

Benin 900-1300AD – Knowledge Organiser Year 5 Spring 1

Timeline



Vocabulary		Important Information	
Empire	A number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country.	The ancient kingdom of Benin began as a small group of villages who joined together to improve trading and security.	
Dynasty	A line of people from the same family who play an important role.	The Kingdom of Benin rose to become a powerful empire in the 16 th and 17 th centuries.	
Edo	The name of the group of people who lived within the ancient kingdom of Benin.	Large moats and walls were built around the outside of the kingdom in order to protect it.	
Igodomigodo	The name for the original land of the Kingdom of Benin. Late became known as Edo and then Benin City.	The first dynasty of kings were called Ogisos. This dynasty ended in 1180AD.	
Ogiso	The Edo word meaning "king of the sky".	The second dynasty of kings were called Obas.	
Oba	The Yoruba word for "king".	Kings in ancient Benin were treated like Gods.	
Ife	A city near the kingdom of Benin, ruled by the Yoruba people.	Ogiso Igodo	The first king of Benin.
Yoruba	The name of the group of people who lived in the city of Ife.	Ogiso Owodo	The last of the Ogiso kings.
Kingdom	A place ruled by a king or queen.	Ekaladerhan	. The son of Ogiso Owodo who was banished to Ife and became its king.
Oracle	A person who was believed to pass on advice from Gods to ordinary people.	Prince Oranmiyan	. A son of Ekaladerhan who was sent to rule over the people of Benin.
Trade	The exchanging of goods.	Oba Eweka	The first of the dynasty of kings known as the Obas. Son of Prince Oranmiyan
Barter	To exchange goods or services for other goods or services without using money.	Oba Ewuare	King from 1440 until 1473. Expanded and protected the kingdom greatly, and set up trading links.
Guild	A group of craftsmen or merchants who often had considerable power.	Oba Ewedo	King from 1260 until 1274 who built a fine new palace in Benin City during his reign.
		In the 15 th century, European sailors began to sail to Africa.	
		The Obas held a lot of power, including being in charge of law and justice, controlling trade and taxation, and commanding the army.	
		The Edo people believed that their first kings were descended from Osanobua, a god who came down from the sky to create the world.	
		The region developed an advanced artistic culture during its Golden Age, especially with its famous artefacts of bronze, iron and ivory.	
		In 1897AD, British troops destroyed Benin City and took Benin under its control.	
		Benin City is the location of the ancient kingdom of Benin. This is situated in Nigeria. The ancient kingdom of Benin is not located in the modern country of Benin which is a different country in Africa.	
		There are very few written sources of evidence about Ancient Benin. Storytellers were very important and kept the kingdom's history alive by telling stories aloud every evening.	

