

Vocabulary

Paragraph 1

1. precious	a. Put somewhere for other people to see.
2. artefact	b. Sent someone or something back to their own country.
3. colonial	c. Of an object, substance, or resource of great value.
4. on display	d. Relating to or characteristic of a country or area under the full or partial political control of another country.
5. plaque	e. An object made by a human being, typically an item of cultural or historical interest.
6. looted	f. An ornamental tablet, typically of metal, porcelain, or wood, that is fixed to a wall or other surface in commemoration of a person or event.
7. repatriated	g. Stole goods, especially private property, from another country in a war or during colonization.

Paragraph 2

8. expert	h. Considered or thought of someone or something in a specified way.
9. regarded	i. Having previously filled a particular role or been a particular thing.
10. former	j. The state of being open to danger or threat.
11. willing	k. A person who has a comprehensive and authoritative knowledge of or skill in a particular area.
12. initiate	l. A formal promise or assurance that certain conditions will be fulfilled.
13. insecurity	m. Cause a process or action to begin.
14. guaranteed	n. Ready, eager, or prepared to do something.

Germany is to return (1) _____ artefacts that were plundered from Nigeria during the colonial (2) _____ in the late-19th century. The world-famous Benin Bronzes are currently on (3) _____ at a museum in Leipzig. The Bronzes comprise a (4) _____ of more than a thousand metal plaques, (5) _____ and statues. They were created by the Edo people in what used to be the Kingdom of Benin from the 13th century. They (6) _____ the royal palace of the Kingdom of Benin, in what is now Nigeria. Most of the objects were looted by British (7) _____ in 1897. Two hundred pieces were taken to the British Museum in London, while others went to museums across Europe. Nigeria has tried for (8) _____ to get them repatriated.

forces
precious
collection
decades
display
decorated
era
sculptures

Experts say the 16th-18th century returning (9) _____ are among the most highly (10) _____ works of African art. Many Nigerians are welcoming their return. Nigeria's Institute for Benin Studies said Germany is, "leading in the global (11) _____ movement" of former colonial powers returning looted (12) _____. It said: "Other European nations should be (13) _____ and open to acknowledge that all objects looted in 1897 belong to the Benin people. Like Germany, they too should initiate or join the (14) _____ to discuss the future of these objects." However, some Nigerians believe the objects are (15) _____ in Europe. One man said: "With the insecurity now, the safety of those artefacts cannot be (16) _____. "

guaranteed
willing
restitution
pieces
safer
treasures
dialogue
regarded

Choose the best answer

1. Why is Germany returning the Benin Bronzes to Nigeria? In

- A) They were gifts to the museum in Leipzig.
- B) They were created by the German people.
- C) They were plundered from Nigeria during the colonial era.
- D) Nigeria has sold them to Germany.

2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a location where the Benin Bronzes are currently held?

- A) British Museum in London
- B) Museums across Europe
- C) A museum in Leipzig
- D) The Louvre in Paris

3. According to the passage, what is one reason some Nigerians think the Benin Bronzes might be safer in Europe?

- A) The artifacts are too old to be transported.
- B) They might be damaged by the weather in Nigeria.
- C) There is current insecurity in Nigeria.
- D) They belong to the British Museum.

1. What can be inferred about the British forces' role in 1897?

- A) They helped protect the Benin Bronzes.
- B) They collaborated with Germany to display the Bronzes.
- C) They looted the Benin Bronzes from the Kingdom of Benin.
- D) They encouraged Nigeria to create replicas of the Bronzes.

2. Why might Nigeria's Institute for Benin Studies urge other European nations to return looted objects?

- A) To display them in the British Museum.
- B) To recognize the historical injustice and right a wrong.
- C) To ensure the Bronzes are well-preserved.
- D) To establish new colonial relationships.

Match the ideas

1. What underlying theme can be inferred from the passage regarding the return of the Benin Bronzes?

a. It indicates a shift towards recognizing and rectifying historical wrongs..

2. Which of the following best represents the stance of Nigeria's Institute for Benin Studies?

b. The persistent impact of colonialism on African nations.

3. Consider the statement: "Germany is 'leading in the global restitution movement' of former colonial powers returning looted treasures." How does this statement reflect broader trends in international relations?

c. A potential increase in international cooperation and cultural exchange.

4. What might be the long-term implications for global museums if more countries follow Germany's example in returning looted artifacts?

d. Supportive of a collaborative approach to restitution.

