

Key Stage 1: African maths

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 covered by this workshop are beadwork, colours, patterns and shape.
- Key vocabulary includes 2D shape names, names of individual colours, multi-coloured, diagonal, row, column, repeating pattern.
- The students could think about the different materials that beads can be made from (such as wood, glass and metal) and the different ways that beads are used (as jewellery on necklaces and bracelets, sewn on to clothing or as decoration on objects).
- You may like to use an atlas or world globe to locate Africa and discuss the various areas of Africa (north, south, east and west) together with the countries that make up the continent of Africa.

During your visit

- The session begins with an introduction to Africa and its different regions/countries. Students will handle African beadwork objects before creating their own patterns drawing on the objects they have handled and their own experience of patterns. The students will then share their pattern work with the rest of the class and to reflect on what they have learned during the session.
- The Museum would very much appreciate it if students could wash and dry their hands before the start of the session to help conserve the workshop objects. We recommend that students wash their hands after the session, particularly if they go straight into their lunch break.
- Galleries with objects relating to the workshop include
 - Room 24: The Sainsbury African Galleries - objects from across Africa
 - Room 68: The Money Gallery - African currency
 - Room 34: Islamic Gallery - examples of the use of decorative patterns
 - Room 26: North American Gallery - examples of beadwork used on clothing

African maths continued...

After your visit: follow-up activities

- Back at school the students could create and record their own patterns. These may be based on the patterns they have seen in the Africa gallery. Students can use different colours, numbers of beads and shapes to create their patterns.
- There are also some good examples of beadwork patterns from different parts of the world which can be accessed through the Explore section of the British Museum website (www.britishmuseum.org) using the search word *beadwork*. The countries from which these pieces of beadwork originate could be plotted on a world map.

Curriculum links

Key Stage 1 curriculum

This session encourages the students to engage in problem solving, communication using specific vocabulary (particularly in regard to pattern, shape and colour) and counting.

The session also supports the global diversity aspect of Citizenship.

In this workshop you will learn about

- African beadwork patterns
- how to make a pattern and the words you can use to tell other people about it

Key words

red, blue, yellow, black, white, multi-coloured

square, circle, triangle, rectangle, diamond

diagonal line, straight line, zigzag

row and column

repeating pattern

Handling African beadwork

- You will handle pieces of real African beadwork and talk with the other people in your group about the colours, shapes and patterns you can see on the objects.
- Your group will tell the rest of the class what they discovered.

Making a pattern

- You will find out how to make a pattern with beads and then work with your group to make a small bead pattern using coloured beads.
- Your group will show the bead pattern to the rest of the class and explain how it works.

Handling modern objects with patterns

- You will handle a modern African objects and talk with the other people in your group about the colours, shapes and patterns you can see on the objects.
- Your group will tell the rest of the class what they discovered.