Art at the Pitt Rivers Museum
Key Stage 3/4

Organising your visit

Before your visit

Look at two websites:
The Pitt Rivers website - www.prm.ox.ac.uk contains downloadable trails, basic and technical information and links.
The Artefact website - www.museums.ox.ac.uk/artefact is a customized site for art students with many images.

Be equipped:
Consider the range of materials that can be successfully used during your visit to the Museum.

During your visit

Recording observations, experiences and ideas.
The sample sketchbook page with this sheet can be photocopied and will help students in the process of recording their own observations and ideas while in the Museum.

Evaluating artefacts, understanding their contexts.
Students can collect information to annotate their work by looking at object labels, talking to staff and collecting printed guides and postcards.

After your visit

Developing and exploring ideas.
The Student Gallery on Artefact illustrates the way in which schools and colleges have developed their ideas. Examples include working in mixed media, painting and construction.

Making connections with the work of others.
An internet image search will show many examples of modern artists who interpret their own cultural traditions. Also, the Pitt Rivers Museum website page ‘Linking with Artists’ lists a range of contemporary artists who have responded directly to the collections and the building.
**Planning your time**

Most group visits to the Pitt Rivers last for about an hour and a half. Below is a tried and tested way to divide up your time and ensure you meet your assessment targets. Before your students start, make sure they have a range of appropriate materials, a museum map and the relevant example sketchbook.

**STEP 1**
**Exploring and selecting. Time 10-15 mins.**
Having selected a theme, such as masks or containers, give your students the appropriate museum map. Ask them to spend 10-15 minutes exploring all the places where those objects are displayed. They should choose the ones they find most interesting, and mark on their map where they are located.

**STEP 2**
**Drawing and Recording. Time 30-40 mins.**
Using a range of materials, such as pens, pencils or collage, students should make three drawings of their chosen objects, focusing on details such as colour and pattern. You can find examples on the sketchbook sheets. Students could be encouraged to photograph objects. Flash photography is allowed in the Museum.

**STEP 3**
**Collecting a range of information. Time 15 mins.**
Your students can gather a lot of information from the object labels: where they are from, and how and when they were used. Also make notes about size, colour and materials. They can collect postcards and printed guides from the shop on similar objects from different cultures and countries.

**STEP 4**
**Recording ideas and experiences. Time 15 mins.**
Students should record anything that these objects remind them of, such as people, music or films. They should think about their own experiences and how the objects make them feel. A good way to achieve this is to encourage group discussion. Look at the example sketchbooks for ideas.