

Title

Learning with Grandad

Episode: Colonisation, Artefacts and Museum

Introduction title sequence

Sipho and Grandad are in the living room, looking at a computer screen and sitting together. They are researching together.

'So, Sipho, you wanted to know why museums have artefacts.' Grandad says.

'Yes grandad.' Sipho agrees.

'Everybody collects things the same way museums do.' Grandad expresses. 'Like, you with your pokemon cards.'

'My pokemon cards.' Sipho repeats, reaching for a folder that has a wallet full of pokemon cards. He opens the folder.

'Yes, that is called hobby collecting, but your cards are valuable so that is also called gathering collectibles.' Grandad explains.

'So museums collect for fun?' Sipho is puzzled. 'And money?'

Grandad chuckles. 'Well, some people donate to museums, they donate their family heirlooms. So I suppose that is fun.'

'Hmmm, money is tricky Sipho, as museums ethically can't sell items from their collections.' Grandad adds. 'But they can borrow them.'

'Oh like when I trade my pokemon cards with my friends?' Sipho smiles.

'Not quite but yes.' Grandad chuckles. 'Museums can loan artefacts from their collection to other museums and this includes museums world wide.'

'Really Grandad!' Sipho exclaims.

'Yes, Sipho!' Grandad adds.

'Alright Grandad, but why does the museum have artefacts from the lady who travelled the world?' Sipho questions.

'Should we have a look and see?' Grandad asks whilst clicking on a blog post on the museum's website.

'Yes please.' Sipho agrees.

Sipho and Grandad read how Helen Caddick's collection of artefacts came to be housed in a museum. They learn that she was involved in setting up a house as a museum which was full of the artefacts she collected as well as natural history specimens. The collection is now under the local council's authority.

'Okay Grandad, so museums take care of collections and display them.' Sipho recalls. 'And Miss Caddick displayed the artefacts she collected?'

'Yes Sipho.' Grandad agrees. 'During the Victorian era there was a surge of wealthy people who collected artefacts from all over the world. This is an example of an exertion of power.'

'An exertion of power over others?' Sipho repeats, confused.

'Yes Sipho because at the time these countries that the artefacts belonged to were under British rule. So museums themselves are intimately tied to colonisation because of how other cultural artefacts were obtained.' Grandad continues. 'For example during the 19th century, British troops stole about 4,000 sculptures after invading the Kingdom of Benin. Some of these are known as the benin bronzes.'

'Benin?' Sipho questions. 'What country is that Grandad?'

'That is now called Nigeria, Sipho.' Grandad answers. 'It is in West Africa.'

'O that's where John Boyega's heritage is from! He's Yoruba, Grandad.' Sipho grins.

'He's my favourite actor from Star Wars, Grandad.' Sipho adds.

'That is interesting, Sipho.' Grandad says. 'Should we learn more about museums and artefacts?'

'Yes please, Grandad.' Sipho agrees.

'Sometimes travellers like Helen Caddick bought these artefacts from explorers or collected them during their own travels, but other times these artefacts weren't sourced ethically.' Grandad reveals. 'For example the parthenon marbles, also known as the Elgin marbles, were looted in the 18th century.'

'O dear Grandad.' Sipho says. 'We saw those in a museum, will they ever go back home?'

'That's something that's actually in discussion now, they will be returning home soon.' Grandad adds.

'Sadly Sipho, some other artefacts were purchased with dirty money.' Grandad continues. 'That's money that has come from treating others unjustly and cruelly like the enslavement of Africans.'

'O dear Grandad.' Sipho says.

'Other artefacts were sourced ethically and now museums must know where the artefact comes from before they accept it. This is called an object's provenance.' Grandad continues. 'But not everything has a paper trail, especially if it's old. This can make it very difficult to know where an artefact has come from.'

Nowadays, if a museum doesn't know an artefact's origins or how it got from there to here, they cannot accept it.'

'That's good Grandad.' Sipho comments.

'Yes Sipho, very good indeed.' Grandad responds.

'It's good that museums are recognising their mistakes.' Sipho comments.

Yes, Museums are taking steps in the right direction. They are working hard to refocus on the origins of artefacts and changing who is telling the story.'

Grandad says. 'But they still have a long way to go

'Grandad, tell me more !!' Sipho asks.

'How about I tell you over lunch?' Grandad answers. 'We're having your favourite dish.'

'Sounds yummy, Grandad!' Sipho exclaims.

End

Credits

Production and curation - Sanne Chiza Blanco & Edward Williams

Animation - Gabriela Bran

If you would like to add to the story please contact us at info@wedontsettle.com

If you want to know more about the food Sipho and Grandad are eating please visit (*url tbc?*)

Thank you for watching!

Don't Settle empowers young People of Colour from Birmingham and the Black Country to change the voice of heritage through the arts, governance and research

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The dish to include in the credits scene is **jollof rice**, a national dish in Nigeria and West Africa. <https://cheflaskitchen.com/jollof-rice/>

