



### Kojo Bambil Strength in Numbers Art Inquiry Questions

Use with *Artists' Lessons to Thrive!* 14.1.



**Figure 14.1.1** Kojo Bambil, *Painted Wooden Clan Staff with a Lion as a Totem*—Asakyire Abusua Poma, 1999–2000. 60 1/16 × 3 9/16 × 7 11/16 in. (152.5 × 9 × 19.5 cm). Tropenmuseum, part of the National Museum of World Cultures. CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wiki-media Commons. Source: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en>



**Figure 14.1.2** Kojo Bambil, *Painted Wooden Clan Staff with a Fish as a Totem*—Asenie Abusua Poma, 1999–2000. 61 13/16 × 3 9/16 × 9 1/16 in. (157 × 9 × 23 cm). Tropenmuseum, part of the National Museum of World Cultures. CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons. Source: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en>



**Figure 14.1.3** Kojo Bambil, *Painted Wooden Clan Staff with a Leopard as a Totem*—Bretuo Abusua Poma, 1999–2000. 60 1/4 × 3 9/16 × 8 11/16 in. (153 × 9 × 22 cm). Tropenmuseum, part of the National Museum of World Cultures. CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons. Source: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en>

1. How do the totem staffs reflect the cultural values and collective attributes of each Ashanti clan?
2. Why is it important for the Ashanti to learn totem carving traditions from their elders?
3. What are the benefits of learning from community elders?
4. What values and skills have you learned from an elder in your life?
5. What role do the visual arts play in expressing diverse cultures' collective identities? (Reflect on the Ashanti totem staffs and other cultures' symbolic designs as you prepare to answer this question.)
6. What symbols hold special significance in your own culture?
7. Of the symbols you identified, which ones best express your community's identity, core values, and/or perseverance?
8. What qualities, if any, make the symbolic examples you described works of art?