Pre-Colonial Africa Pop-Up Museum

Directions: With your partner(s), examine the images. Read any information provided. Respond to the questions in your graphic organizer.

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| *Example: Head of an Oba, from the empire of Benin (about 1550, present day Nigeria)* |
| Describe the function (purpose) and meaning of this head.To honor previous Obas, or kingsShow strengthPut on altars of ancestors (so only of dead Obas) | What elements of this artifact show the wealth and power of the Oba?Crown/headdress on headArtifact is very detailed, so shows importance and time spent on creating it.Features are very sharp, strong, and prominentJewelery/necklaces adorning neckMade of iron, which implied strength |
| *Image A: Ivory Salt Cellar, Benin* |
| Describe the purpose/use of the salt cellar. Focus first on the word “salt” and then on the word “cellar.” Have you heard these words before? | What clues in this artifact show that the people are Europeans, not Africans? |
| *Image B: Oba on Horseback, Benin* |
| How has the creator shown the importance and power of the Oba? | Predict why the heads of the Oba and others are large compared to their other body parts. |

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| *Image C: Pendant Mask, Benin* |
| Describe the facial expression. What does the expression tell us about Queen Idia? | What do the Portuguese figures and the mudfish figures on her crown symbolize? |
| *Image D: Seated Figure, Mali* |
| Based on facial expressions and pose, describe what the figures could be doing. | What has happened to the back of the figure? Was this an accident or on purpose? |
| *Image E: Gold-Weights, Asante (Ghana)* |
| Which of the gold-weights shown also has another practical, convenient use? | Draw a picture showing how these gold-weights were supposed to work in the trading process. |