

Year 6 Art – Art of Africa

What I will learn by the end of this unit

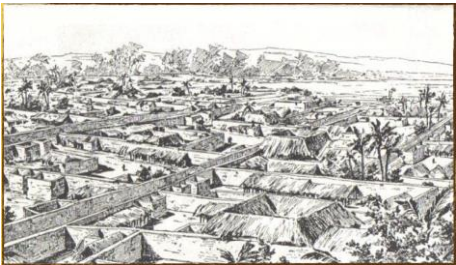
What I should already know

- To know about and describe some of the key ideas, techniques and working practices of artists within a given culture that I have studied.
- To reflect upon artists' work and share my response verbally.
- To deconstruct and discuss an original artwork, using a sketchbook to make visual notes to nurture my own creative response to the work.

- To explore and recreate natural patterns, using chosen mediums.
- To create my own artwork, inspired by African cultures, traditions and styles.
- To record my observations and use them to review and revisit ideas.

The Kingdom of Benin

The Benin Empire existed from 900AD to 1897AD in what is now modern-day Nigeria. The kingdom thrived off rich trade routes with other African countries as well as with Europeans, who travelled to Africa on ships. or jewellery.



The kingdom was run by a succession of Obas, which means 'king' in the Yoruba language. The Oba was seen as semi-divine and was very powerful. Many Obas displayed their status by wearing precious materials as clothes and jewellery.

The four Ss of clay work



Score

Score or scratch lines into the surface of the clay. This needs to be done on each part which will be stuck together.



Slip

Mix some clay with some water to create a paste (slip). Apply the slip to the scored areas of your clay.



Smoosh

Smoosh (press) your pieces together, as if you were gluing two objects together.



Smooth

Smooth the join between the two pieces, using a flat tool or your fingers. Have some water on your fingers to help smooth the clay.

This plaque is made from brass, using precious imported copper, to glorify the Oba's status and achievements. It would be used to decorate the royal palace.



The Oba stands in the centre, more decorated and larger than others in the plaque. He stands between two warriors armed with shields and spears to show his power.

Key Vocabulary

medium	texture	artefact
plaque	cultural	technique
score	slip	smooth

Disciplinary Skills

- To identify what artwork and other artefacts tell us about a given culture.
- To explore how artwork was used to signify status and achievement in a given culture.
- To explain how artwork was used to show different historical events in a given culture.