

The kingdom of Benin (also known as the Edo Kingdom) was a civilisation that was located in West Africa in the area now known as Nigeria.



Benin Bronzes

The Edo people wanted to make things of value, and so they established specialist guilds where people could learn a craft to a very high level of skill. Craftworkers used lots of different materials including iron, bronze, wood and ivory to make pots, tools, weapons and artworks.



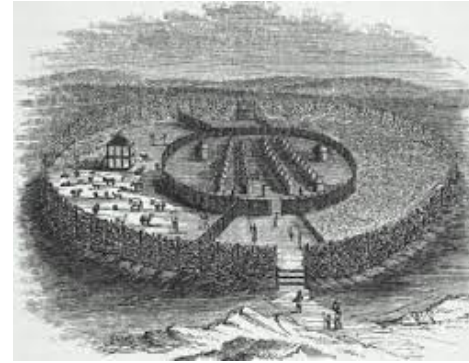
Year Six History Kingdom of Benin



The Kingdom of Benin was ruled by kings known as Obas. The first Oba was Oba Eweka.

The Edo people did not write down their history but passed it on through oral tradition.

The Kingdom of Benin was extremely prosperous due to the trading of ivory and palm oil.



Oba	A chief or ruler in Benin / Nigeria
Ogisos	Kings or rulers. From Yoruba meaning 'kings of the sky'
traders	People who buy and sell goods or currency
conquer	To defeat an enemy, or to take control of the land in another country
kingdom	A country or territory ruled by a king or queen
currency	A system of money that is in general use
Oral tradition	Cultural knowledge passed down from one generation to the next through speech
guilds	A group of people who do the same job
civilisation	a complex human society, usually made up of different cities, with certain characteristics of cultural and technological development

Chronology

900	1100	1180	1500	1897
The Kingdom of Benin origins	Ogisos (rulers) loses control of their people	The first Oba, Eweka, ruled the kingdom	Portuguese traders come to Benin and Benin reaches its peak.	British soldiers conquered the Kingdom of Benin