

# Year 4/5 History Knowledge Organiser: Benin Kingdom



## Subject Specific Skills

- Understand that a timeline can be divided into BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini)
- Order significant events, movements and dates on a timeline.
- Give reasons why there may be different accounts of history.
- Evaluate evidence to choose the most reliable forms
- Use documents, printed sources (e.g. archive materials) the Internet, databases, pictures, photographs, music, artefacts, historic buildings, to collect evidence about the past.
- Choose reliable sources of evidence to answer questions, realising that there is often not a single answer to historical questions.

## Prior Learning

- Children will be aware of other early civilisations such as the Egyptians.
- Children have experience of ordering events on a timeline.
- Children have used different sources of evidence to collect evidence about the past.

## Key Individuals:

<b>Ogiso Igodo</b>	The first king or Ogiso of Benin
<b>Ogiso Owodo</b>	The last of the Igiso kings. He was exiled
<b>Oba Eweke</b>	The first of a new dynasty of kings called the Obas
<b>Oba Oguole</b>	Built the Benin City Wall
<b>Oba Ewuare</b>	Expanded the Kingdom greatly and set up the trading links with Portugal
<b>Oba Ovanramwen</b>	the last king of Benin, exiled by British troops after their invasion

## Key Vocabulary

**Benin City:** The modern city located in Nigeria. It used to be called Edo and Igodomigodo before that.

**Civil war:** A war between people who live in the same country.

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

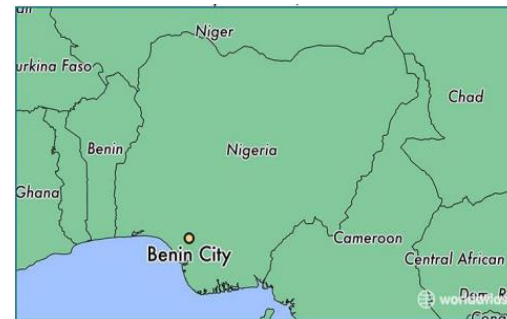
**Empire:** Lots of countries or states, all ruled by one monarch or single state.

**Oba:** A king, or chief in the Benin Kingdom.

**Slavery:** The practice of taking away someone's rights and treating them as property.

## Timeline:

Date	Key Event
900 CE	The kingdom known as Igodomigodo is created and ruled by Ogiso which means kings of the sky.
900-1460 CE	A huge moat is constructed around the kingdom.
1180 CE	The Oba royal family take over from the Ogiso.
1440 CE	Benin expands its territory under the rule of Oba Ewuare the Great.
1470 CE	Oba Ewuare renames the kingdom as Edo.
1514 CE	Oga Esigie sets up trading links with the Europeans
1700 CE	A series of civil wars within Benin lead to the kingdom declining power.
1807 CE	Britain passes a law abolishing the slave trade, which further weakens the kingdom.
1897 CE	Benin City (in modern day Nigeria) comes under British control.



**LOCATION** 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.

## THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF BENIN

AD 900-1900 The Kingdom of Benin rose to become a powerful empire in the 16th Century but was destroyed when it was invaded by British forces. It began as a small group of villages that joined together to improve trading and security. The people worked hard as farmers and craftsmen so that the Kingdom had high quality goods to trade with foreigners. The Obas were very powerful and were treated like gods, during their rule the Benin Kingdom expanded its boundaries. Over time there were arguments about who would be the next Oba and this led to civil wars. British troops invaded and gained control. In the 1960s it became part of independent Nigeria.