

DESIGN AN ANIMAL STOOL

Two spotted leopards climb straight up the legs of this wooden stool, supported by their long curving tails. Imagine how the stool would look if the animals were monkeys instead? How would it look if they were snakes or ostriches or crocodiles? **Use the empty space to draw your idea for a stool with a different animal.**



A Few Facts

This wooden seat started out as a piece of a solid tree trunk. The woodcarver used his tools to carefully remove some of the wood in order to make it as lightweight as possible. In many African countries, men take their own seats with them whenever they go to the market, visit a friend, or attend a special event. So it is important that the seat be small and easy to carry.

This seat might have been carved by King Lewanika (1878-1916) of Barotseland (now part of the country of Zambia). The King was an excellent woodcarver who liked to give his work as gifts to other leaders and foreign diplomats. Many people in Africa associate leopards with the idea of power and strong leadership.

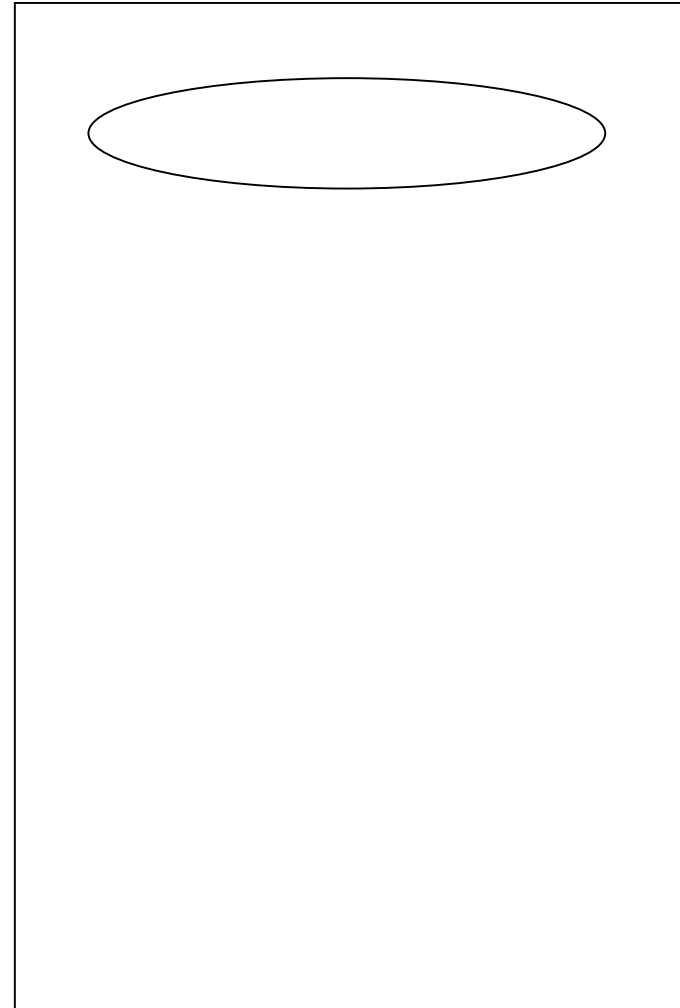


Illustration: *Seat*. c. 1900, Lozi peoples, Zambia. Wood. 19 x 12-1/2 inches. Art Acquisition Fund, BMA 2005.159

See this seat at the BMA in the free exhibition *Hand Held: Personal Arts from Africa* through February 5, 2012.

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