F	U	F	R	U	S	L	O	D
P	K	B	Z	V	E	F	C	E	W	Y	O	E	M	P
D	V	B	B	V	E	S	K	B	S	K	A	S	I	M
T	A	Y	S	X	E	I	K	N	R	D	R	N	B	A
U	A	H	O	S	X	U	H	B	E	J	D	F	R	A
X	V	E	A	P	B	Y	F	T	D	P	E	T	V	B
B	L	M	U	B	S	Z	A	E	N	H	Q	F	O	N
B	E	X	Y	F	P	P	C	D	O	C	A	V	E	U
H	M	B	D	B	A	D	B	C	W	L	J	H	Z	L