

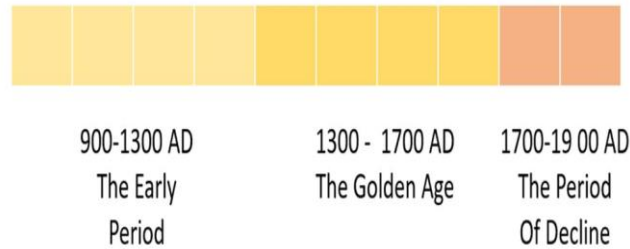
Benin 900-1300AD – Knowledge Organiser Year 5 Spring 1

Timeline



Vocabulary

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.



Important Information

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.

Important People

Ogiso Igodo	The first king of Benin.
Ogiso Owodo	The last of the Ogiso kings.
Ekaladerhan	. The son of Ogiso Owodo who was banished to Ife and became its king.
Prince Oranmiyan	. A son of Ekaladerhan who was sent to rule over the people of Benin.
Oba Eweka	The first of the dynasty of kings known as the Obas. Son of Prince Oranmiyan



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barter	To exchange goods or services for other goods or services without using money.	Oba Ewedo	King from 1260 until 1274 who built a fine new palace in Benin City during his reign.	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.
guild	A group of craftsmen or merchants who often had considerable power.	Oba Ewuare	King from 1440 until 1473. Expanded and protected the kingdom greatly and set up trading links.	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.

