



CULTURAL DETAILS OF THE IGBO PEOPLE

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Period 3-4

CLOTHING AND DRESS OF THE IGBO PEOPLE

Everyday clothing of the Igbo people was not so different from the "Westerners" (Europeans).

Traditional clothing was still worn, but mostly only in ceremonies and other special occasions.

This type of clothing counted both as formal and informal for men and women.

On normal days, men would wear a cotton wrapper, sandals, and a shirt.

Formal clothing for men included:

A long shirt, decorated with tucks and embroidery.

A better-quality wrapper.

Shoes

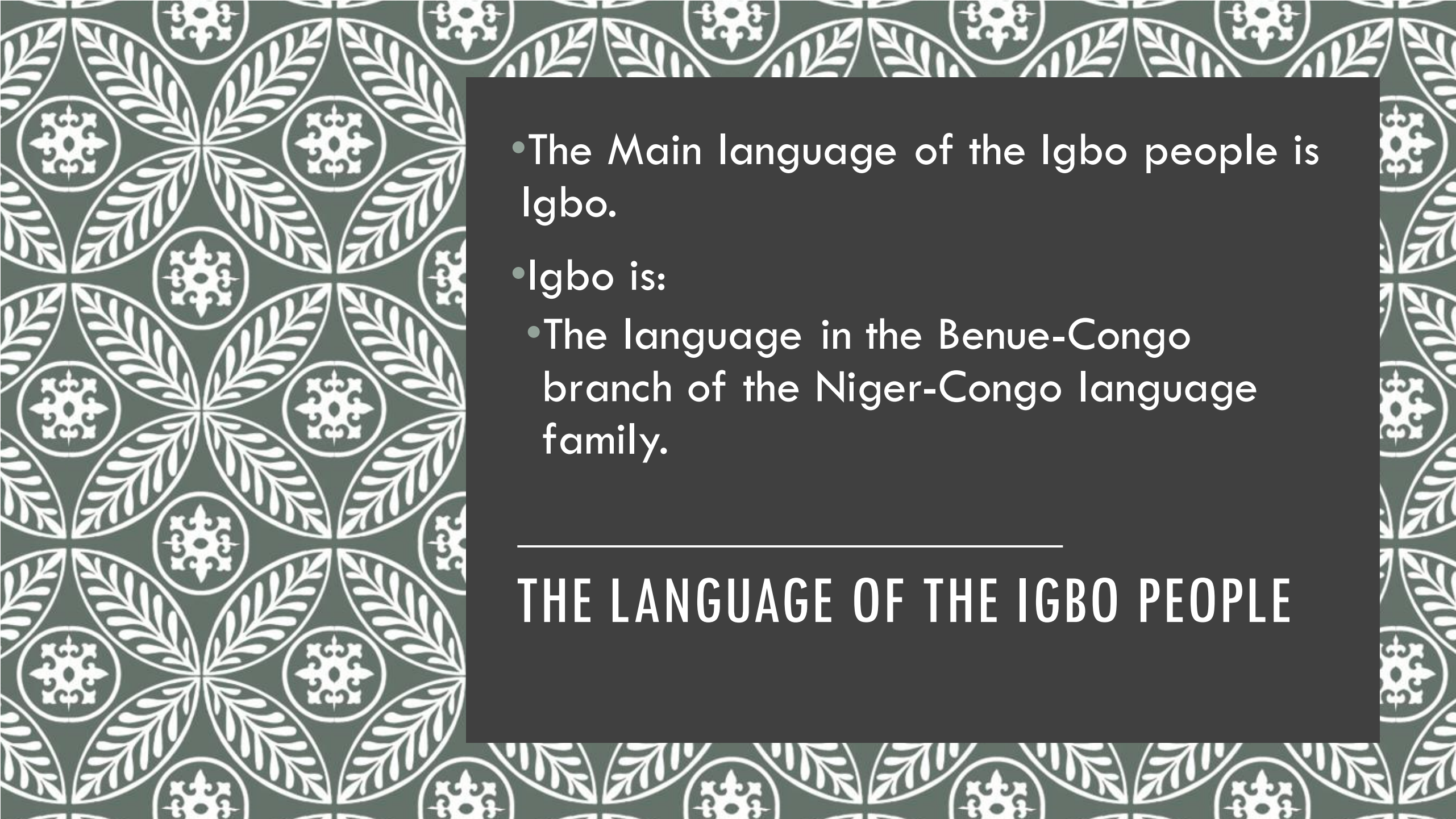
A hat



CLOTHING AND DRESS OF THE IGBO PEOPLE CONTINUED...

- Women wore wrappers for formal and informal days.
 - The main difference is the quality of the clothes.
 - Informal wrappers were made and dyed locally, while formal ones were often imported from Holland.
- Blouses for formal events were made with embroidery and out of lace.
- Women also wear a head tie, tied in many ways.
- Men and women had many different facial markings
 - This practice is becoming less common.
 - Women had markings preliminary to marriage called mbubu.
 - Mbubu consists of small slits cut into the face with a razor that were filled with tightly compressed cotton or palm leaf and smeared with charcoal.
 - Tribal men had markings called ichi, and were more elaborate.
 - They usually only marked their face like this, but during ceremonies they also marked their whole bodies.
 - The work is done by women, with the skin being slit and filled with soot that was boiled in the cooking pots to give a dark effect to the skin.



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- The Main language of the Igbo people is Igbo.
 - Igbo is:
 - The language in the Benue-Congo branch of the Niger-Congo language family.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE IGBO PEOPLE

VILLAGE LIFE OF THE IGBO PEOPLE

- Lived in small, dispersed villages in the rainforest region of Africa.
- Although most villages were in dispersed compounds there were some parts of the villages that were more condensed and compact.
 - A compound consisted of a cluster of huts, with a separate household in each hut.
 - Villages were occupied by a patrilineage, also called Umunna.
- Before the arrival of the colonial administration, a single village was the largest political unit, with an average of 5,000 people in a federation of villages.
- There was a common marketplace and meeting place for people of a village, as well as a guardian deity, and some ancestral cults that supported the tradition of decent.



LEADERSHIP IN VILLAGES OF THE IGBO PEOPLE

Authority in a village was primarily in a council of lineage heads, and wealthy, influential men.

These types of groups took form into larger political units in the eastern Igboland.

This included centralized kingdoms and states

People chose a well-respected elder to act as a liaison officer between the youth and the elders in the village.

They also protect the village from hostile neighbors or enemies.

Elders can also retire in a special ceremony.

Nowadays, there is a traditional ruler called an Igwe or Eze.

It is a role for life.

He can give titles to people

There is a special title that gives a person the opportunity to shake the Igwe's hand.

The Igwe also appoints himself a prime minister and secretary.



ROLES OF IGBO WOMEN

- In the modern days, women are not only consumers of wealth, they are also makers of wealth.
 - They now can partake in senior roles just like men.
 - They can also get a formal education.
- They counted as members of the Community.
- Both genders played their roles in complementary manners.
 - Women had to be gentle, soft, and subservient.
 - Men had to be bold, brave, and strong, and femininity was scorned.
- Giving birth to a girl was far less joyous than giving birth to a boy.
- Gender roles were deeply implemented so there were rarely any arguments on that topic.
- Women were groomed to cook in the kitchen and were taught that life consisted of getting married, having children, and caring for her husband. The kitchen was considered their main domain and headquarters throughout the day.



POLITICAL SYSTEM OF THE IGBO PEOPLE

Politically fragmented group.

Numerous divisions because of geographic differences.

Unlike neighboring lands, there are no centralized chieftaincy, hereditary aristocracy, or kingship customs.

Responsibility and leadership was traditionally left for the village councils, consisting of wealthy men, elders, and titled men.

It is possible for any man to become a part of the council.

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