

African Kingdoms

Key Stage 3-5

National Curriculum area:
History, History A' level African
Kingdom

Length of session: 60-90
minutes

Maximum group size: 32



Session Outline

Students will have the opportunity to work with objects from the museum's archive, handling collection and core collections to gain an understanding of key issues relating to the history of the Songhay, Kongo, Benin, Oyo and Dahomey kingdoms.

Students will take a guided tour around the galleries to look in-depth at objects that were made and used by people from these African kingdoms. Students will discuss economic structures, wealth, conflict, beliefs, food, craft, aspects of trade, wider culture and the lived experiences of the inhabitants of these kingdoms.

They will also engage with contemporary responses to the appropriation of these important objects during the colonial occupation of West Africa.

Learning Outcomes

- To learn about the development of the Songhay, Kongo, Benin, Oyo and Dahomey kingdoms through looking at key objects in the museum's collections
- To learn about trade, transport, material, crafts and relations with European peoples within these African Kingdoms
- To understand the legacies of these kingdoms and how their objects came to be in UK museums

Pre visit activities

Gain an understanding of the timeline for some of these kingdoms.

Understand key concepts such as 'colonialism' and 'economy'.

Find out about current issues relating to the restitution and return of related objects in UK museums.

Post visit activities

Create maps of all the kingdoms and annotate these with information and object stories you have learned.

Write a simple explanation about why archaeological evidence from these kingdoms is different compared with archaeological sites in Europe, and why these objects are in UK museums.

Select one kingdom and focus on a particular trade that it relates to – use JSTOR to find articles about it and read at least one.



For further details and how to book visit:

www.prm.ox.ac.uk/learn