

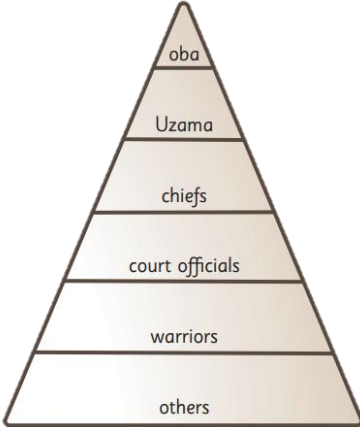
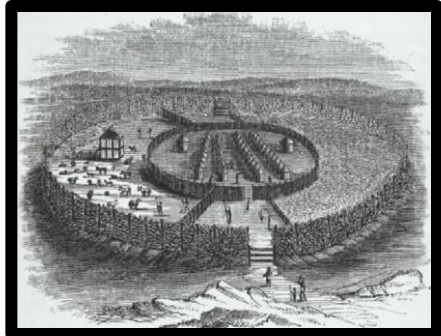
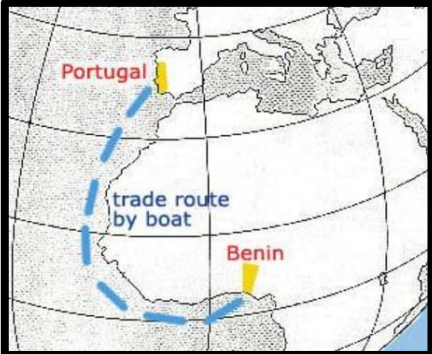


Kingdom of Benin

Enquiry Question: Kingdom of Benin: Why do we study it?

The kingdom of Benin began in the 900s when the Edo people settled in the rainforests of West Africa. At first, they lived in small family groups, but gradually these groups developed into a kingdom. The kingdom was called Igodomigodo. It was ruled by a series of kings, known as Ogisos, which means 'rulers of the sky'. Recognised for its advanced civilisation, elaborate artistry and formidable military expertise, the kingdom's remarkable story left an enduring impression on African history — and on the world at large!

- Key concepts:**
- Settlements and civilisations
 - Progress and change
 - Religion and beliefs
 - Historical figures and lifestyles



Key Vocabulary

Ogisos (Oba)	Leaders of the Benin Kingdom: 'rulers of the sky'
Igodomigodo	Name of the kingdom
Manilla	A form of currency (a bracelet) in Benin, West Africa, and were used in the slave trade. The Edo people of Benin melted down the manillas to create the famous Benin Bronzes.
Guilds	Groups of skilled craftspeople who worked together to produce art and other items for the Oba and his court.
Transatlantic Slave Trade	The forced transportation of millions of Africans to the Americas to work as enslaved labour. It was a legal business that operated from the 16th to the late 19th centuries.
The Benin Bronzes	A group of thousands of objects that were looted from of Benin (figurines, tusks, sculptures of Benin's rulers, and ivory masks) which were looted by British troops. The bulk now resides in museums Contrary to the name, not all of the works are made of bronze.

Trade Timeline

Edo people settle in rainforests in West Africa.	Kingdom expands with domestic trading, dominating across coastline.	Portugal make contact for trading.	Portuguese set up trading post.	Dutch, English and French become key trading partners.	Benin colonized by Britain.
900 AD	1100s-1400s	1472	1490	17 th Century (1600s)	1897



How would the world be different if The Kingdom was not so prosperous and did not trade with Europe?