

EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

- The round Bakota from Ghana is a traditional carving representing tribal ancestors and typically placed in reliquaries. The figures were carved from wood and covered with brass plates or copper discs. These figures towered over each basket with the lower diamond shape attaching to the vessel which held the ancestor. Similar to grave stones in white cultures in US context, this reliquary figure similarly visibly 'guards' the graves and remains of passed ancestors.
- Photographs of family, personal milestones and celebrations serve as a commonplace object in public American cemeteries in comparison to the Ghanaian reliquary guardian in terms of similarity visibly "guarding" the graves of the passed in Ghana.
- What are a couple ways in which the round Bakota compares to other culture's burial practices where ancestors are ritually honored?
- Look at the parts that make up this figure. What do you think each aspect on the figure represents in meaning for the ancestor?
- Trivia! - What shapes are used more or less to make up this object? Look closely- What do you see on the object which may represent an individuals face? Do these aspects hold resemblance among the East African mask, Ligbi spiral mask, or Burkina Faso headdress?



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