

Unit 6: Central Africa

A number of groups reside across the boundaries of modern eastern Nigeria and Cameroon along the Cross River. In Cameroon, several ethnically and culturally related kingship societies nonetheless are distinct by tradition. In the colonial period, the “Congo” region encompassed the modern nations of the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The Kongo peoples (including several sub-groups) extend across the borders of these nations. This background is important to keep in mind when trying to categorize the works of the various groups this unit examines, because there are not always clear differences in style or type, and there is much interaction between the two groups.

Unit 6 Time Advisory

This unit should take you approximately you 15 hours to complete.

Subunit 6.1: 7 hours

Subunit 6.2: 8 hours

Unit 6 Learning Outcomes

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

- discuss the colonial and modern geography of Central Africa;
- discuss, compare, and contrast the ethnic groups in Central Africa;
- identify several indigenous groups inhabiting modern Cameroon;
- analyze the basic form and function of votive and masquerade forms in the Eastern Nigeria, Cameroon and Congo regions;
- discuss the diversity of votive and masquerade forms throughout Africa;
- articulate the idea of personal prestige objects (such as stools); and
- analyze the several approaches to exhibitions of African art in Western museums;