

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Artifact Caption Directions

Purpose Statement

Write a paragraph that explains what your artifact is and provides details about the context in which it was created and used.

Grading Guidelines for Final Draft

- **Length:** The caption should be five – twelve sentences long and be organized as one – two paragraphs.
- **Content:** Caption should thoroughly explain the context (who, what, where, when, how) and clearly communicate the historical importance of the artifact.
- **Voice:** Caption must be written in third person. Your tone of voice should be professional and sound as though you are a museum curator.
- **Conventions:** Title is **bold** and centered, 12 or 14 pt. Paragraph should be in block style with no indentation, 8-14 pt. Times or Times New Roman. All words and sentences must have correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Name should be typed at bottom of your paper, right justified.
- Caption must be neatly mounted.

Note: The caption is not considered a final draft until it has no spelling, grammatical, or punctuation mistakes.

See the bottom of this page for an example caption

Asante Akuaba Dolls

The artifact is a reproduction of an Asante Akuaba doll. The Asante have lived in southern Ghana since the 17th century, so the dolls might have been in use for four hundred years. At one time, only the royal family, known as the Asantehene, might have owned the dolls but today they are even sold to tourists. The dolls often had large foreheads and small mouths, which reflect Asante ideals of beauty. Sometimes, the dolls wore gold or beaded necklaces. They were usually carved out of wood, but sometimes they might be made out of gold and kept in special shrines. Women would carry the dolls that wanted to become pregnant or who wanted to ensure they would have a beautiful child, hopefully a girl. The dolls were blessed by priests, and then treated as real infants by the women. Another source tells that when a child went missing, the dolls would be placed at the edge of forests along with offerings of food and coins in the hope that the spirits would return the child. The Akuaba dolls are important to know about because they show that children were so important to the Asante that they were the focus of religious traditions. Also, they are important to family traditions. Since family inheritances were passed down through females, having girls would pass on the family name.

Curator: Eric Miller