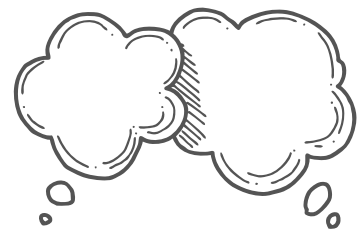


ON REFLECTION



Memorialising... remembering looted communities

There are thousands of items in British museums which were collected during colonial times by methods that are not acceptable today.

1

EXPLORE

This silver fish pendant was taken from the tent of Wajid Ali Shah who was the Nawab (or ruler) of Oudh in India. It was viewed as the 'spoils of war' by soldiers of the 79th Regiment after a battle called the Fall of Lucknow during the First War of Indian Independence.

It is likely that this flat, singular fish may have adorned a tent or chair back. Across Indian palaces, pairs of silver fish motifs in a range of styles decorated walls, water urns, fountains, large plaques, and even state carriages.

Can you think of an object that would represent your school community?



2

TALK ABOUT IT

This panel was removed from the tomb of the Mahdi at Omdurman following the final defeat of the Sudanese during the Sudan Campaign in 1898. In this period, the destruction of palaces and temples was common, and objects and fragments were often plundered following victory.

Museums are not neutral locations that only act to store objects. The items we choose to keep and display all tell a story.

- If someone stole something that belonged to you and your community and had a lot of cultural significance, how would you feel about it being presented in a museum?
- What if the museum talked about it without acknowledging how it got there?
- Why do you think that the looting of religious temples is now seen as particularly abhorrent?

4

READ

Read: the story of the Abyssinian soldier which is based on a shield taken after the Battle of Maqdala.

3

TRY IT YOURSELF

If you feel strongly about this issue, you could write a letter to your MP asking them to advocate for the repatriation of looted objects.

5

FIND OUT MORE

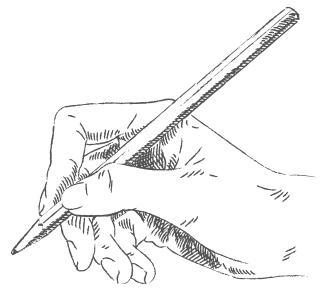
Many looted objects remain in British museums today. Find out more about other well-known items.



6

CREATE A COMMEMORATION

Use this page to plan your ideas.



Who do you want to commemorate?

Why do you want to remember what happened to them?

What could your design look like? What shapes or pictures could you include?

What message could you write?

