

The Pouncing Leopard

Every *oba* is praised as *Ekpe-n'Owa*, "leopard of the world," and as *Ekpelobo*, "pouncing leopard who never misses his prey."

Question

Can you find a pair of crocodiles in this drawing?
The Edo believe that crocodiles patrol important seaports and rivers for Olokun, god of the sea.

The *Oba's* Trunk-Hand

An elephant's head with the trunk ending in a fist is a symbol of the *oba's* ancestors. This fist represents the great strength of the Kingdom of Benin.

Ekpate

The *ekpate* are female spiritual guardians who accompany and protect the *oba* during public appearances.

Drawing of the *Royal Altar Tusk*.

