

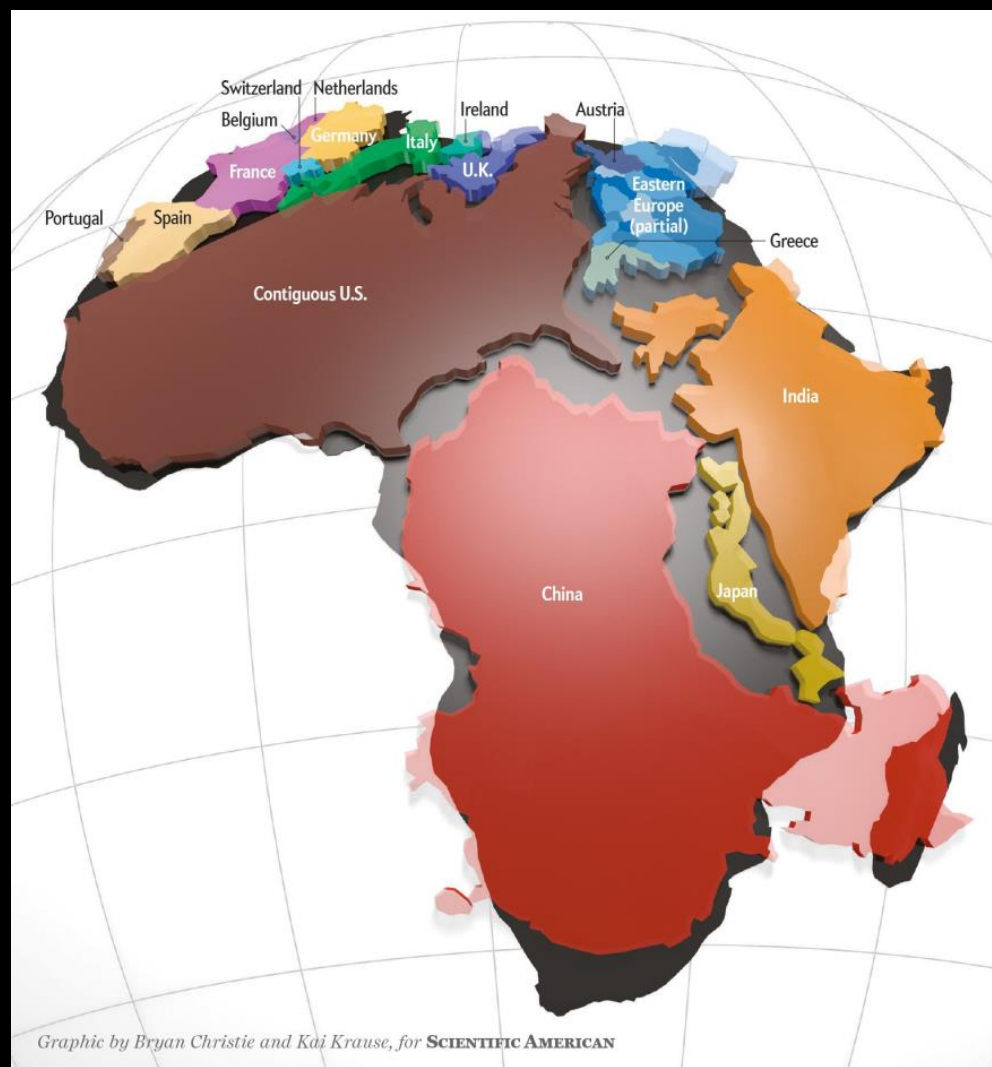
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Arts of Africa and the Pacific Islands
Art Adventure Guide Training
January 9, 2019

Mia

Africa:

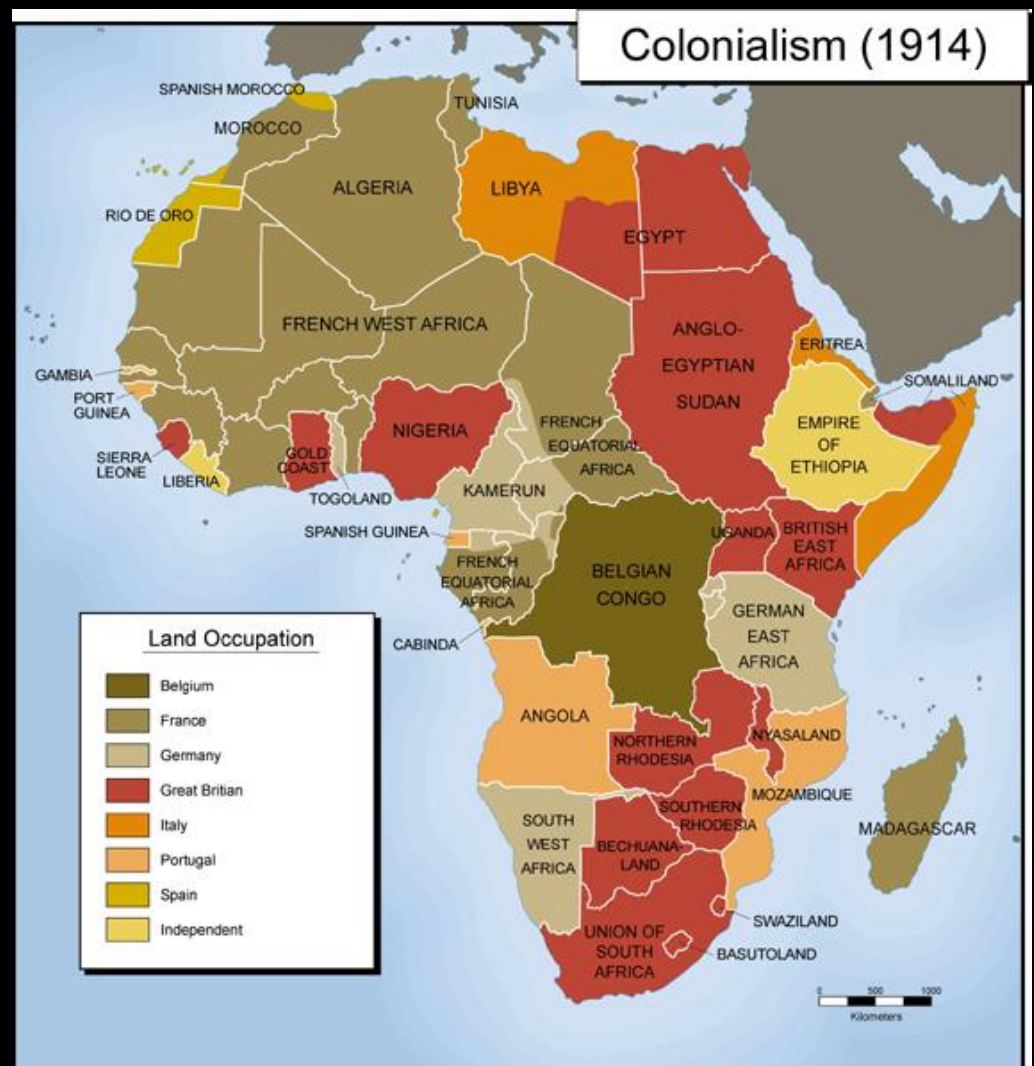
- 55 countries
- 2100 languages
- Nearly 3000 ethnic groups



Africa:

Colonialism is generally defined as the occupation and control of one nation by another. European nations colonized Africa from the late 19th century until the middle to later 20th century. Many inaccurate and racialized stereotypes of African peoples were used to justify colonialism in Africa.

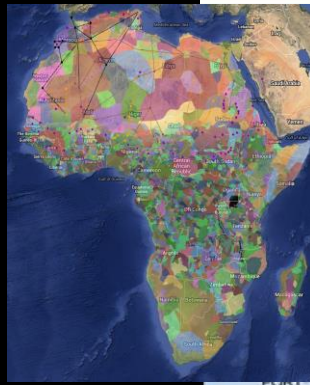
<http://exploringafrica.matrix.msu.edu/>



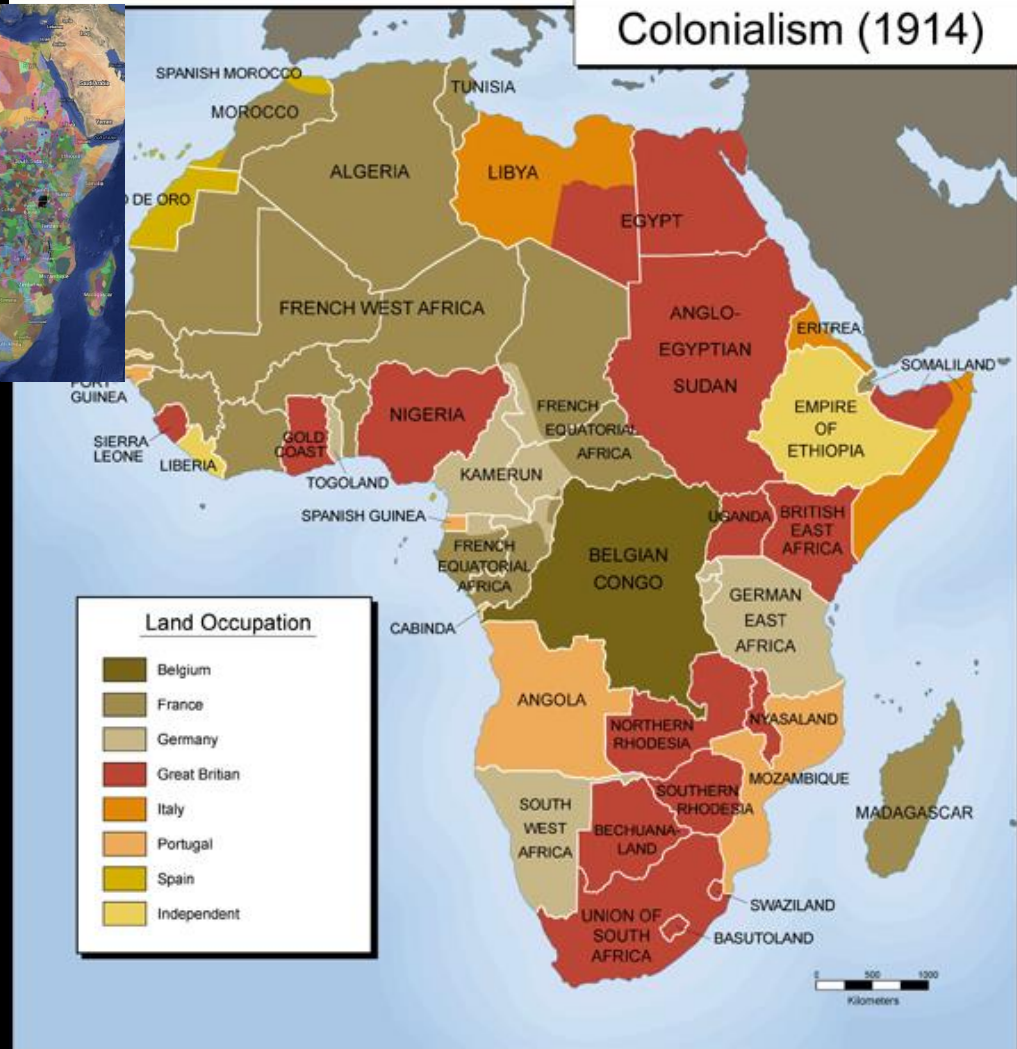
Africa:

The borders of African countries today were imposed from the outside by European nations. Often the people who drew these borders paid no attention to ethno-linguistic groups or existing political organization at the time of colonization.

<http://exploringafrica.matrix.msu.edu/>

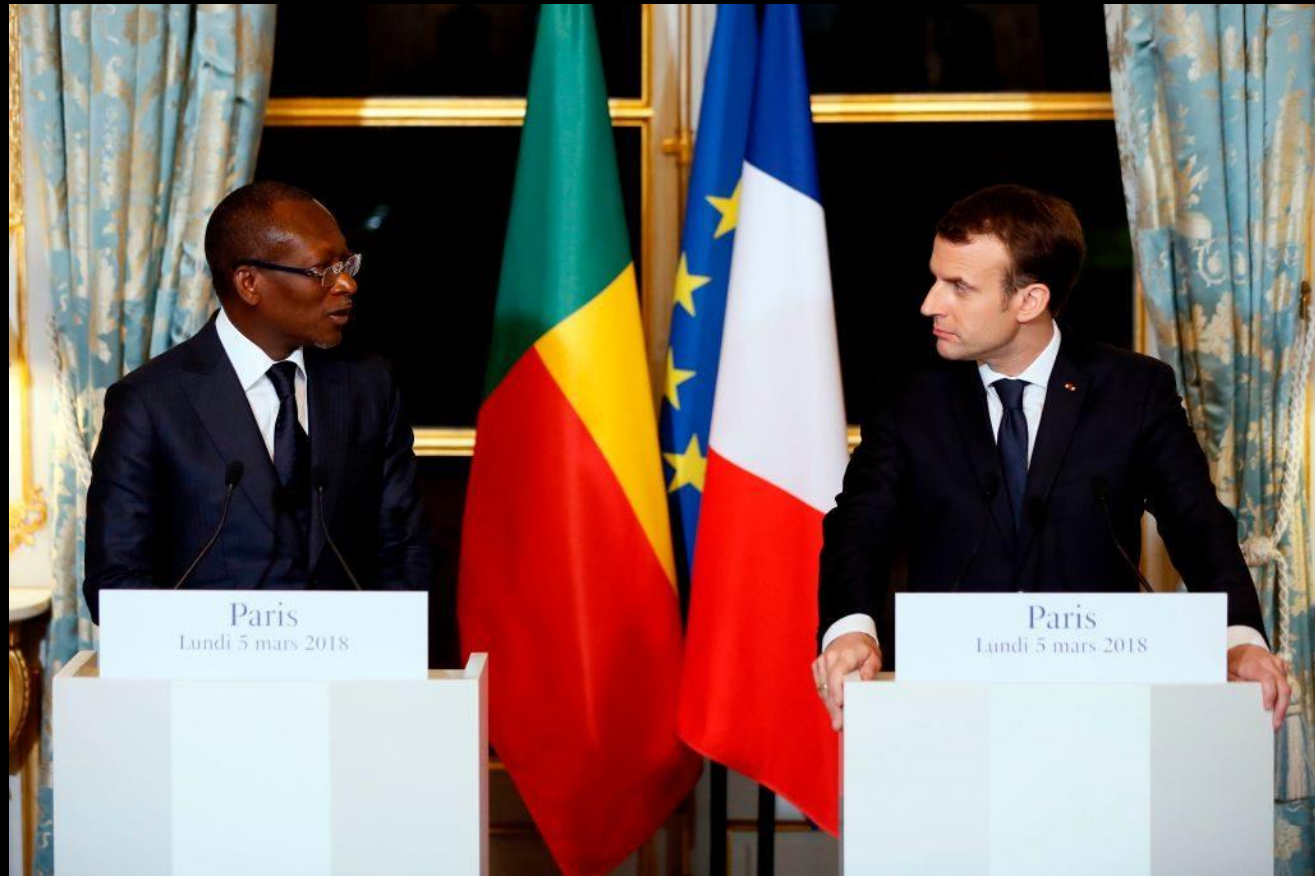


Colonialism (1914)



On the Heels of a
Dramatic
Restitution
Report, France Is
Returning 26
Artifacts to Benin.
Will Other
Countries Follow
Suit?

Emmanuel Macron and Benin's
President, Patrice Talon



The exhibition
“Behanzin, King
of Abomey” (with
objects on loan
from France)
opened in
December 2006
at the Zinsou
Foundation in
Cotonou, Benin,
and attracted
275,000 visitors.

Artwork taken from Africa, Returning
to a Home Transformed, January 3,
2019, NYT.





Take 10 minutes to share with each other some of the takeaways you noted on your readings worksheet.

Organization of the Africa Galleries (G236, G250, and G254)

The galleries are organized around thematic concepts:

- Commanding Authority
- Communing with the Spirit World
- Performing Dance/Music
- Connecting with World Religions
- Expressing Identity
- Designing Form and Function

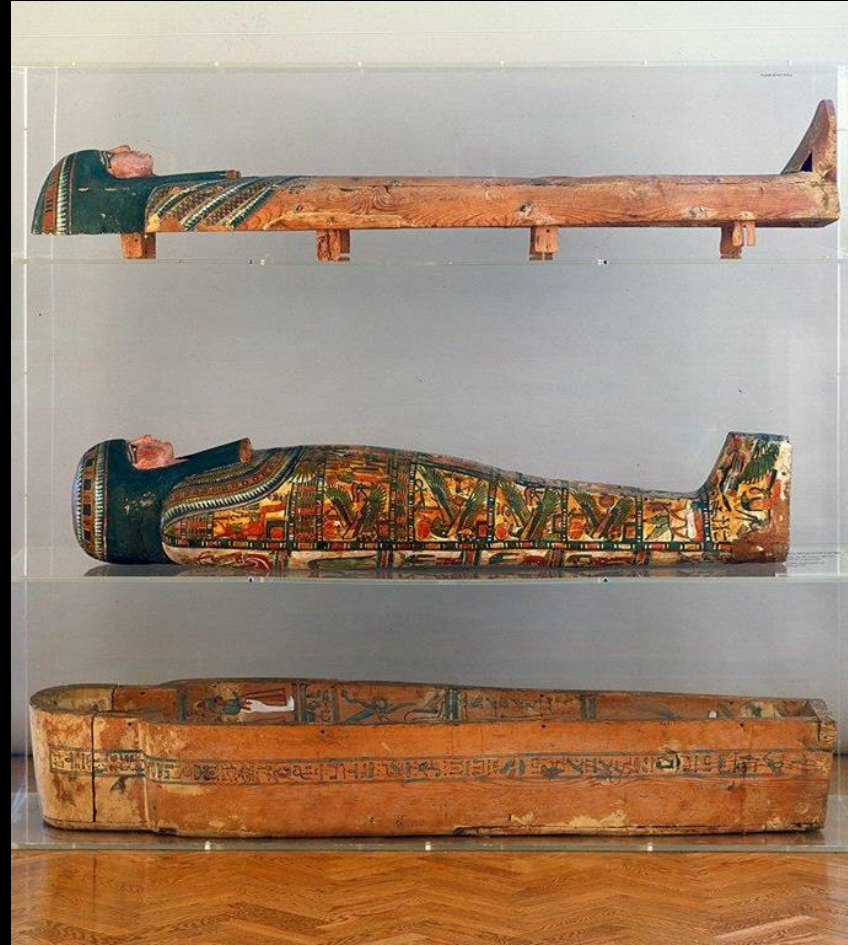
Highlights in the Africa Galleries (G236, G250, and G254)

The “anonymity” of African art

You will see many African objects only identified with a title and cultural group. When objects were collected or taken, they often were viewed as ethnographic objects rather than art. Efforts often were not made to find the artists' names. However, African artists and makers typically were respected, valued, and well-known members of their communities. They were not anonymous with their cultures.

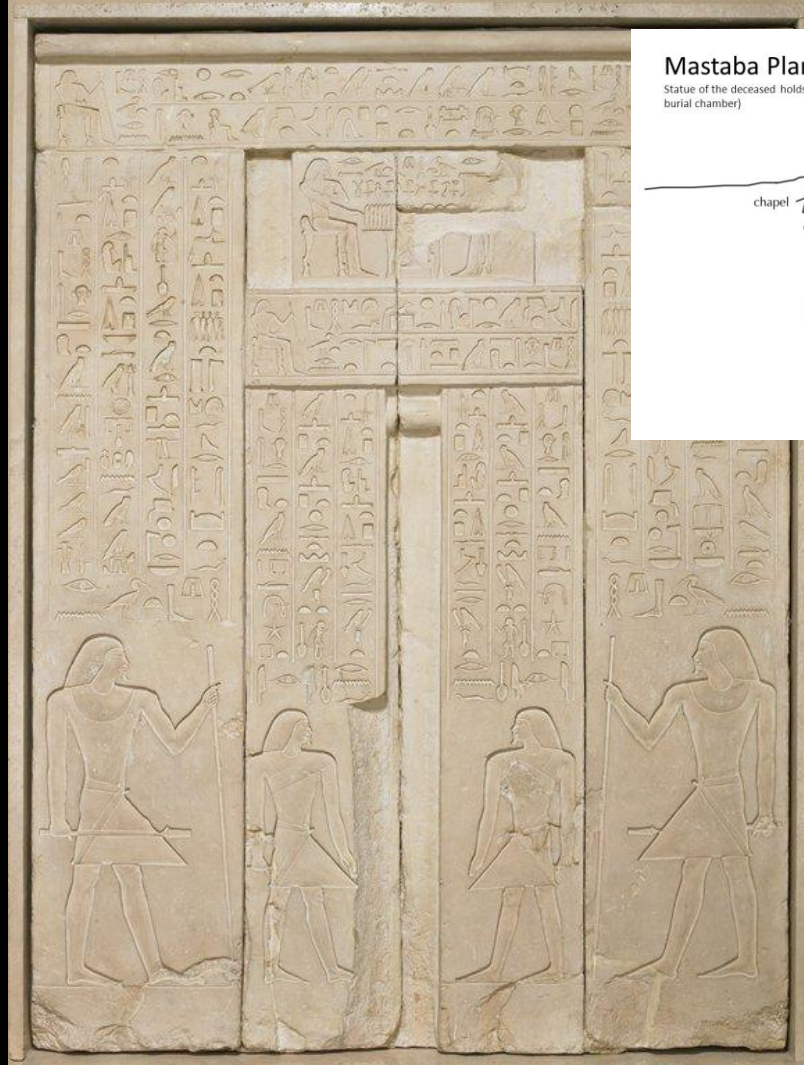
Egyptian, Coffin and
Cartonnage of Lady
Tashat, 945-712 BCE

<https://artstories.artsmia.org/#/o/97>



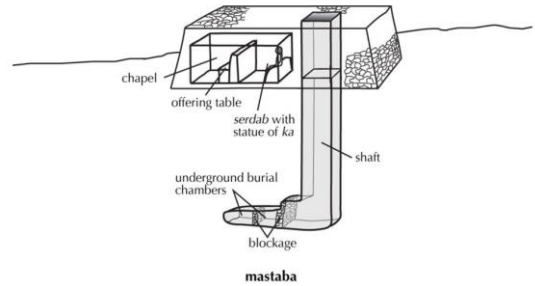
Egyptian, *False door*,
about 2400 BCE

“The inscriptions on
this door
commemorate the
priest Iryenakhet
(year-ee-en-AH-ket).”



Mastaba Plan – Precursor to Pyramids

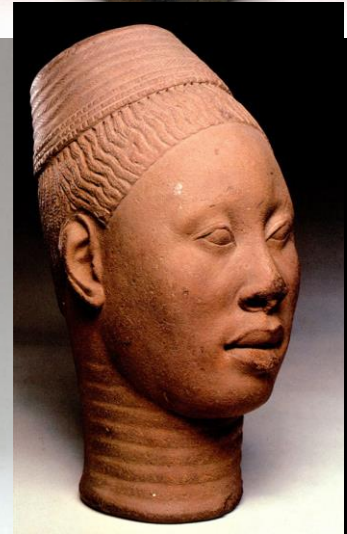
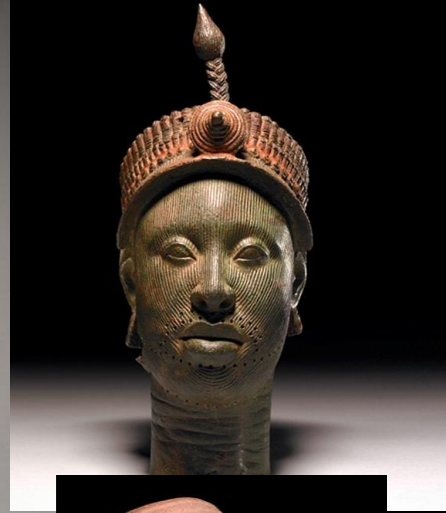
Statue of the deceased holds the Ka and is placed in the serdab (room where Ka resides, not in burial chamber)



Yoruba (Ife Kingdom), Shrine head, 12th-14th century



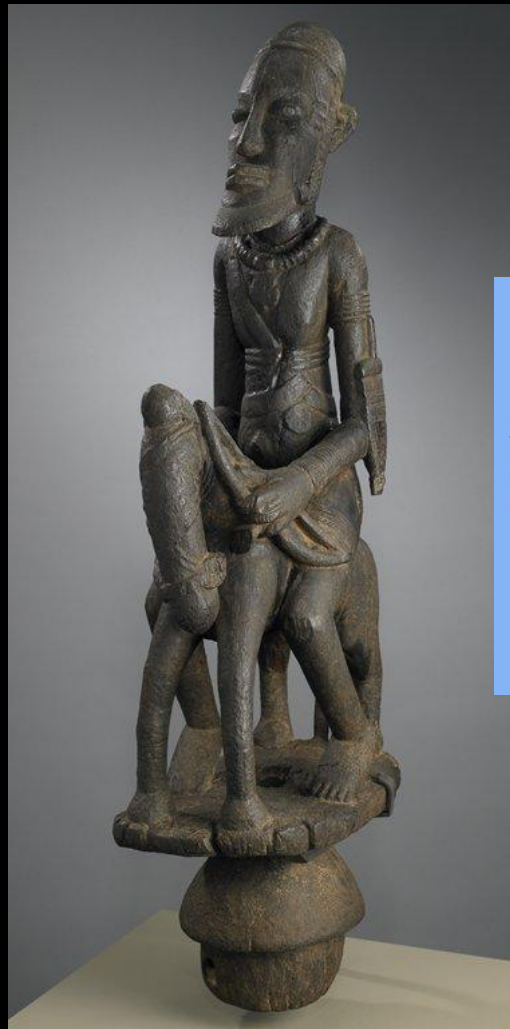
The vertical lines ... have long been associated with scarification....But recent research suggests...the lines may be shadows cast by the veiled royal crown worn in her day.



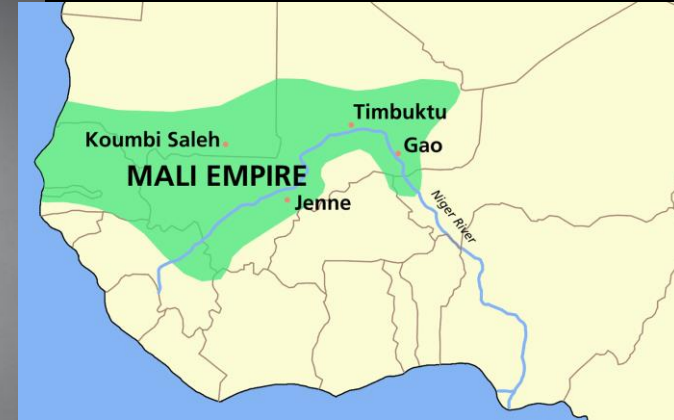
Djenne (Malian),
Equestrian figure,
about 1450

<https://artstories.artsmia.org/#/o/3183>

The rider's skull cap and beard ... may imply that the man is Muslim—leaders of the Mali Empire embraced Islam as early as 1300. Necklaces from this period were sometimes hung with bells or amulets, connecting their wearers to the spiritual world.



Take a moment to look.
How do we know that
this man was a person of
power?



Djenne (Malian),
Equestrian figure,
about 1450

<https://artstories.artsmia.org/#/o/318>

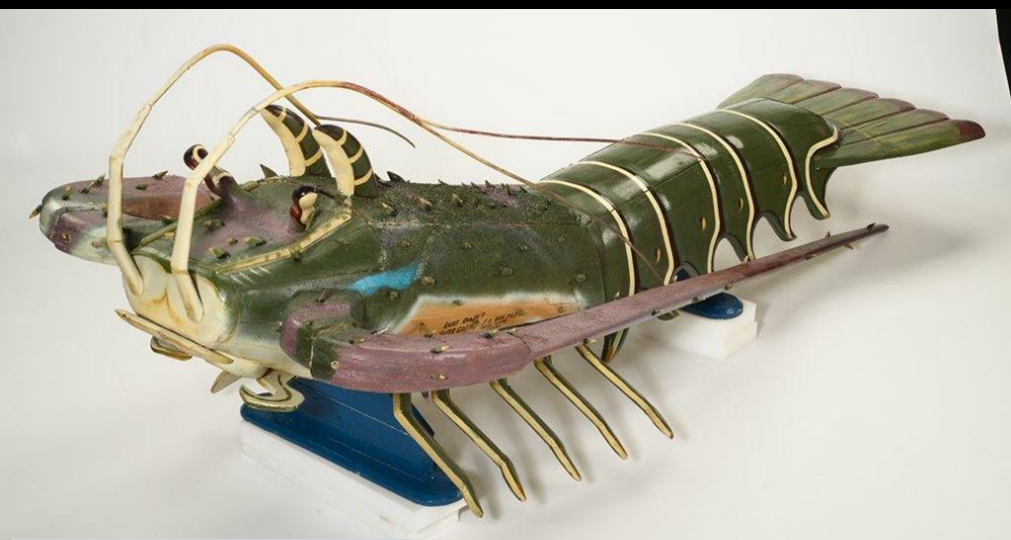


Veranda posts of Yoruba people.



Sowah Kwei, *Fantasy coffin*, 1993

<https://artstories.artsmia.org/#/o/111088>



Kwei workshop, Accra,
Ghana:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Z_qYYH6XOM

And their website:

<http://www.kanekwei.com/about/>

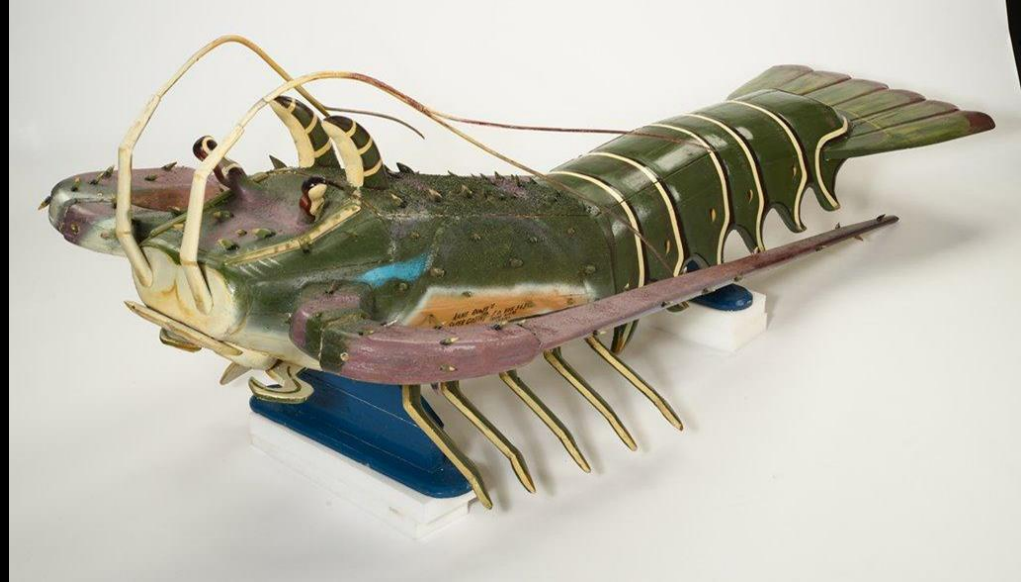
The Ga coffin craze began in the 1950s, when Kane Kwei started making quirky coffins in his workshop in Accra, Ghana. Sowah Kwei followed in his father's footsteps, making Mia's coffin in 1993.



Sowah Kwei (Ga,
Ghana), *Fantasy coffin*,
1993

<https://artstories.artsmia.org/#/o/111088>

Coffin makers make two identical
coffins, one for local burial and one for
the national and international art
market. Mia's coffin is the latter!



Somalia, *Basket*, early 20th century

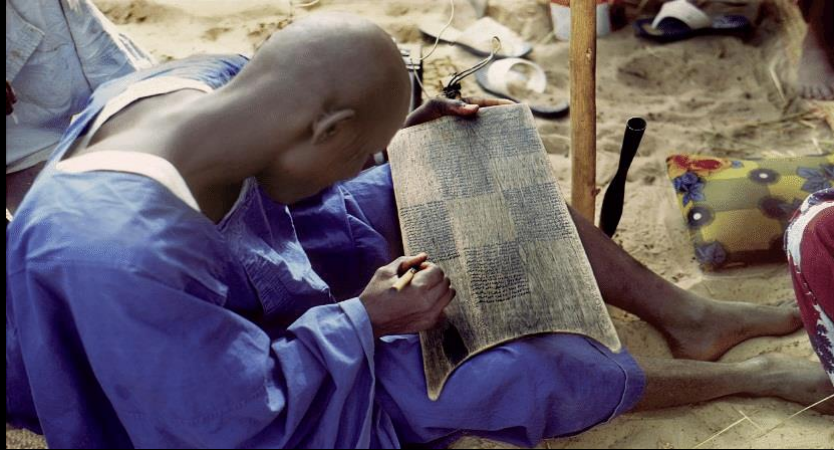
<https://artstories.artsmia.org/#/o/111099>



In Somali weddings,
...women of the bride's
family made baskets like
these and filled them with
gifts and food. But one had
a twist: it was tied with an
impenetrable web of knots,
and men from the groom's
family took turns trying to
open it.



Somalia, Qur'anic writing board, mid 20th century and *Bottle with stopper*, first half of 20th century



A photo of a Kanembu young man writing Qur'anic verses on a wooden board, in Chad.





Pacific Islands

Micronesia

Polynesia

Melanesia

(New Guinea and Island Melanesia)

Australia

Island Southeast Asia

Scale 1:41,000,000

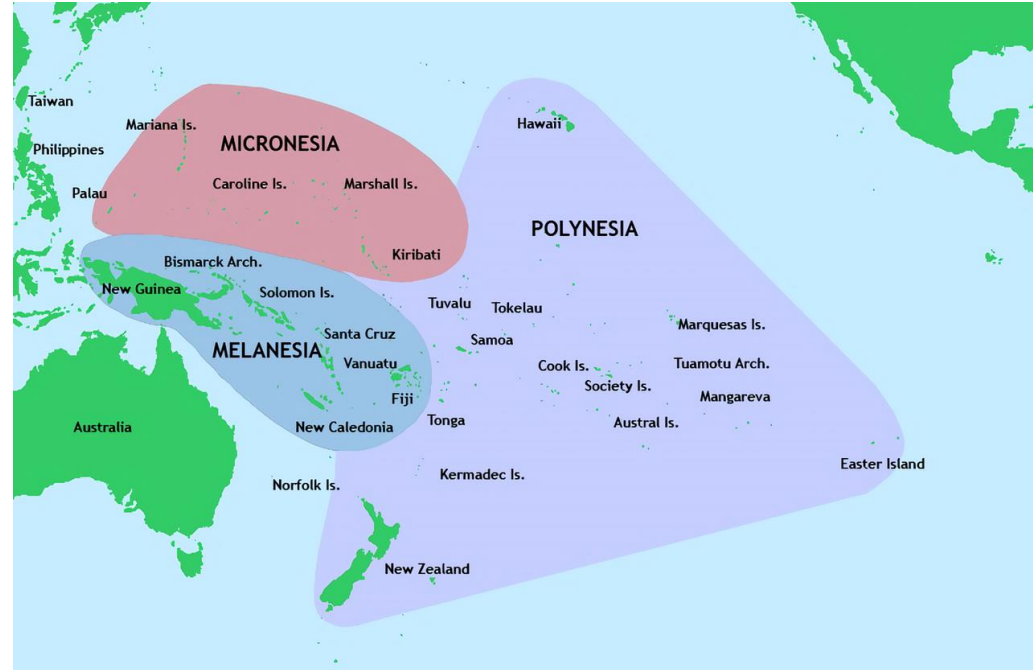
Mercator Projection

0 100 200 Kilometers

0 100 200 Miles

Oceania

- Covers more than a third of the world's of the earth's surface
 - Home to more than 1,800 different peoples
 - Nearly 10,000 islands and one continent characterized by enormous diversity and complexity
- *How to Read Oceanic Art*, Eric Kjellgren



Key Ideas about Art of the Pacific Islands

- Art as means of communicating with supernatural forces
- Ancestors often play a large role in spiritual forces and connection between worlds
- Ritual and ritual art is primarily the provenience of men - men's societies
- Ritual art created as balancing energy between opposing forces (male/female, earth/sky, earth/cosmos, living/dead)



Feather Currency (tevau), 19th century,, Solomon Islands, Melanesia,vegetable fiber, feathers, bark, shell, seed pods, wood, pig tail

Necklace (lei niho palaoa), c. 1800-1850
Kānaka Maoli, human hair, walrus ivory, plant fibers





Neckrest, 19th century, Fiji Islands, wood



Kapkap, 19th century,
Solomon Island, clam shell,
tortoise shell, cord, shell
beads

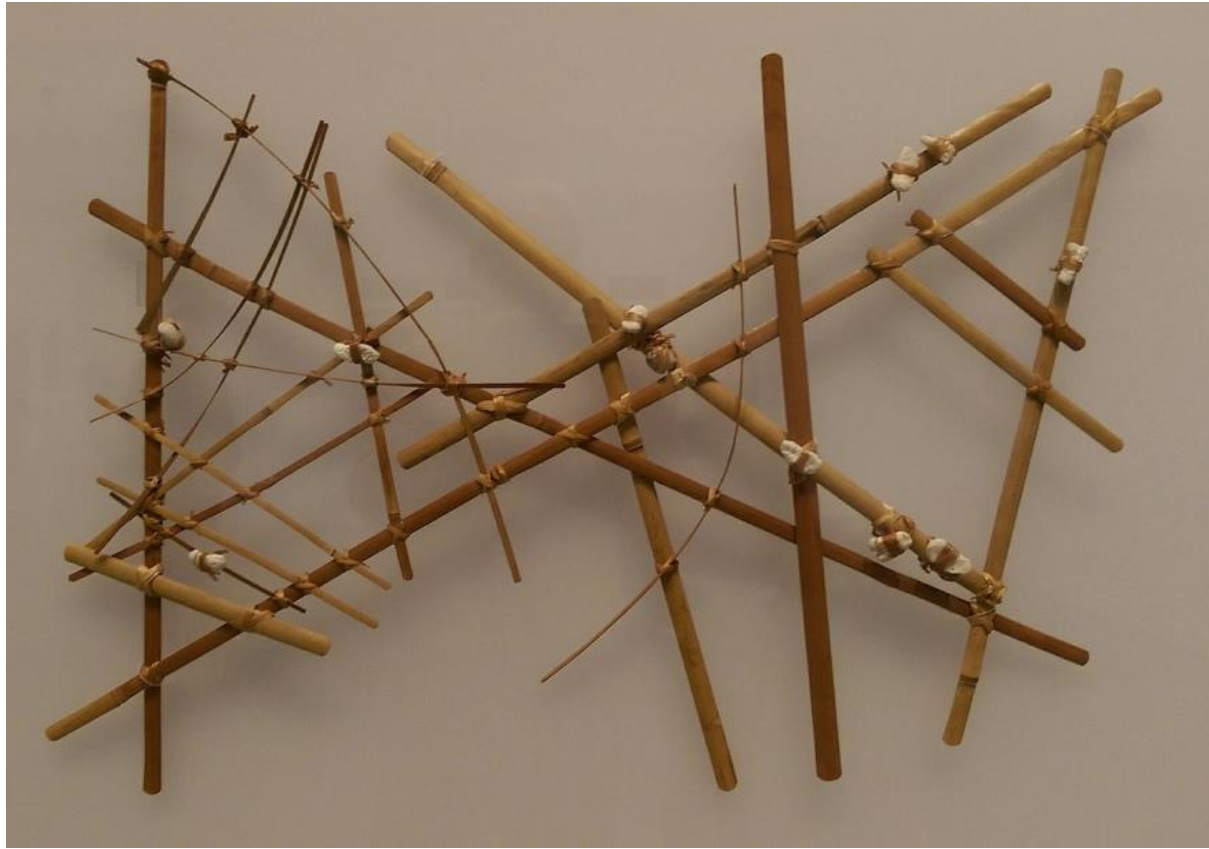


Mere Pounamu, New
Zealand, Date Unknown,
Māori, nephrite

Micronesia (tiny islands)



Wapepe Navigational Chart, 19th century, Marshall Islands





Polynesia (many islands)

Post Figure (poutokomanawa), c. 1840
Ngāti Kahungunu Māori, New Zealand
Wood, paua shell, 2001.65A,B





Melanesia (dark islands)



Hand drum (kundu), Papua new Guinea,
Sepik River, 20th century
latmul, wood, rope, pigment, 98.37.3





Malagan Frieze, 19th century, Unknown artist, New Ireland, Wood, pigment, shell, 85.94







Malagan Pole, c. 1910
Unknown artist, Papua New Guinea
Wood, pigment
68.9.3

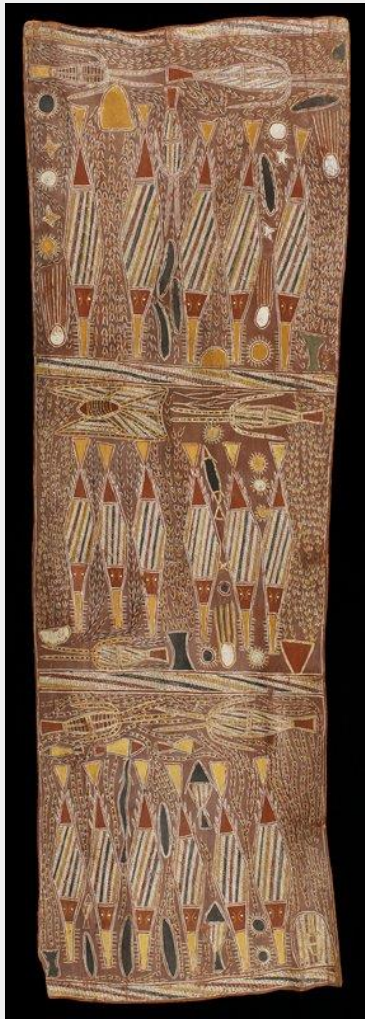
Malagan Figure, c. 1890
Unknown artist, Papua New Guinea
Wood, pigment, shell, 85.93



Australia

Bark Painting with Suns, Fish
and Plants, 20th century,
djunmal, eucalyptus bark,
pigments, 95.37.2

Ceremonial Bull Roarer, c. 1900
Aborigine, wood, 99.163.2



Resources on Oceanic Art

Smarthistory: The Life of Malagan

<https://smarthistory.org/life-of-malagan/>

The MET Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/nwir/hd_nwir.htm

University of St. Thomas collection of Asmat Art

<http://art.stthomas.edu/asmat>

Presentation Feedback - Keep it up!

Key ideas

Paraphrasing

Presentation voice

Body language

Props and flashlights

Pair-share, thumbs up/down

Taking multiple answers

Presentation Feedback - Considerations

Timing

Inquiry

Open-ended questions and follow-up questions

Balance between information and inquiry