

The History of Kanga, Kitenge and Shuka

The History of the Kanga:

Kangas have been in East Africa since the middle of 1900. In the 1870's Muslim Women in Zanzibar, Tanzania and Mombasa, Kenya bought printed bandanas, imported by Portuguese traders.

They sewed 6 of these colourful bandanas together to make unique pieces of cloth, which they could wear modestly. Still to this day kangas are used for many things such as to sleep in, wear around the house when cooking and cleaning and for carrying babies.

The History of the Shuka:

The word "traditional" must be taken with a grain of salt. Before the colonization of Africa, the Maasai wore leather garments. They only began to replace calf hides and sheep skin with commercial cotton cloth in the 1960s,

But how and why they chose shuka cloth is still unclear today. There are a few ideas. One of them is traced back through centuries — fabrics were used as a means of payment during the slave trade and landed in East Africa, while black, blue, and red natural dyes were obtained from Madagascar. There were actually records of red-and-blue checked "guinea cloth" becoming very popular in the West African region during the 18th century.

The History of the Kitenge: Kitenge is the kiswahili word for african wax print that is commonly used in East Africa. This fabric originally came from indonesia. These fabrics were imported by soldiers and are now sold world wide. African women often use the fabric to wrap around the chest, or waist or use it as a headscarf or a baby sling. This material is very popular to use to make clothing. People use beautiful wax fabric to convey meaning and social status or a symbol during local traditions such as marriage.

These are the links of the information that I found.

https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1CAHKDC_enTZ863&ei=QWecXqDmOszLgweji5KIBA&q=when+was+the+kanga+made&oq=when+was+the+kanga+made&gs_lcp=CgZwc3ktYWIQAzIICCEQFhAdEB46BAGAEec6BggAEBYQHjoFCCEQoAFQiakJWLeyCWD5tAloAHA CeACAaccCiAG2CZIBBTItMS4zmAEAoAEBqgEHZ3dzLXdpeg&sclient=psy-ab&ved=0ahUKEwjgitm04PTToAhXM5eAKHaO FBEEQ4dUDCAw&uact=5&safe=active&ssui=o

<https://www.gadventures.com/blog/story-behind-maasais-shuka-cloth/>

<https://www.tingatingaart.com/blogs/ourblog/the-story-of-kitenge>

THE END
HOPE YOU
ENJOYED AND
LEARNED
SOMTHING
NEW :)

The Kanga

The Shuka

The Kitenge

