

Key Stage 2: Africa Adorned

The final page of these notes can be copied and given to students who you think may need additional support during the workshop or to adult helpers.

Before your visit: preparing for your workshop

- Key themes for the workshop are adornment, decoration, status, performance, protection, showing off and identity. Using a map, please discuss the diversity of the African continent, especially language, culture and the environment before coming to the Museum.
- Key vocabulary includes adorn, perform, amulet, tattoo, headgear and identity. You might like to discuss these words before the session.
- Use the Explore function to search the Museum's collections on-line for objects from Africa at www.britishmuseum.org

During your visit

- During the educator-led session in Room 25, the students will explore adornment in selected parts of the African continent. Through group work, object-handling and role-play, they will investigate how and why people dress and adorn themselves differently depending on the purpose.
- The Museum would very much appreciate it if students attending could wash and dry their hands before the session to help conserve the handling objects. We also recommend that students wash their hands after the session, particularly if they go straight into their lunch break.
- Rooms with objects relating to the session include:
 - Room 4: Statues wearing crowns and headgear from Ancient Egypt.
 - Room 25: Hat, clothes, mask and weapons, images representing adornment from Africa.
 - Rooms 61-66: Jewellery, textiles, and statues and images representing adornment from Ancient Egypt and Sudan.

Africa Adorned continued ...

After your visit: follow-up activities

- Art and Design/Citizenship - students could brainstorm on the themes, forms and media of adornment in Africa and identify the similarities and differences with what they themselves wear and why. Drawing on the discussion, images from the visit and further research, the students could create self-portraits using a variety of materials and techniques.

Curriculum links

- **National Curriculum for Art and Design at KS2**
Pupils should be taught the Knowledge, skills and understanding through:
investigating art, craft and design in the locality and in a variety of genres, styles and traditions ...
- **QCA Schemes of Work for Art and Design at KS2**
Unit 3B: Investigating pattern
- **National Curriculum for Citizenship at KS2**
Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people:
Pupils should be taught to think about the lives of people living in other places and times, and people with different values and customs.
- **National Curriculum for History at KS2**
A world history study: *A study of the key features including the everyday lives of men, women and children, of a past society e.g. Benin.*

In this workshop you will learn about:

- adornment
- how and why people dress differently across Africa

Key words

adorn - to decorate something or somebody

perform

amulet - an object that is worn or carried for protection

tattoo

headgear - anything that you wear on your head

identity - who you are; as an individual and as a member of a group

What is adornment?

- You will discuss the African continent.
- You will discuss the meaning of adornment using the objects from the old kingdom of Benin in present-day Nigeria.

Investigating adornment in the gallery

- You will work in groups to investigate what people wear or carry in different situations.
- You will feed back your discoveries to the class.