

AFRICA EDUCATIONAL COLLECTION

ED.79.23.1 f,h

Finely woven raffia cloth samples in a simple, plain weave. From the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Used for wrapped and draped garments before commercially woven cloth became widely available. Early 20th century

ED.85.3.19

Thumbnail piano, also called a kalimba in some cultures. A typical musical instrument common to several tribes/cultures in Western and Central Africa. Made of wood and metal (often pounded and flattened nails). 20th century

ED.94.36.8 a

Poster of designs of carved wooden chiefs' stools and their meanings from Ghana.

ED.95.31.19 a, b

Bracelet made of elephant hair and a sample of elephant hair from Lamberini, Democratic Republic of the Congo. 20th century

ED.2000.20.22 a-e

Woodblock printed cards showing various West African cloth head wraps for women. Late 20th century

ED.2004.3.135

Mounted photo of a bride from the Zulu tribe of Natal province in South Africa. She wears an elaborate raised hairdo and colorful beadwork. Mid-late 20th century.

ED.2004.5.6 a-c

Napkin rings made of coiled native grasses in basketry technique. These were sold in a craft shop in Rhodesia (now known as Zimbabwe) organized by a late resident of Pilgrim Place, Louise Torrence. Women made the items for sale to help raise money for their children's school tuition.

ED.2004.12.3 a, b

Chokwe tribal mask with detached "hat" made from raffia fiber in a needle-stitched technique and then stuffed. Used in young boys' initiation/circumcision ceremonies. Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mid 20th century

ED.2005.1.256

Finely woven sample of raffia fiber cloth from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Used for wrapped and draped garments before commercially woven cloth became widely available. Early 20th century

ED.2005.1.262

Twined basketry strainer from South Africa. Typical of hand made food preparation utensils used before commercially made plastic and metal ones became widely available. Early to mid 20th century

ED.2005.1.297

Poster showing adinkra symbols and their meanings from the Ivory Coast. The stamps are made of carved gourds and used for printing on cloth.

ED.2005.1.336 a

Poster telling the story of "the Amistad Event" when kidnapped West Africans sued for their freedom and return to their native land, defended by former president John Quincy Adams in the early 1800s.

ED.2005.1.337

Map of East African countries showing the wildlife/animals common to each.

ED.2005.1.339 a-r

Carved thornwood figurines from Nigeria showing villagers about their daily activities. Most are pieces of larger figures as these are typically made of 2-3 different types of wood and then glued together. As the results are quite fragile, they often break apart. One of the best preserved of these figures is a canoe carrying cargo and passengers- canoes were the most efficient way to move people and goods between villages on the many rivers of the area before the advent of roads and trucks and they are still the best way in the rainy season.

ED.2005.3.13 a-i

9 UNICEF card stock figures of children in traditional dress:

- (a) girl from Morocco
- (b) girl from Madagascar
- (c) boy in kente cloth robe from Ghana
- (d) boy from Lesotho in basketry hat
- (e) girl from Zambia
- (f) girl from Ethiopia
- (g) girl of the Masai tribe from Tanzania
- (h) boy from Senegal
- (i) boy from Liberia playing drums

ED.2005.3.21 Fragment of kente cloth from Ghana. Kente is woven in narrow strips by men using a foot treadle loom. The strips are then attached along their length to form larger fabric. Because it is very time consuming to make, a finished piece can be quite expensive and is usually only worn by royalty or the very wealthy in West Africa. This piece is made of cotton and rayon threads woven in a tapestry technique to produce the geometric designs.

ED.2005.3.23 a, b

Fragments of commercially printed cloth from the Ivory Coast. The designs on these are in imitation of the more expensive hand woven kente cloth.

ED.2005.3.24

Fragment of a hand block printed cotton fabric from Sierra Leone from the 1970s.

ED.2005.26.19

Carved thornwood figurines from Nigeria.

ED.2006.1.340 a-d

Four braided sisal mats made around the 1940s in Zimbabwe (then a British colony called Rhodesia) at the Mt. Silinda Training School, a large missionary-run establishment. Sisal twine was used dyed and plain and braided into long strands which were then stitched together to form the desired shapes. Though the materials were native to the area, the shapes they made with them were not and were most likely to sell to tourists.

Ed.2006.8.3

This style of necklace is known as a "Zulu love letter" in South Africa where it was made in the mid-late 1900s. These love letters were "sent" by young men to their prospective "sweethearts" with messages encoded in the colors and shapes

used in the pendant rectangle on the necklace. In conservative households and townships, this might be the only way a young man and woman could communicate their interest in each other.

ED.2006.1.371a,b A pair of napkin rings made of dyed leather stretched over a wood base with a traditional stair-step design of woven strips of straw and dyed leather applied on top. These are probably from the country of Mali where this type of leather work is quite common for making shoes, bags and other items for everyday use. These napkin rings were made for the tourist trade as napkin rings are not an item in use in traditional households.

ED.2006.9.47 A laminated map of “Africa Today” on one side and “Africa’s Natural Realms” on the reverse from the National Geographic Society.