



African Studies Program
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Botswana Discovery Box

Item & Photo

Description

Sego



This is a drinking cup used by hunter-gatherer societies made out of a local vegetable (similar to a butternut, except it has a harder outer shell). A drinking hole is cut out in the middle; it is then gutted, washed and then used to drink from.

Leso



This is a wooden spoon used for general cooking. It is found in every Motswana household.

Segogwane



This is a wooden toad that when rubbed with a stick replicates the exact sound of toads in the wilderness of Botswana. It is used in storytelling and as a percussion instrument.

Let us set a scene of a night in the Okavango Delta for you. Close your eyes. *Croak the toad while the story is told.*

You are in the Okavango Delta, lying in a very comfortable king size bed, covered in a mosquito net and looking up at the roof of your tent. It is dark, but the blue gleam of the

moon and stars trickles through the netting of your tent and fills your room. Animals awaken and growl and roar and tear through the night. The river, which is footsteps from your zipped tent, moves as the hippos empty out onto the land picking up dust. After 30 minutes, finally, the lions have settled down, the screaming wild dogs and bellowing hyena have come and gone and now, the only sound left is the croaking of toads. You close your eyes and fall into a deep sleep. Thank you Botswana.

Leteisi



This is a cloth that is worn in Botswana. This fabric is known as German print, and in Botswana it is differentiated by its dark blue color. Botswanans make all kinds of clothing out of it, from suits to dresses, even shorts!

Thatela



This basket is woven by women. These baskets are made by weaving dried Mokolwane leaves (palm leaves). This is a skill which has been passed down from generation to generation. These baskets are used to carry and store food products such as dried maize and beans.

Tlatlana



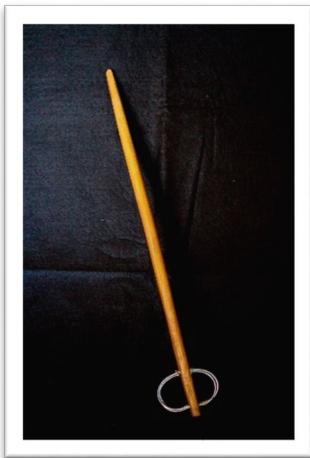
This is a mini version of a woven basket used to store dried food products over a longer period of time. It is made out of mokolwane leaves by skilled women.

Moropa



This is a drum small version of a drum. Typical drums are much bigger - usually 50 cm in length and 250 cm wide. The base is made out of wood. First a piece of wood is hollowed out, then the outside is stained and patterns are etched onto its sides. Finally, animal hide is stretched over the top, then held in place with nails made of wood. Drums are played by tucking the drum under your legs and hitting the top with your hands. They are used in storytelling and musical performances around the fire. More recently, drums are also used in church. Many youth join church choirs and spend their free time at choir rehearsal.

Lehetlho



This is a cooking utensil used to cook Palašthe. It is used by placing the stick end between your palms. Once securely held, you rub your hands together (like you are starting a fire in the wild or rubbing your hands to keep warm in the winter). This motion whisks the Palašthe or sorghum to avoid lumps.

Botswana flag



We are very proud to wave our flag up high. The blue color represents water which waters our agriculture and quenches the thirst of our livestock. Water is life giving. The white and black show that we are a diverse country with many different races yet we are united under the same flag.

Mathowa



These are percussion instruments (similar to a shaker). They are made by Batswana women by drying out moth cocoons and filling them with pebbles. They are worn on each ankle and used when performing traditional dances. The dancers are a combination of young children, teenagers and middle-aged men and women.

Kika



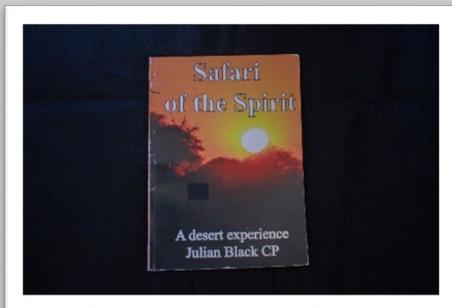
This contraption is used to pound maize and sorghum into a flour that can be cooked and eaten. Normally, a kika is 10 times the size of this example. Two women pound together in the same kika to speed up the flour-making process. A leselo is used in between pounding to remove big lumps.

School Uniforms



School uniforms are the norm in Botswana, where students at all grade levels and in all types of schools are required to wear them daily.

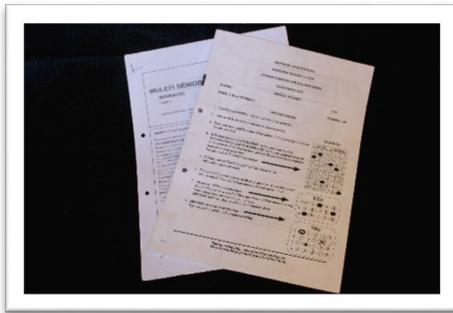
Safari of the Spirit



This is a poetry book written by the late Father Julian Black. He was an Irish Roman Catholic priest. Father Julian started his mission in Botswana in 1963 and died here in 2018 on the land which became his home. He wrote these poems when he was stationed in the Kalahari desert with the mission of educating the Basarwa (hunter-gatherers who live off the land in state-protected areas) on the Catholic faith. The book expresses Julian Black's experiences, his love for the cultures in Botswana and God. Botswana is a Christian country and a lot of our

literature, music, and even our laws are centered around Christianity.

O-level Exam



Children in Botswana begin school around the age of 6, and participate in primary education from standard 1 until standard 6. After primary school, students go to secondary school, which goes from form 1 to form 5. After their first three years of secondary school, students take the O-level exam (also known as the Junior Certificate). Students then go on to their final two years of secondary school, and take the A-level exams at the conclusion of their schooling. This O-level exam shows you what that test looks like.



The Daily News is a newspaper from Botswana. It includes articles in English as well as some in Tswana. What kind of articles do you notice in this newspaper? What kind of advertisements?



HIV/AIDS remains a public health concern in Botswana. These materials are examples of how institutions like the Ministry of Health and Wellness, UNICEF, and non-governmental organizations educate the public about the disease.