

this is one of a
series of resources
looking at different
vessels in the
Sainsbury Centre's
Collections

VESSELS

Bowl
with
Legs



LOOKING

INVESTIGATE:

Start by taking a good look at this vessel.
Try to think about it before you read the information about it.

What do you see?

THINKING

Maybe use these questions to guide you:

- What do you think it is?
- How would you describe this vessel?
- Can you guess what it is made from?
- How do you think it was made?

What tools do you think were used?

- Where do you think it comes from?
- How old do you think it is?

- What do you think it was used for?
 - What could it represent?
- What do the shapes look like to you?

DISCUSSING

Perhaps answer these questions or ask your own.

Do this individually, in pairs or groups.

Do you agree with other people? What are you most interested in?

What else do you need or want to know?



SAINSBURY CENTRE

IMAGINE



- Who is the character on this vessel?
Is it a person or an animal?
What would you call them?

- Why are they in this position?
What are they doing - swimming, flying...?
Do they live in the water or on land?
How would they move?



What sort of personality do you think they have? What are they like? We think they look pretty cheeky!

- Can you imagine their journey?
Where are they going from and to, and why?
Maybe they are swimming down huge rivers where brown bears catch salmon, or flying from one universe into another...



- The bowl is made of sheep's horn.
How big was the sheep?
What did it look like?
What do you think happened to the rest of the sheep?

- Who might this vessel have belonged to?
- What do you think they used the bowl for?
What did it contain?

- What would YOU use a bowl with legs for?

DRAW or WRITE down your ideas.
Are these similar or different to other people's?



Each object in the gallery has a label with some Facts and Figures. Labels highlight what we know, and what we do not.



Bowl with legs - this is the Title or Description of the object.

North America, Northwest Coast -

The Production Place is where the object was made, in as much detail as possible.

1800-1850 - this is the date the object was made.

Mountain-sheep horn - the Material the object was made from, perhaps suggesting how it was made too.

Donated by Robert & Lisa Sainsbury, 1973 -

the date that this vessel was given to, or bought by, the UEA.

UEA 124 - all of the objects in the Sainsbury Centre's collections are given an Accession Number.

This allows us to keep records about each of them, and helps you to find out more about them online:

<https://www.sainsburycentre.ac.uk/art-and-objects/>

See if you can find other objects, in the Collection with similar styles, from North Western Americas

123



Each of the objects in this resource have their number near them

SAINSBURY CENTRE

ILLUMINATE:

The Facts and Figures may have some of the answers, but there is so much more to know, to think about, and to understand.

This bowl was probably made by a Haida artist. Haida people are an indigenous group who have lived for thousands of years on and around the Haida Gwaii islands, in the Pacific Ocean, off the Northwest coast of Canada.

Haida people believe that animal spirits can transform themselves into human form, so Haida art often depicts human-animal hybrids.



The Haida are skilled artisans. Their art is often wood carving, especially totem poles. Haida art features bears, beavers, wolves and birds.



130



Either the surface of objects is decorated with them, or the objects take the form of animals, or both.

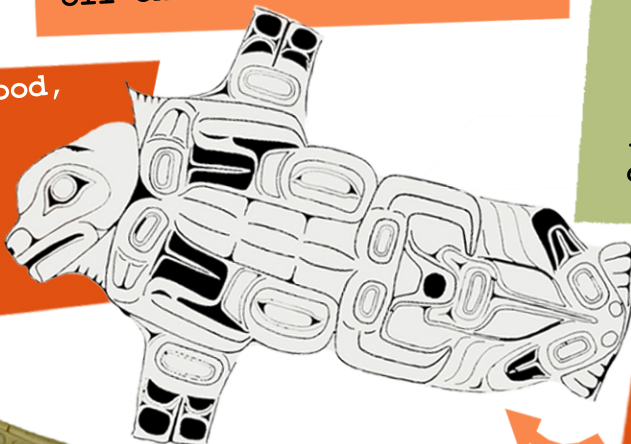
This bowl seems to have both human and frog or toad features. There are lots of frogs and toads in Haida myths. They symbolise things like wealth and abundance. As they can live on land and in water, they are adaptable and are admired by Haida people.

A Potlach is a ceremony which has been part of Haida society for thousands of years. Important people offer a feast and gifts to others to show their wealth and status. In Haida language this is called 'waahlgahl'.



Personalised bowls used at feasts and Potlatches held grease and other food. There are traces of oil on this bowl.

This bowl looks like wood, but over bright light it is translucent. It is probably made from mountain sheep horn, which had to be imported.



A flattened diagram shows the 'formline' pattern of Club (120), 3 vol catalogue

How does this extra information change the way you see the Bowl with legs?



120

Is there now even more you would like to explore?

SAINSBURY CENTRE

Here are some suggestions for further exploration:

FIND OUT MORE:



CREDITS:

SCVA object Photos:
Pete Huggins
P.5: Google images

There are many other objects from the Northwest Coast of America in the Sainsbury Collection. Some are Haida, others are Tlinglit:

Sainsbury Centre online catalogue:

<https://adlib.uea.ac.uk/Details/collect/1158>

3 Volume Catalogue

Hooper, S. and SCVA (1997)
Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection.
New Haven: Yale University Press
in association with UEA.
pp.284

Living Tradition website - all about Potlatch

<https://umistapotlatch.ca/intro-eng.php>

British Museum

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/x20658>

Wikipedia - Formline Art

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formline_art



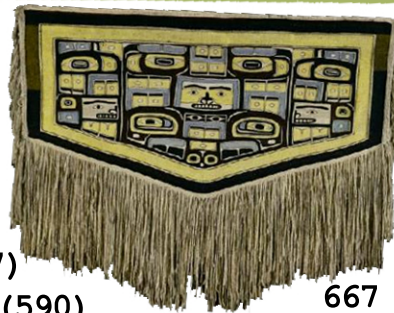
728

Ladle (121)
club (120)

Chilkat robe (667)

Head-dress frontlet (590)

Bowl with wolf head (728)



667



590

What are the similarities and differences between these and Bowl with legs?

Can you find them in the galleries?



Continuous, curved, flowing ovoid, 'U', and 'S' shapes, typical of art from the Northwest Coast of America is called 'Formline'.

Basic Formline elements and shapes

A few more ways to explore:

Mythology

<https://www.mymondotrading.com/native-meanings-symbology-myths-legends>

Canadian Museum of History

<https://www.historymuseum.ca/teachers-zone/haida-arts-and-technologies>

Take a really good look at more Sainsbury Collection objects from the Northwest Coast of America on SKETCHFAB:

<https://sketchfab.com/sainsbury-centre/models>

Turn the digital models around, look underneath them..

ACTIVITIES:

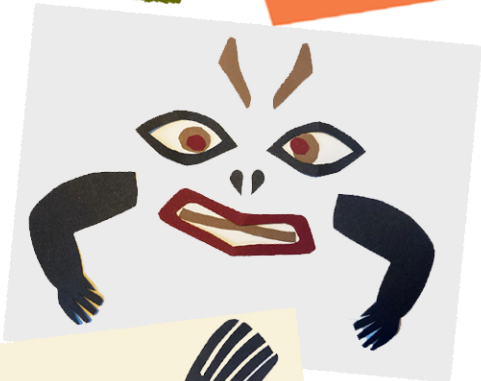
SYMMETRY



Take pieces of paper in three different colours.

Fold them in half. Cut out shapes that you can see in this bowl with legs.

You will get two of each shape. Can you arrange these to make a symmetrical design on another piece of paper?



When you have a composition (or several) that you're happy with, stick them down.

Look at the symmetrical Formline designs made by the Haida, for more inspiration.

Why not make something with the negative shapes too?

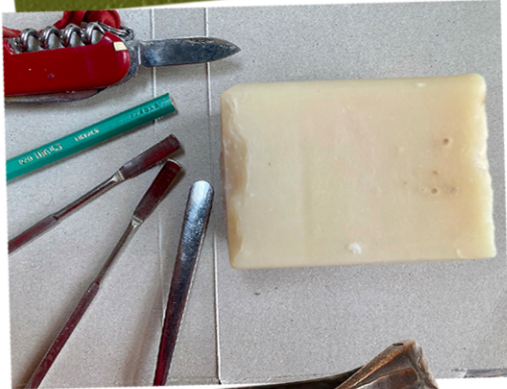


SAINSBURY CENTRE

ACTIVITY

CARVE:

- Using a bar of plain soap and clay tools, can you do some relief carving?



You could look at the features on the face of this vessel as inspiration.



See how the nose sticks out?

The surface would need to be carved back from this point.



Using a spoon, you could also try carving a bowl, in the round, from a bar of soap.

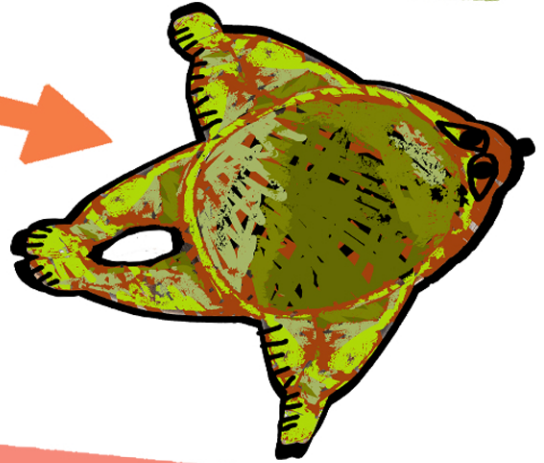


ACTIVITIES:

ILLUSTRATE



- Can you make a character out of this creature and draw him/her/it standing up, walking, swimming, flying etc?



It could become the character for a simple story and a little comic strip!

COLLAGE

- Collect photographs of faces, arms and legs from magazines and newspapers.

Can you collage them together to make more funny characters?

