Africa and Benin

Pitt Rivers Museum

Key Stage 2

National Curriculum area: History, Geography, Art

Length of session: 75 minutes

Maximum group size: 32



Session Outline

In this guided tour pupils look at objects to build a picture of civilisation in Ancient Benin, and investigate power and status objects from different countries in Africa.

Activity 1 Introduction

Pupils consider the size and diversity of Africa, and the ways in which power and status can be communicated.

Activity 2 Guided tour

Pupils are taken on an interactive tour of objects from different African countries around the Museum, including some object handling. Please organise groups to have a ratio of one Education Guide to every ten pupils.

Activity 3 Museum Activity

In small groups pupils search the Museum for objects from different African countries which convey power and status.

Learning Outcomes

- Use objects to build a picture of civilisation in Ancient Benin
- Understand how status was conveyed by the King and Court of Benin
- Investigate power and status objects from different countries in Africa exploring ideas of chieftainship, ancestors, beliefs, crafts and music

Pre visit activities

Find modern Benin city, Nigeria and West Africa on a map and explore what the environment is like.

Explore ideas of monarchy and different types of palaces.

Think about how leaders show they are important from clothes, accessories, transport to buildings.

Post visit activities

Design a palace you would like to live in if you were an important leader.

Identify objects of high status in British society and the materials they are made from.

Debate whether the Benin Bronzes should be returned to the country they were taken from.



For further details and how to book visit:

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