

**IROKO**

*Theatre Company*

## **IYE AJA (Umbilical Cord) Project**

### **COWRIE SHELLS**



Source: <http://www.bing.com/images>

Cowrie shells were used as a form of currency in Africa and were used for payments of Bride Prizes. These days, cowrie shells are used as jewellery and also for decorating objects like masks, statuettes, musical instruments, furniture, etc. However, they are still being used for ritual ceremonies and divination. In some African communities, cowrie shells represent wealth, fertility and womanhood.

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