

Benin and Ife Bronzes: Comparison

Instructions: Please visit the Galerie Peter Hermann's "[A Thousand Years of Benin Art](#)."* This website has a lot of information on Benin and Ife cast bronze sculpture, which you may browse as you wish. However, for our present purpose, focus on the visual presentations:

- Click the 4 images at the top menu and view close-ups.
- Then, just beneath this row of objects, click the embedded link, "All objects in both exhibitions."
- You will come to a page of German text; scrolling down, you will come to several dozen images of Ife and Benin sculptures.
- Enlarge (click) a number of each type to view details and assess form.

When you are done browsing, write a 2-page, double-spaced essay comparing Ife and Benin cast objects collectively, noting general differences and similarities in types, form, and general aesthetics (or overall "feeling") of the works of each culture. For example, both are hollow-cast bronze; the Ife heads are more naturalistic; Benin bronzes include more full figures and other types beyond heads. You might compare the representations of scarring in each. Refer back to the material on each culture that we have looked at in the unit to situate the works in cultural context.

Refer to the art-writing guidelines provided in the course worksheet.

The assignment should take 45-60 minutes.

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