This beaded crown is the most important symbol of royal power and authority for a Yoruba king. The crown's beaded veil serves to protect people from the king's gaze and hide his face. The king could not rule without the support of previous kings (represented by the faces on the crown) or the power of older women (represented by the 16 birds).

*Crown (Ade)*  
*Owned by the King (Dagburewe) of Idowa, 1875–1975.*  
*Nigeria, Idowa, Ijebu; Yoruba.*  
*Glass beads, fabric, string, copper alloy.*  
*Cora Abrahamson Endowment.*
Identifying People

- What is this? Who would wear a crown like this?
- This was the crown of a Yoruba king. He would have worn it on his head and the long beaded strands would have covered his face.
- What types of things can people wear on their heads? Who would wear these? We can identify many people’s roles by what they wear on their head. Have students come up with examples.
- Have students bring in pictures of people wearing something on their head, such as kings, queens, police officers, nurses, soldiers, baseball players, religious figures, brides, etc.
- Have students draw portraits of themselves wearing a special hat or crown. This drawing can incorporate the images they brought in.
- Have students create a story of them in this new role.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 16, 25, 26, 27

Special Women

- Using color necklaces, have students identify colors they see in the crown. What shapes do you see? What is this made of? What would it feel like? Pass around a beaded object. Have students describe the way it feels.
- Do you see a face? What animals do you see? Explain to your students that the birds help the king be a better ruler by calling on the spiritual forces of women.
- Who is an important woman in your life (mother, grandmother, aunt)? What makes her special? What colors and patterns remind you of her?
- Have students create a bird for this special woman. First, wad a piece of paper to form the body. Cover with fabric using glue. Next, students create colorful designs for their birds using beads, string, fabric, feathers, etc. Encourage students to use colors and materials that remind them of this important person.
- Finally, have students share their birds with their classmates describing the lines, shapes, colors, and textures of their creations and describe the woman they made it for.
- In the museum, students can create a two-dimensional colorful bird using fabric, beads, feathers, yarn, etc.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 25, 26
If you were a king or a queen, what kind of crown would you wear?