

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

**Find:**

**Pendant Mask: Iyoba, Nigeria, 16th century**



*Pendant Mask: Iyoba, 16th century; Nigeria; Edo peoples; Court of Benin; ivory, iron, copper (?); The Michael C. Rockefeller Memorial Collection, Gift of Nelson A. Rockefeller, 1972 (1978.412.323). Photo courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art*

Turn this card over to find a hint about where I am!

**COOL fact:**

The artist created this beautiful mask by carving ivory. An **Oba**, or king, in Benin, Nigeria would have worn it. The face on the mask is the king's mother, or **Iyoba**.

Cool Culture® provides 50,000 underserved families with free, unlimited access to 90 cultural institutions – so that parents can provide their children with educational experiences that will help them succeed in school and life.



**Hint:**

Look on the 1st floor in the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas Galleries. It is in the central African gallery, before you enter the large Oceanic gallery with the big glass windows.

**COOL!  
YOU  
FOUND  
IT!**

**Now, Explore!**

**DURING YOUR VISIT:**

- Can you imitate the expression on her face?
- This is a mask made to honor the king's mother. Can you find her headdress?
- Find the fishlike creatures on the mask. They are **mudfish**, which live on both land and in water. Mudfish were a symbol for the king, who was thought to live in both the earthly and spiritual realms.
- Can you find the carvings of faces around the edge of the mask? They are faces of the people who sailed down the coast of Africa to trade with the people of Benin. Have you ever traded something with a friend?

**Before and After Your Visit:**

- With your child, recall a time that he or she has worn a mask or costume. Ask: When did you wear it? Why? How did it feel to wear the mask?
- Encourage your child to role-play: Have your child imagine that he or she was a king or queen wearing this mask.



**COOL CULTURE CONNECT: Connect beyond your visit!**

Before and after your visit, dial **718.408.2393** and enter prompt numbers **78 #** and **79 #** for more fun activities and programs from the Metropolitan Museum of Art! Please note that *cell phones may not be used* inside the Met's galleries.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art offers a look at many different art forms from many different places. View ancient Egyptian mummies, Greek statues, African masks and much more. Children can wander through time and across the globe without ever leaving the City!

