

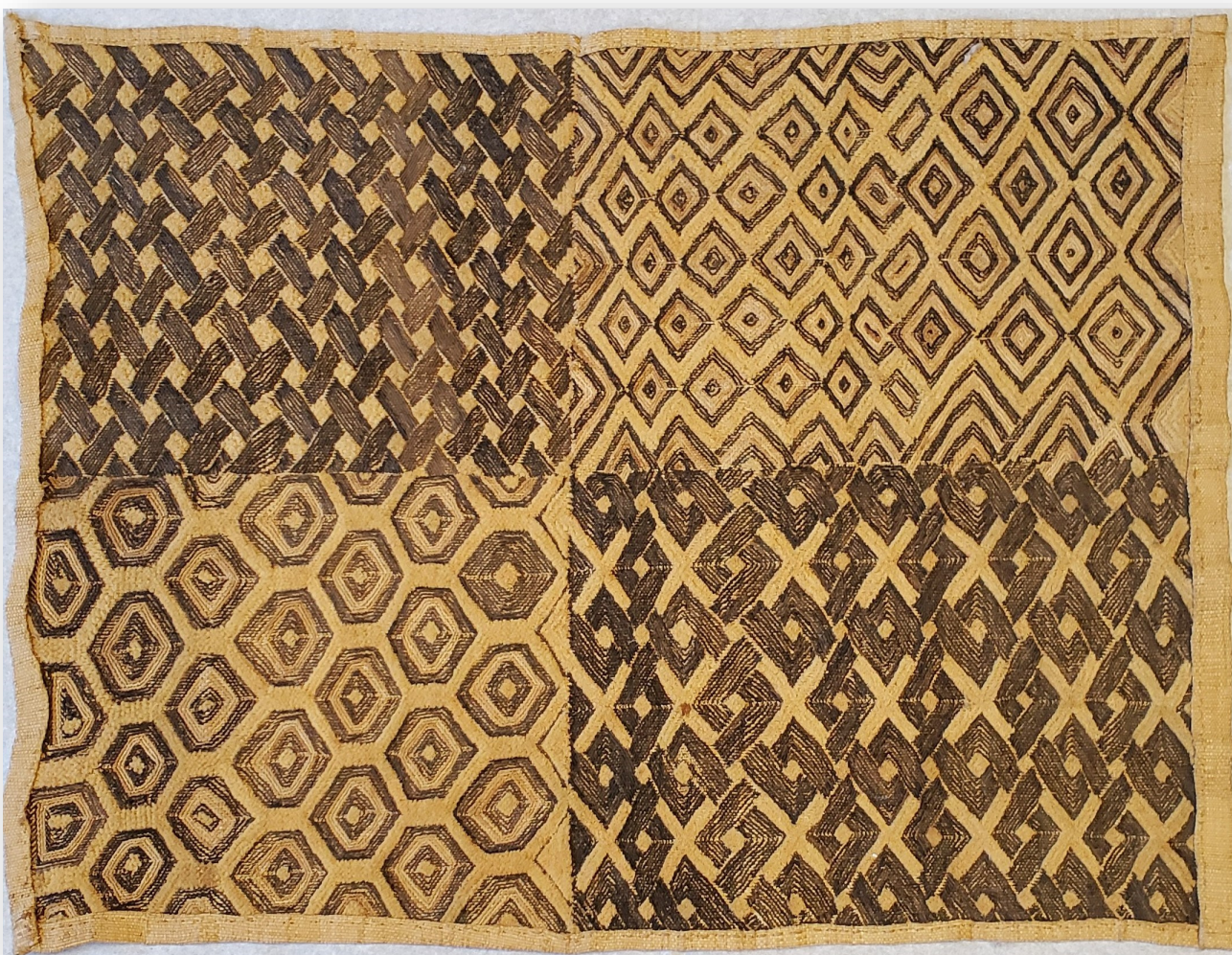
# Curiosity

# Corner

Treasures from the  
FCS Archives

Welcome to *Treasures from the FCS Archives*, a repository of resources for teachers and history enthusiasts! Every month, we are sharing photos, artifacts, documents and other treasures for you to review, discuss and discover. We encourage you to click the links, scan the photos and dig deeper into these treasures, all of which can be found in the Fulton County Schools Archives. Enjoy!

## TEXTILES OF THE KUBA KINGDOM



Cut pile, Embroidered panel, "Kasai Velvet," Shoowa people of the Kuba Kingdom, 24"x18"  
African Safari exhibit, FCS Teaching Museum Collection

### Curiosity in the Classroom:

#### *A Closer Look*

Click on the image above for a higher resolution jpeg. Ask students to carefully and quietly study the this image of a textile.

#### Ask students:

- What do you see?
- What colors do you see?
- What shapes do you see?
- What material was used to make this?
- Look closely, how do you think it was made?
- Considering all the details, what is the purpose of this textile? Why was it made and how was it used?

After prompting student observations and curiosity, guide students through discovering answers to their questions through the text on this main page and provided links.

### Lesson Ideas & Links: Connecting to Standards

[Elementary School Connections](#)

[Related Primary Sources](#)

[Middle School Connections](#)

[Ask the Teaching Museum](#)

[High School Connections](#)

[Additional Online Resources](#)

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**T**hroughout history, textiles have played an essential role in the development of the world. They have long since provided humanity with protection from the elements, but they have also been used as currency in commercial trade, served as markers for social and political status, and have become some of our most prized works of art.

This edition of *Curiosity Corner* features works from the [Kuba Kingdom of Central Africa](#) to examine how [textiles](#)—and [textile making](#)—fulfill all these functions at once. It is a story of how some of the most influential works in the medium of cloth began with a simple palm tree; how skilled artisans living in the rainforests of the Congo were able to stitch a common experience, which inspired creators around the world. It is also a story of a confederation of nineteen ethnic groups, which developed into a complex society—the Kuba Kingdom—considered by many to be ahead of its time.

“Textiles of the Kuba Kingdom” also highlights the work of an Atlanta artist, [Marquetta Johnson](#), whose artistry in quilting serves not only to commemorate and preserve the work of Kuba textile makers, but also to illustrate how a craft is passed down from generation to generation.

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For more information and resources or to connect with staff at the *FCS Archives*, contact us at [archives@fultonschools.org](mailto:archives@fultonschools.org)