



Did you know?

People believed that brass had the power to drive away evil.

African Art

Year 6 Summer Term



The art of Benin features people, animals and gods. It provides a fascinating guide to what life and religion were like in the kingdom of Benin.

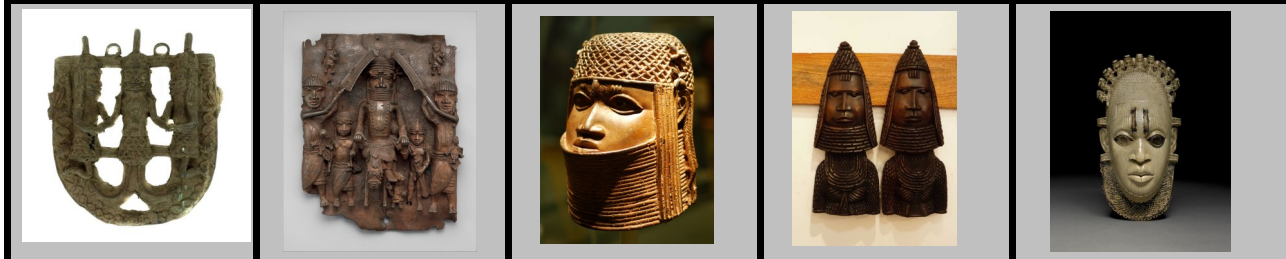
Craft workers in Benin used lots of different materials. People worked with clay, wood and leather. Weavers used fibres from plants to make colourful cloth. The most precious materials were brass, coral and ivory.

Key Vocabulary

symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.
ceremony	A formal religious or public occasion, especially one celebrating a particular event, achievement, or anniversary.
repeated pattern	A design for decorating a surface composed of a number of elements (motifs) arranged in a regular or formal manner.
layering	The action of arranging something in layers.
dye	A natural or synthetic substance used to add a colour to or change the colour of something.
twist	Form into a bent, curling, or distorted shape
secure	Fixed or fastened so as not to give way, become loose, or be lost .
materials	The matter from which a thing is or can be made .
printing	Reproduction by applying ink to paper (or other materials) as for publication or decoration.
soak	To leave something in liquid

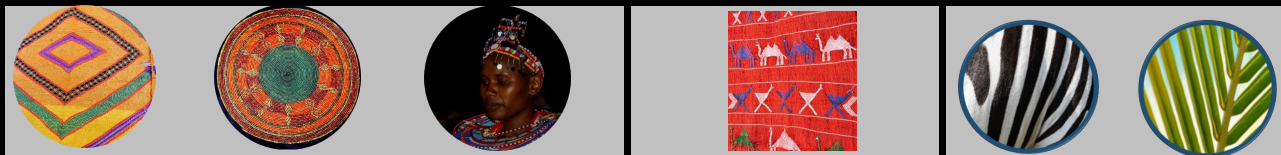
Benin Bronzes 3D Collage

Metal workers in Benin made beautiful plaques, masks and statues for the Oba. These are often called 'Benin Bronzes', however most are actually made of brass rather than bronze.



African Patterns

African mats, rugs and baskets, made in countries such as Rwanda and Burundi by the Tutsis, are made by hand using dyeing, weaving and sewing techniques.



Just like in our own environments, we notice that there are repeating, colourful patterns everywhere. When looking at patterned artworks, try looking for:
 -Geometric - patterns that use zigzags, chequerboard, curved lines, spirals and circles.

-Symbolic - patterns that use images which have some symbolic meaning for the artist and the person using the art, whether it be on a piece of clothing or a building. These images can include crescents, stars, flowers, seeds, trees and pods.

In many parts of the world, symbolic patterns represent a culture's own beliefs and histories. In Ghana, the Ashanti tribes apply motifs to fabric, pottery and paper that have symbolic significance and tell a story.

The patterns used in mosaic tables produced in Zimbabwe are inspired by patterns from animals, reptiles and other aspects of nature.



Did you know?

The Ndebele women of Zululand in the north west of South Africa have long been decorating the walls of their houses. This is a tradition called 'ukugwala'. They use their fingers to create undulating or straight lines in geometric patterns with paint or wet clay.

My notes...

"Those Benin bronzes were not made for museum pieces, Initially in the absence of photography and writing, they were made to depict and illustrate events in the palace, community and some festivals, designed by royal gills of the Kingdom"

Oba Erediawa ukpu akpolokpolor,

Significant People

Community

Equality & Justice

Environmental Responsibility