

YEAR 6 ANCIENT KINGDOM OF BENIN KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

KEY VOCABULARY AND SPELLINGS

Trade – exchanging of goods

Oba – the Yoruba word meaning ‘King’

Plain – a large area of flat land with few trees

Benin Bronzes – sculptures, plaques and carvings most of which are made of brass

Ifé – the holy city nearby the Kingdom of Benin, ruled by the Yoruba people

Edo – The name of the group of people who lived within the ancient Kingdom of Benin

Eweka – the first Oba of the Kingdom of Benin. He came to power in AD 1180

Transatlantic – crossing or connecting countries on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean

Loot – to steal goods or money, typically by force

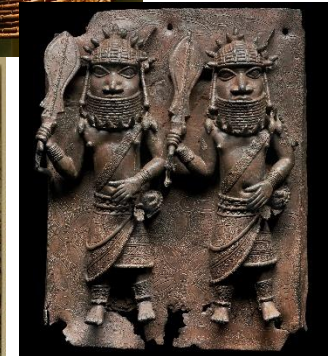
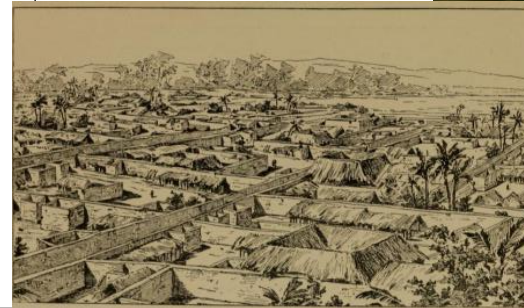
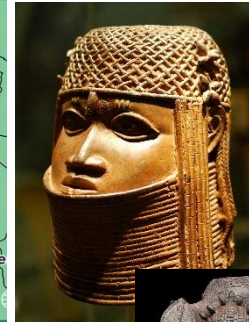
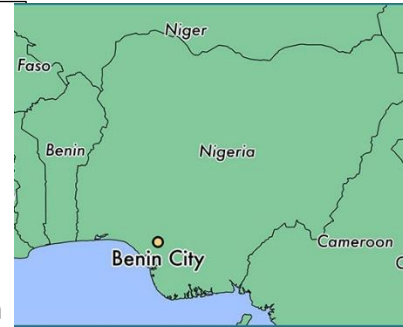
Manilla - a horseshoe metal ring/bracelet made of copper, brass or bronze

Cowrie Shells – small, smooth shells that served as currency

COMMUNITY and CULTURE

Benin city is the location of the ancient Kingdom of Benin. It is located in Nigeria, which is in the west of Africa. The Ancient Kingdom of Benin is NOT located in the modern country of Benin, this is a different country in Africa.

Benin City was the capital of the Kingdom of Benin and was planned well. It had huge, strong walls and big ditches filled with water for protection.



EMPIRE, POWER and GOVERNMENT

Oba Eweke – the first of a new dynasty of kings called the Obas

Oba Ewuare – expanded the Kingdom greatly by winning battles and making alliances with other kingdoms

Oba Ewuare II – is the current Oba of Benin and was crowned in 2016. He is the 39th Oba



IDEAS and COMMUNICATION

The Benin Bronzes are plaques and statues that show pictures of religious events, ceremonies, kings and warriors. These are important part of the Kingdom of Benin's heritage. Not all of them are made of bronze, some are made with a mix of copper and zinc (brass). In 1897 the British army invaded the Kingdom of Benin and took the Benin Bronzes. Nigeria is asking for these artefacts to be returned rather than on display in British museums.