



Harper Vick  
Sika Dwa Kofi (Golden Stool)  
Ashanti people (c. 1700)



#### Context:

The Golden Stool was and is a sacred object to the Ashanti people. It is considered more sacred than their king! Because it is so highly revered, it is completely disrespectful to sit upon the stool.

#### Origins:

The first king of the Asante confederacy, Osei Tutu, was the first to discover the Golden Stool. He said it fell out of the sky and landed in the lap of Osei Tutu. He said it was made in the Heavens.

#### Content:

At religious ceremonies, the Golden Stool sits upon another stool. It is a symbol of power for the Ashanti people. The Golden Stool is considered the soul of the nation.

#### Historical Connections:

The British attempted to seize the Golden Stool from the Ashanti people. However, the stool was hidden so well, the British were never able to uncover its whereabouts. After the British left the Ashanti people, it was brought out of hiding and is used to this day in religious and political ceremonies.



#### Gold as a Medium:

In the Ashanti culture, gold is considered a medium of royalty. Because the Golden Stool is covered in gold, it symbolizes the sacredness and the power of the stool from the people's point of view.

#### Form:

The Golden Stool has several geometric shapes in its form.

#### Themes:

The Golden Stool has a sacred theme because it is the most valuable object in the Ashanti people's eyes. Also, the theme of power and authority is displayed in the Golden Stool. This is because it was fought over between the Ashanti people and the Europeans.

#### Stools in the Culture:

In the Ashanti culture, stools are highly respected. They are even given to a child who has come of age as a respected gift.

#### Function:

The function of the Golden Stool is to uphold the sacred beliefs of the Ashanti people. In addition, the Golden Stool is the symbol of power for the Ashanti people. Also, it fulfills religious purposes because the "sum sum" sits on top of the stool.

#### Materials:

The Golden Stool is a wooden stool covered in gold. It has cast-gold attachments, too.

## Citation Page

- 1) "The of and to a in - Microsoft Research\_馆档网." The of and to a in - Microsoft Research\_馆档网. Web. 08 Mar. 2016.
- 2) "Sika Dwa Kofi (Golden Stool), Asante People." Khan Academy. Web. 08 Mar. 2016.
- 3) Mrs. McCullough's Notes
- 4) "Akan Leadership Arts - Art & Life in Africa - The University of Iowa Museum of Art." Akan Leadership Arts, Page 2. Web. 08 Mar. 2016.
- 5) "Dailysoccerghana.net." Dailysoccerghananet. Web. 08 Mar. 2016.