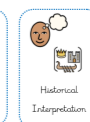


Year 3—Kingdom and Empire of Benin c 900-1600s



History Vocabulary

kingdom		a country ruled by a king or queen.
empire		a group of countries or states ruled by an emperor or empress.
dynasty		a sequence of rulers from the same family or line.
Oba		the title given to the king of Benin.
bronze		a type of metal alloy composed of copper and tin.
cast		to shape metal by melting and pouring it into a mould.
artisan		a skilled craftsman who makes things by hand.
tribute		payment made by a weaker power to a stronger power, as a sign of subordination or allegiance.
ivory		hard, white material from the tusks of elephants.
trade		the exchange of goods between people or countries.
loot		Private property taken from an enemy during war
ritual		A ceremony consisting of actions performed in a certain way

Historical Significance

Monarchy

Causation and Consequence

Sources, evidence and historical interpretations

Empire
People, Invasion, trade and War



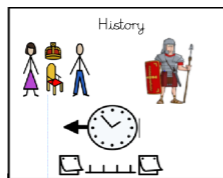
Thinking Historically

- Concept of a Kingdom or Empire
- Dynasty
- Monarchy
- Devise historical questions
- Study sources of evidence and their interpretation
- Archaeology and artefacts
- Civilization
- Established sense of chronology and what was happening in other parts of the world
- Trade
- In-depth study of a non-European country
- Downfall of an empire
- Settlement



History Learning Journey

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Photos and memories, life story and family history, significant personal events, how people in the past shape today	know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the differences	Castles Migration Monarchy	Jamaica/Islands Comparison Harriet Tubman	Prehistoric Britain Shang Dynasty	Roman Empire in Britain Windrush	The Anglo Saxon and Viking struggle The Maya	The British Empire—tea, Sugar and Spice



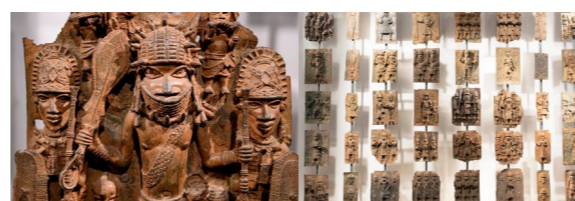
Year 3—Kingdom and Empire of Benin c 900-1600s

Five Warrior Kings and Obas

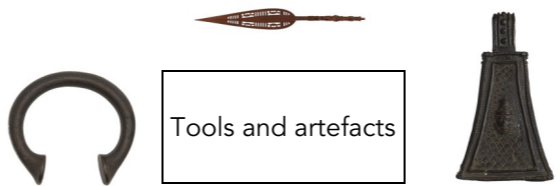
Oba	What did they do?
Oba Ewuare	First of the great warrior kings
Oba Ozolua	Believed to have won 200 battles.
Oba Esigie	Created an empire and won land from the Kingdom of Ife.
Oba Orhogbua	During his reign, the empire reached its largest size.
Oba Ehengbuda	Last of the Obas



The walled city of Benin City



Benin Bronzes and masks



Tools and artefacts

Key Facts

The Kingdom of Benin was in the country that is now Nigeria. It is not the same as the modern country of Benin.

They no longer wanted to be ruled by their kings, known as the *ogisos*. They asked a prince from Ife, an important West African kingdom, to take control.

The first *oba*, or king, in Benin was Eweka. He was the son of the prince from Ife.

The kingdom reached its greatest power and size under Oba Ewuare the Great.

He expanded the kingdom and improved the capital, present-day Benin City; the city was defined by massive walls.

To honour the powerful *obas*, the people of Benin participated in many rituals that expressed their devotion and loyalty, including human sacrifices.

Artists of the Benin Kingdom were well known for working in many materials, particularly brass, wood, and ivory. They were famous for their bas-relief sculptures, particularly plaques, and life-size head sculptures.

The success of Benin was fuelled by its lively trade. Tradesmen and artisans from Benin developed relationships with the Portuguese, who sought after the kingdom's artwork, gold, ivory, and pepper.

In the early modern era, Benin was also heavily involved in the West African trade of enslaved peoples.

Benin began to lose power during the 1800s, as royal family members fought for power and control of the throne.

A desire for control over West African trade and territory ultimately led to a British invasion of Benin in 1897. Benin City was burned by the British, who then made the kingdom part of British Nigeria

The kingdom of Benin was renowned for its bronze sculptures, some of which are now considered masterpieces of African art.

The Oba of Benin was considered a semi-divine figure, with significant political and religious power.

The walls that surrounded the city of Benin are estimated to have been more extensive than the Great Wall of China.



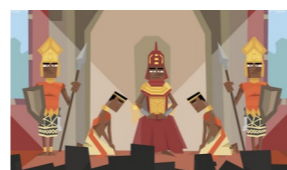
People from outside of Africa, namely Europe, first travelled to Benin in the late 16th century. Trade links were quickly established.



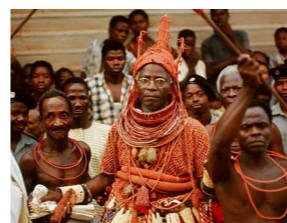
The early Kingdom settlements were in the forested regions on West Africa, modern Nigeria.



The British looted many artefacts.



Obas and Queen Mother



Timeline

C900-1897 The Kingdom of Benin rules in southern West Africa.

900 CE	1180	1283	1440 - 1473	1451	Early 1600s	1700	1897
The kingdom of Benin was founded.	The dynasty of the 'Oba' began. In parts of West Africa, 'Oba' is still used as a royal title today	Oba Oguole had the Benin City Wall built.	Reign of Ewuare the Great, the greatest ruler of the Kingdom of Benin	Oba Ewuare expanded the kingdom and set up trading links with Portuguese visitors.	Mask of Idia, the first Queen Mother of the Empire, is made	The Benin Kingdom entered a period of decline due to a series of civil wars and the ending of the slave trade in Europe	A British force conquers the Kingdom of Benin in West Africa.