

Unit 5: The Atlantic Coastal Regions and Lower Nigeria

This unit looks at several groups that came to the West as a result of the slave trade and have formed diaspora communities. The social and spiritual structures of groups in this region are diverse, ranging from autonomous communities governed by elder societies to dynastic monarchies that are still maintained within modern nations. These differences are reflected in their respective art styles.

Unit 5 Time Advisory

This unit should take you approximately 21 hours to complete.

- Subunit 5.1: 6 hours
- Subunit 5.2: 5 hours
- Subunit 5.3: 5 hours
- Subunit 5.4: 5 hours
- “Art Analysis” Assignment from Unit 4: 3-5 hours

Unit 5 Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- discuss the earliest African art commissioned by Europeans;
- analyze the diversity of masquerades in the region;
- demonstrate an understanding of the Yoruba culture’s history;
- discuss the metal casting techniques and forms in the region;
- assess the diversity of traditional kingships in Africa and the importance of “regalia” in these societies;
- examine how the slave trade infiltrated the region;
- compare and contrast the forms and functions of personal votives in Africa;

- describe and compare the major textile forms of Akan groups and the Yoruba; and
- discuss problems with the terminology and concept of “authenticity” in analyzing African art.