Descriptions of subjects of plaques

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| Europeans with manillas exchanged for Rainforest products and other goods.The Oba’s blacksmiths melted these to create the bronze plaques through which the kings recorded their history for posterity.  | The coconut tree.From the coconut tree comes food, medicine, cosmetics, jewellery, material for building, basket weaving, making fire and more. Not only does the tree represent the fertility of the land, as the owner of all the land, it symbolises the Oba as the benevolent provider for all his people’s needs.It also symbolised the power of Osun, god of the forests. | Head of a cow. Cows were sacrificed during festivals by the Oba to the gods.  |
| The leopard was a symbol of the Oba’s (king) beauty and deadliness.  | Mudfish. The mudfish can live on land and sea. It symbolised the Oba’s extraordinary powers to be able to operate between the natural and spiritual realms. It was also associated with Olokun the sea god. | A crocodile with its kill.The crocodile the policeman of the waters, symbolised the Oba’s deadliness.  |
| The snake. The snake also symbolised the Oba’s deadliness. | Leopard skin. Any hunter or anyone else who killed the sacred leopard was put to death. | A pride of lion with their prey. As head of the army, this symbolised the Oba’s leadership skills of his army. He trains the Benin soldiers on effective teamwork, camouflage and speed.Lions work as a team relying on camouflage in the forest and their strength of speed to capture and kill their prey. The well trained and disciplined Benin army also relied on the above to overcome and capture the enemy. |