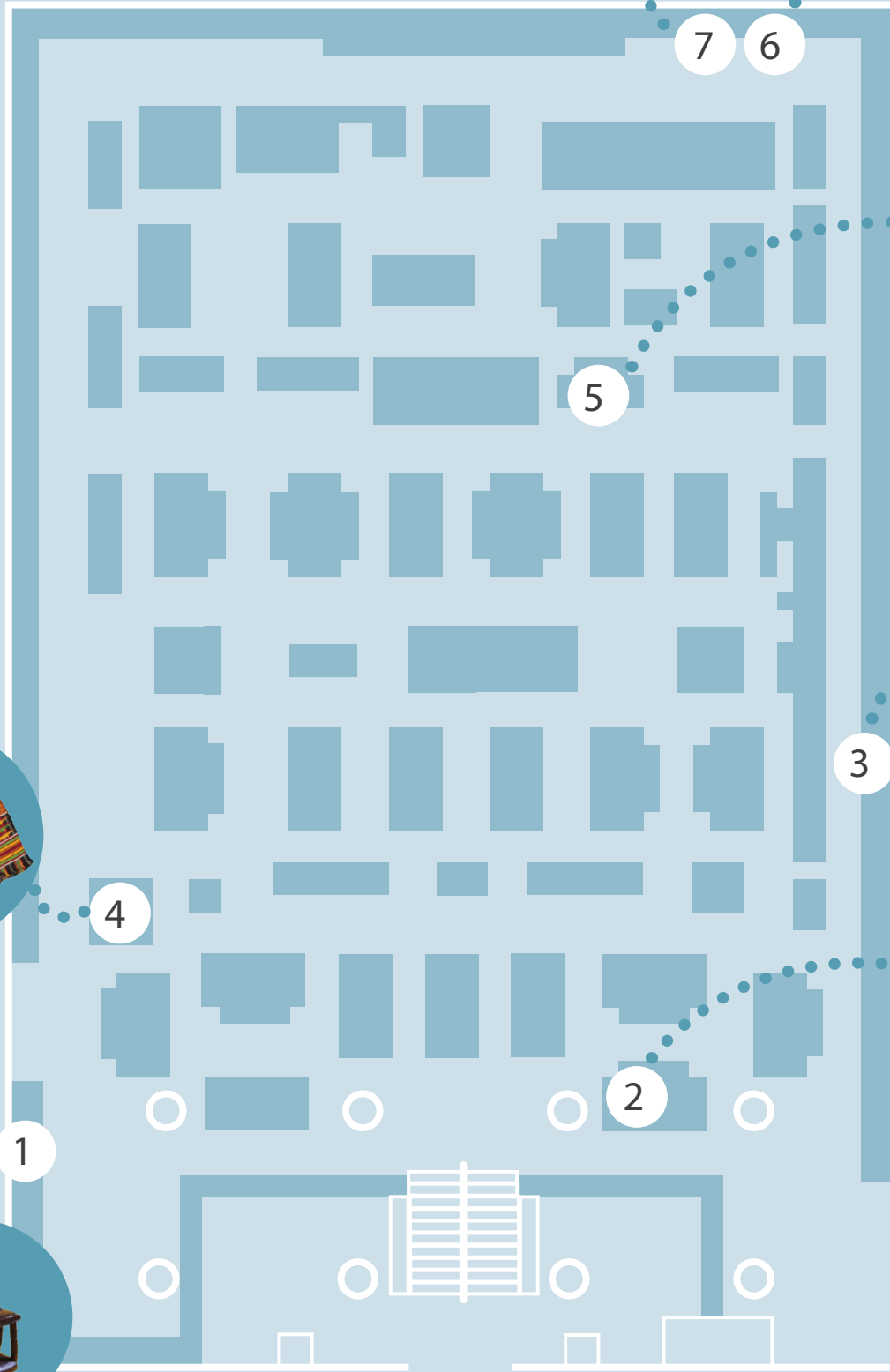


# History

Self-guided Museum Trail

Pitt  
 Rivers  
 Museum



## Use the map to find all eight objects on the Ground Floor of the Pitt Rivers Museum

Once you have found your object, read the text on the trail that tells you more about the object. This text will include a quote from someone from that community or place or someone with a connection to it.

You can also read the museum labels next to the objects themselves.

Once you have done that, answer the question or questions for that object.

*All of the questions are in these white boxes in this special font.*

You may need your phone to find out some of the answers. Your teachers and our staff also have the answers on an answer sheet and can help you.



1

## Yoruba Colonial Officer sculpture

Case Location: C.21.A

This figure was sculpted by a Yoruba artist in Ondo Province, Nigeria, depicting the colonial District Officer Mr. B. J. A. Mathews



“The tendency by writers to view African sculptures of whites as mockery persists [carries on]. This oversimplifies the meaning of this complex and historically significant artistic genre [style].”

Nil! O. Quarcopome, curator and historian, 2009.

Mr Mathews is smoking a pipe. Which continent did tobacco originally come from?

3

## Anangy Ibibio mask (Western Ibibio, Nigeria)

Case Location: C.5.A

In what way does this Ibibio mask carved by artisan Akpan Chukwu of Utu Etim Ekpo (or apprentice) have an element of Photoshop about it? Read the label.



“Why do we use Photoshop? It's usually about enhancement to make more desirable or successful. We see it used controversially today in key fashion magazines on people of colour. How does this piece sit within the commercial world then and our commercial world now?”

Marlene Wylie.

Why do some magazines change the tone of skin in their pages and which celebrities have spoken out against this?

2

## Queen Victoria sculpture from Lagos

Case Location: C.150.A

Why would people living in 19th century Lagos in Nigeria create a sculpture of Queen Victoria in the local style?



“They were competent and creative enough to use both local and external [outside] sources to empower themselves. If Western education and culture sought to have them abandon what was African, it was abundantly clear they would not succumb [give in] to this.”

Toyin Falola, Nigerian historian.

Where did the jewels in some of the crowns worn by Queen Victoria come from?

4

## Kente Cloth

Case Location: C.139.A

What is the difference in design between the Asante kente and Ewe kente cloth in Ghana?



“Asante kente usually has both the front and back looking identical, unlike that of the Ewe kente. Another distinction is that Asante kente designs are abstract, while the Ewe kente has images of objects intricately woven into the blocks.”

David Damtar, Turpin Junior Research Fellow in History, Oriel College.

Name four colours in this kente. Which part of the African continent is the country of Ghana in? North, East, South or West?

5

**Mbira**  
Case Location: C.66.A  
Why is the mbira so important to identity and resistance for the Shona people in Zimbabwe?



“ This instrument became one of the rallying points, it was frowned upon by the former colonial masters, this reminded us of who we were, we were proud people.”  
Thabo Muleya,  
Pitt Rivers Museum MultakaOxford volunteer.

Do you know when Zimbabwe gained independent once more from Britain? Was it in the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s or 1960s?

7

**Blackfoot Shirt**  
Case Location: C.10.A  
How did Blackfoot teens in Canada and the USA respond when they were reunited with these shirts which visited Blackfoot territory in 2009? Educator Ann Bullshoe (Aamsskapiikani) explained that the visit allowed:



“ a connection between our past and present, something tangible that we can actually see.”

Ann Bullshoe,  
Aamsskapiikani Educator.



Can you spot the colours of the porcupine quills on this shirt?

6

**Métis bag**  
Case Location: C.10.A  
Look at the labels next to the bag. Who do you think should be writing museum labels about Métis objects and identity?



“ We keep our culture and I encourage any Indigenous youth, especially if they are disconnected like I was, to start rebuilding those connections because it is worth it.”

Dan Laurin,  
transgender Métis artist

Which parts of a plant can you see on this bag? How long do you think it took to make this bag?

8

**Artwork by Christian Thompson**  
Stairwell, Ground Floor  
While he was here at the museum, Thompson saw 100s of photos of First Peoples from Australia in the collection. He wanted to question Pitt Rivers right to “collect” these images.



“ No one ever draws any attention to the guys who basically built their careers out of creating those collections of nameless figures, of othered people.”  
“ So, I thought, no, I will.”

Christian Thompson,  
contemporary Aboriginal artist of Bidjara and British heritage.

When did First Peoples gain the right to vote?