

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

Timeline



Vocabulary

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| empire | A number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country. |
| dynasty | A line of people from the same family who play an important role. |
| Edo | The name of the group of people who lived within the ancient kingdom of Benin. |
| Igodomigodo | The name for the original land of the Kingdom of Benin. Late became known as Edo and then Benin City. |
| Ogiso | The Edo word meaning “king of the sky”. |
| Oba | The Yoruba word for “king”. |
| Ife | A city near the kingdom of Benin, ruled by the Yoruba people. |
| Yoruba | The name of the group of people who lived in the city of Ife. |
| kingdom | A place ruled by a king or queen. |
| oracle | A person who was believed to pass on advice from Gods to ordinary people. |
| trade | The exchanging of goods. |
| barter | To exchange goods or services for other goods or services without using money. |
| guild | A group of craftsmen or merchants who often had considerable power. |



900-1300 AD

The Early
Period

1300 - 1700 AD

The Golden Age

1700-1900 AD

The Period
Of Decline

Important Information

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| The ancient kingdom of Benin began as a small group of villages who joined together to improve trading and security. |
| The Kingdom of Benin rose to become a powerful empire in the 16 th and 17 th centuries. |
| Large moats and walls were built around the outside of the kingdom in order to protect it. |
| The first dynasty of kings were called Ogisos. This dynasty ended in 1180AD. |
| The second dynasty of kings were called Obas. |
| Kings in ancient Benin were treated like Gods. |
| 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. |

