

### Further Reading

#### SUBSTRAND: CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Cultural activities are more than just entertainment; they reflect history, beliefs, and identity. Are you ready for your sessions on cultural activities? Yes, here you should be able to:

- (a) assemble and label different types of cultural artifacts from the community.
- (b) explain the importance of cultural artifacts in society.
- (c) importance of ceremonies and festivals held in the community.

#### What do you understand about cultural artifacts?

Cultural artifacts are objects, items, or materials that have cultural significance, often representing the beliefs, values, traditions, and history of a society or group. These artifacts can include things like tools, clothing, artwork, religious objects, manuscripts, and even architecture.

Examples



Kiondo - Kamba traditional baskets.



"Ekicholong" - Turkana stool



"Kom Nyaluo" – Luo Traditional Stool.



"Sotet" - Kalenjin calabash.

## Examples of Cultural Artifacts in the Community.

### 1. Traditional Tools & Utensils

Gourds & Calabashes – Used for storing milk, water, or traditional brews.

Wooden Mortars & Pestles – Used for grinding grains and spices.

Pottery & Clay Pots – Handmade vessels for cooking and water storage.

### 2. Clothing & Adornments

Beaded Jewelry – Worn by different ethnic groups to show identity and status.

Traditional Attire – Such as Maasai shukas, Nigerian agbadas, or Indian saris.

Headgear & Crowns – Worn by chiefs, elders, or ceremonial dancers.

### 3. Musical Instruments

Drums (e.g., Djembe, Ngoma) – Used for communication and celebrations.

Flutes & Horns – Played during rituals and ceremonies.

Stringed Instruments (e.g., Kora, Nyatiti) – Used for storytelling and entertainment.

### 4. Weapons & Hunting Tools

Spears & Shields – Used historically for defense and rituals.

Bows & Arrows – Traditional hunting and warfare tools.

### 5. Architectural & Structural Artifacts

Thatched Huts & Mud Houses – Traditional homes in rural communities.

Carved Wooden Doors & Gates – Found in palaces, shrines, and homes.

Sacred Shrines & Stone Monuments – Used for worship and remembrance.

### 6. Symbols & Ritual Objects

Totems & Clan Symbols – Represent family lineage and heritage.

Masks & Costumes – Used in dances, spiritual rituals, and storytelling.

Sacred Staffs & Wands – Held by elders or spiritual leaders.

### 7. Written & Oral Traditions

Ancient Scripts & Scrolls – Used for religious and historical records.

Folktales & Proverbs – Passed down to teach moral lessons.

Praise Songs & Chants – Performed to honor leaders and ancestors.

### 8. Ceremonial & Religious Objects

Incense & Ritual Oils – Used in prayers and blessings.

Sacred Drums & Bells – Played during religious gatherings.

Altar Figures & Ancestral Statues – Representing deities or ancestors.

## Activity

Find out all the artifacts found in your community

## Assessment.

1. Give two examples of cultural artifacts commonly found in Kenya.
2. Which community is well known for making and wearing elaborate beadwork in Kenya?
3. What is the significance of traditional shields and spears in Kenyan communities?
4. Name one type of traditional pottery or basketry used for storage in Kenyan culture.
5. How do cultural artifacts help in preserving the heritage of Kenyan communities?

## **Session 2: Importance of cultural artifacts in society.**

The following are the importance of cultural artifacts;

- Preservation of history and heritage
- Identity and cultural continuity
- Education and learning
- Preservations of traditional beliefs
- Social cohesion and unity
- Economic and tourism value
- Artistic and aesthetic value
- Research and academic value
- National and international significance
- Reflection of social, political and economic context

## **Session 3 importance of ceremonies and festivals held in the community.**

- (a) Cultural preservation.
- (b) Social unity and bonding.
- (c) Religious and spiritual significance,
- (d) Educational value.
- (e) For entertainment and enjoyment.
- (f) Economic purpose - tourism.

### **Activity**

Attend a wedding in your village.