

students from Urkesh educational programs visit the site

We organized the site visit on Sunday 23th of March 2022 for the one-on-one participants and the participants from the elementary school project. The visitors were the youngsters from the middle school that we are preparing now to participate in the one-on-one program, a group from the elementary school that is also in preparation to meet peers from the USA, and participants from the previous one-on-one program who were part of the brain storming session to write the 'Urkesh for children story'.

The visit started by Heve, previous participant in the one-on-one program, reading the story for the children, who sat on the staircase, and carefully followed till the end of the story, asking them if they want to see this kingdom. Of Course, they said yes and here the tour started. This time, however, Amer (our local assistant) had a competition in explaining the history of the site. Since Heve and Sipan jumped in and wanted to explain the site for the children. Amer continued the tour and corrected the information when needed. The elementary school students brought some of their musical instruments and played a 'solo' on the staircase. After that, Amer distributed two pages to color a photo of one of the seal impressions that were found in Urkesh, while he was explaining the concept and the importance of the cylinder seals in antiquity.

The next stop for the students was with Hammade (local assistant specialized in studying pottery). Hammade was happy to share his knowledge about the pottery and ancient daily life with the children. So, he explained the ancient sherds, why to study them and what information they afford by drawing on everyday life. Children were so interested and happy with his explanations.

Finally, two of the youngsters wanted to perform in the palace, one playing on Tambur (traditional musical instrument) and one singing. Some of the participants followed them while others decided to draw the staircase in order to use their drawings in their presentations.

After the tour both the younger and older children expressed how happy they were to be in Mozan and to be able to do all these activities in the site. They were also impressed by the monuments, in particular, the temple staircase and the Abi.