



مكتبة قطر الوطنية

QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY

عضو في مؤسسة قطر

Member of Qatar Foundation

## OVER 700 PEOPLE ATTEND QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY'S 'MONSTER MAKERS LAB'

*'Children are the Future of This Nation, Which Makes Them One of Our Prime Audiences'*

**Doha, 24 February 2015:** Qatar National Library (QNL), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, attracted more than 700 children and their families to a 'Monster Makers Laboratory' at which they learnt the basic art of monster making using rudimentary materials and geometrical shapes.

Held at the Recreation Centre in Qatar Foundation, in collaboration with Qatar Museums, the 'Monster Makers Laboratory' saw children aged three to 11 unleash their creativity as part of the citywide 'Makers Event 2015', organised by the Qatar Museums Family Programmes.

By cultivating creativity, sharing valuable information and knowledge, QNL continues to support Qatar Foundation's mission to unlock the potential of people of all ages. It does this by providing access to a wealth of resources through its outstanding selection of online databases, regular training programmes, community events, and social engagement initiatives.

"To achieve its goal of bridging Qatar's past and present through knowledge, the Qatar National Library remains mindful of the fact that today's children are the future of this nation, which makes them one of our prime audiences," said Carol Mitchell, Head of Children's Services, at QNL. "We therefore seek to engage the youth in various ways, one of which is the 'Monster Makers Laboratory', which succeeded in being the fun-filled family event, with an underlying educational element, that we had envisioned - and we are delighted with the turnout to our inaugural participation in the 'Makers Event'."

Fahd bin Mohammed Al Kuwari, who accompanied his three daughters to the 'Monster Makers Lab', said, "I'm delighted that my girls have been able to express their creativity through this beautiful event. I hope that the Qatar National Library organises more of these activities regularly, in a bigger place."

Sheikha Al-Ghanim, a five-year-old Qatari, added, "I was very excited to come to the 'Monster Makers Lab' and have enjoyed it because I've learned how to make creatures using coloured paper."

"This kind of event reinforces the importance of nurturing creativity in children," said parent, Bettina Bader. "Each child lives in their own world, and it is our role as parents, and a society, to enable them to express their creativity."

Busy putting the final touches on his Spider-Man inspired creation, nine-year-old Saif Al-Momani, said, "I've had lots of fun at the 'Monster Makers Lab' and made some new friends too. I've also created my favourite cartoon and will put it up in my room."

Aimed at educating children through art and creative design, the 'Makers Event 2015' saw a partnership of Doha's cultural and educational institutions host a variety of programmes that allowed families to choose from several opportunities to get creative. Under the theme of *geometric shapes and patterns*, the 'Makers Event 2015' sought to encourage diverse approaches and interpretations geared towards nurturing and showcasing the community's creativity.

"In its second year, the 'Makers Event' was a great success. We were so pleased to be able to offer families many different and unique workshops over the weekend, organised by outstanding organisations such as the Qatar National Library," said Jessica Ludwig, Head of Families at Qatar Museums. "At Qatar Museums Family Programmes, we aim to provide local families the opportunity to explore, learn and play together through creative experiences, and the weekend saw families learn about geometric shapes and patterns through monster-making, scribbling machines, mosaic-making with clay, geometric pop-up books, colourful spin tops, storytelling and much more."



Therefore, the ‘Makers Event’ is unique in that it pools together the many creative minds in Qatar to offer one great weekend of events for families to enjoy.”

Additionally, QNL’s children section regularly organises a variety of activities for the whole family, the most recent of which was the ‘Qatar–Brazil 2014’ that garnered large interest from children and their families. Another activity was the launch of ‘The Blue Jackal’ book which was a great success with the country’s youth.

QNL acknowledges that children are the future leaders of the nation, who need to be provided and equipped with the necessary resources to carry on the efforts to preserve the nation’s heritage, while driving it into the future. For this reason, QNL provides access to a wealth of digital resources to the country’s youth through its children and teen collections. To register for free access, please visit [www.qnl.qa](http://www.qnl.qa). To access the complete list of QNL’s online resources, log onto [www.qnl.qa/find-answers/online-resources](http://www.qnl.qa/find-answers/online-resources)

### **Image Caption**

**Image 1:** Children and parents taking part in activities at the ‘Monster Makers Laboratory’ organised by Qatar National Library

**Image 2:** Participants at the ‘Monster Makers Laboratory’ event engaging in activities organised by Qatar National Library

**Image 3:** Children posing with their monsters made out of simple materials at the ‘Monster Makers Laboratory’ organised by Qatar National Library

**Image 4:** A child participant putting final touches to his monster at the ‘Monster Makers Laboratory’ event organised by Qatar National Library

**Image 5:** ‘Monster Makers Laboratory’ event organised by Qatar National Library drew a large number of children and families

**ENDS**

### **Qatar National Library – Bridging with knowledge Qatar’s Heritage and Future**

Qatar National Library (QNL) is a non-profit organisation under the umbrella of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF). QNL is supporting Qatar on its journey from a carbon-based economy to knowledge-based economy by providing resources to students, researchers, and the community in Qatar. It was announced in November 2012 by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

QNL carries out its mission through three functions: National Library, University and Research Library, and a Metropolitan Public Library of the digital age. The National Library function collects and provides access to global knowledge relevant to Qatar and the region. It also collects, preserves, and provides access to heritage content and materials about Qatar and the region. The University and Research Library function supports education and research at all levels by providing printed and digital library materials for students and researchers. Metropolitan Public Library delivers library services and information for everyone to enjoy reading, meet people, and become information literate.

### **MEDIA CONTACT**



For more information about Qatar National Library please contact:  
**Gihan M. Baraka** +974 44546034 [gbaraka@qf.org.qa](mailto:gbaraka@qf.org.qa)

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