

Nom : Mask Bamileke

Description : **English:** Mask, Bamileke peoples, Grassfields region, Cameroon, Late 19th century, Wood

This rare mask was used as an instrument of social control and represented the power of the king and his court. Its features are large and exaggerated, but still suggest human facial features. It performed at royal and important court funerals, at the end of harvest celebrations and at the new year. The dancer, a high-ranking person, wore the mask on top of his head with a costume to conceal his identity and create a figure that was larger and more than human.

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Source : Musée national d'art africain