



# This House would return cultural treasures to their countries of origin

## Questions to consider



- Are historical objects the property of the world or specific countries?
- Why are cultural treasures important?
- Does it matter how the treasures were obtained?
- How does this affect relationships between countries today?

## Tricky questions

- What if the country the objects originally came from does not exist anymore, e.g. Mesopotamia?
- Some items (like the Koh-i-Noor diamond) are claimed by more than one country. Who would decide who gets what?
- Some objects (like crowns) are made of items (e.g. jewels) from several countries. Would you be able to split them up?

## What is a cultural treasure?

Items that are of cultural or historical importance to a country including art, statues, books, scrolls, pottery and jewellery.

## Research



- Which treasures have been returned and why?
- Which treasures are countries still asking for?

## Context



Can cultural treasures be understood best if they are seen in their original context?

## Safety



Could objects be damaged in wars, revolutions or natural disasters?

## Vocabulary

identity  
artifact  
preservation  
diplomacy  
culture  
imperialism  
tourism  
ownership  
disputed  
value  
education  
protection

## Access

- Roughly 4.5 million people from around the world see treasures in the British Museum every year.
- But it would be easier for people from the actual countries of origin to see the artifacts if they were returned.

Historic Royal Palaces house some of Britain's cultural treasures including the crown jewels.  
How would you feel if these were in another country instead?