

Year: 4

Term: Summer 1

Key Questions:

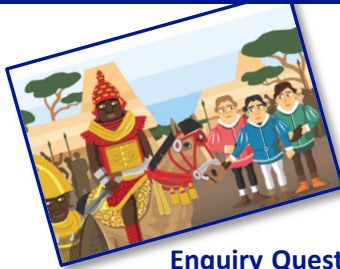
How did Benin become so wealthy and powerful?

What is the story of Eweke?

What were the reasons for Benin's decline after 1700 AD?

What part did Britain play in Benin's decline?

If there were no written records, how do we know about Benin's history?



# The Kingdom of Benin

**Enquiry Question:** What were the reasons for Benin's Decline after 1700 AD?

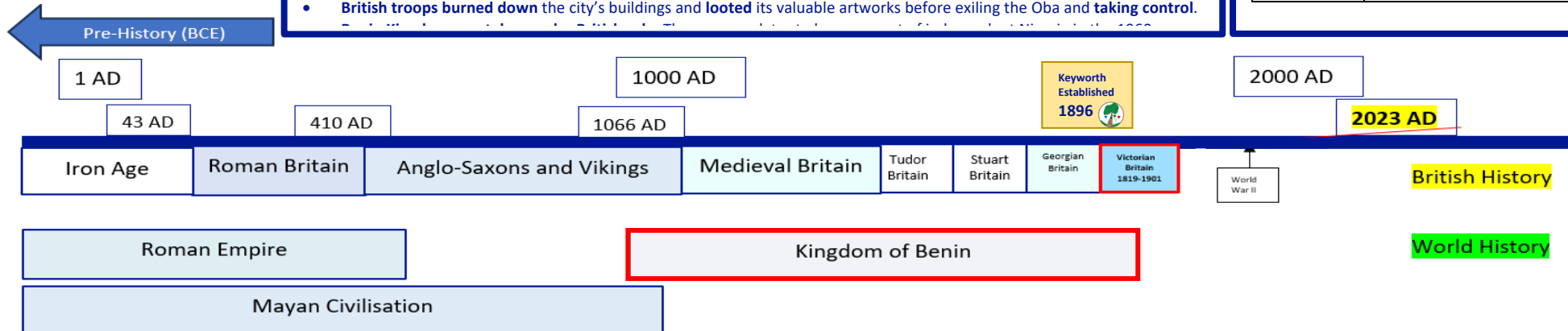
**Key Facts:**

- The Kingdom of Benin is an area of land that is now a part of modern day Nigeria.
- Around AD 900, the kingdom began as a group of small villages that joined together to improve trade and security. It rose to become a wealthy and powerful empire by the 16th Century.
- Benin Kingdom was eventually destroyed when British forces invaded in 1897.
- Around AD 900 - they were ruled by a **dynasty of kings called Ogisos**. They became a unified kingdom called **Igodomigodo**.
- People worked as **farmers** and **craftsmen** to ensure that the kingdom had **high quality goods to trade with foreigners**.
- With **few written sources**, we know about Benin Kingdom through **artefacts** and **monuments** that **archaeologists** discovered or the rich heritage of **oral tradition** that still exists among the people of Nigeria today
- Around **AD 1180** the **Ogiso** and his family were exiled (**sent away**) for **misrule**. This left Benin Kingdom in a state of unrest.
- Eventually, a young man called **Eweke** became king and began a **new dynasty of rulers called the Obas**.
- The Obas were **powerful** and **treated like gods**. Under their rule, Benin Kingdom began to flourish and expand its boundaries.
- Between **AD 1300-1700** Benin became a **powerful** and **wealthy** kingdom and it controlled large amounts of land in West Africa.
- Visitors from **Portugal** and other **European** countries began to arrive and set up important trading links too.
- Benin began **trading slaves** too, providing them with a **great source of wealth**.
- **After AD 1700**, Benin Kingdom began to **lose both wealth and power**. The people began to fight again about who should become the next Oba and a series of **civil wars** led to a decrease in the population.
- The civil wars took focus away from providing important services e.g. making high quality trading goods and fighting in the army.
- Additionally, **European** countries began to **ban the Slave Trade** and Benin **lost one its biggest sources of wealth**.
- Around this time, European countries began racing to **colonise** Africa. It seemed **Great Britain** hoped to make Benin part of its **colonial empire**.
- Following arguments over signing a treaty and an incident in which Benin warriors killed a group of British officials, British troops invaded Benin City.
- **British troops burned down** the city's buildings and **looted** its valuable artworks before exiling the Oba and **taking control**.

Key Vocabulary and Glossary:

**Glossary:**

<b>Oracle</b>	The people of Benin got advice from an Oracle – a person believed to provide advice inspired by the gods.
<b>Story Teller</b>	Oral histories are passed down by generations of story tellers.
<b>Colonisation</b>	When one country takes control of another country or region and sending people from your own land to live there.
<b>Trade</b>	The exchange of goods or services.
<b>Sacrifice</b>	To give up something of great value, e.g. an object, land or human life.
<b>Merchant Ceremony</b>	A person who sells goods. A special activity performed at a special time.
<b>Ogiso</b>	The title used by the early rulers of <i>Igodoigodo</i>
<b>Oba</b>	The title used by Eweka and later rulers.
<b>Edo</b>	The name given to the kingdom of <i>Igodoigodo</i> by Oba Eweka.
<b>Yoruba</b>	The name of the people from the holy city of Ife.
<b>Ohen</b>	A priest who performed religious ceremonies.



# Summer 1 – Year 4 – Kingdom of Benin - Homework

## CLASSES 4AB and 4EB

Homework to be completed and returned by:  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the Summer term, we will be learning all about the Kingdom of Benin. Children will be learning all about rich history, its rise to great power and wealth and its eventual decline.. Homework can be completed independently or with an adult.

## Kingdom of Benin – Homework Tasks

You have a scrap book to use to complete your homework project. Over the next six weeks you may wish to complete some of these activities or make some up of your own.

### COMPLETE AT LEAST TWO OF THE WRITING TASKS:

- Write a non-chronological report about the Kingdom of Benin.
- Write a fact-file about Nigeria (where the Kingdom of Benin originated.)
- Research a traditional tale from the Benin Kingdom and rewrite it in your own words. Can you illustrate it?
- Research and write about the beliefs and rituals in the Benin Kingdom.

### NOW CHOOSE SOME OR ALL OF THESE

- Make a timeline of events in the Benin Kingdom
- Find significant people from modern day Benin and Nigeria. Can you create a poster about them?
- Can you recreate a traditional Benin mask?
- Find some artefacts from the Benin Kingdom.



## Benin learning links:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpvcqt>

<https://www.ks2history.com/benin-guide>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpvcqt/articles/z3n7mp3#zw4rcmm>

<https://africa.mrdonn.org/benin.html>

Book Review -

<https://www.history.org.uk/primary/module/8774/young-quills-reviews-2021/10573/children-of-the-benin-kingdom>



BENIN

## Places to Visit:

The British Museum: Great Russell St, London WC1B 3DG

## Reading

Remember to read each day and get an adult to sign your reading record. Don't forget to collect your rewards for reading!



## Spelling

Don't forget spelling rules for your Spelling words will go home with you Friday for your quiz the following week!



## Maths

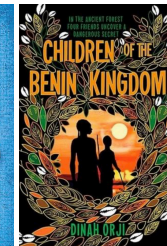
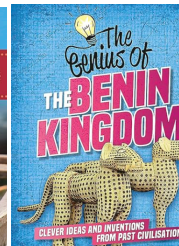
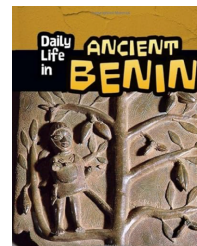
Please complete the given question in your SATS revision guides each week.

And please don't forget to log onto [Times Table Rock Stars](#)



## Recommended Reads:

Learn about Benin



Historical Fiction and Folk Tales:

