



Important Information

Key Events

- AD 400** The **Yoruba** people start using iron tools that allow them to clear the forest land for the first time. Villages developed and chiefs emerged.
- AD 900** The Kingdom of **Benin** begins to develop and boundaries are created around the area of **Igodomigodo** (now part of Nigeria).
- AD 1091** The **Edo** people were ruled by the **Ogiso**, which means 'kings of the sky'.
- AD 1100** The last Ogiso of Igodomigodo, **Owodo**, dies and there is nobody to rule.
- AD 1180** **Eweka** becomes the new ruler and calls himself the **Oba**.
- AD 1300-1600** The 'golden age' of **Edo**. It has a large, powerful army, growing wealth and land with skilled craftspeople.
- AD 1489** *When the **Portuguese** made contact with the Kingdom of Benin the name 'Benin' began to be used. Trade with Europe grew.*
- AD 1600s** Obas started to lose control of Benin
- AD 1800s** The kingdom was in decline
- AD1897** Benin became a British Colony

Benin City in Nigeria, is the location of the ancient Kingdom of Benin. It was **NOT** located in the modern country of Benin - this is a different country in West Africa.



Vocabulary

<b>Yoruba</b>	The name of the people who lived in the holy city of Ife.
<b>Edo</b>	The name of the people who lived within the ancient kingdom of Benin.
<b>Ife</b>	The holy city near the Kingdom of Benin, ruled by the Yoruba people
<b>Oba</b>	The Yoruba word meaning 'King'.
<b>Eweka</b>	The first Oba of the Kingdom of Benin. He came to power in AD 1180.
<b>Ogiso</b>	The Edo word meaning 'Kings of the Sky' used by the early rulers of <b>Igodomigodo</b> (the original name of the Benin Empire).
<b>Trade</b>	The exchanging of goods.
<b>Benin City</b>	The modern city located in Nigeria. It used to be called Edo and Igodomigodo, before that Ogiso – the Edo word.
<b>Brass</b>	A yellowish metal made from copper and zinc.
<b>Bronze</b>	A metallic brown metal made from copper and tin.

Top Takeaways

After studying this topic you should be able to:

- Show where the ancient Kingdom of Benin was located on a map.
- Place the Kingdom of Benin on a timeline alongside events in Europe.
- Use sources, including oral histories and artefacts, to understand how we know about the Kingdom of Benin.
- Describe some aspects of life in ancient Benin.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how the Benin bronzes were made and what they teach us about life in Benin.
- Understand changes that took place when Europeans started trading.
- Discuss the reasons the British became involved in Benin and the effect this had.

### History Skills

- Use greater depth and a range of knowledge putting key events on a timeline and relating to what has happened in the past.
- Devise, ask and answer more complex questions about the past, considering key concepts in history
- Understand that the past is represented and interpreted in different ways and give reasons for this.
- Analyse a range of source material.
- Record knowledge and understanding of the past in a variety of ways using key dates and terms appropriately.
- Begin to offer explanations about why people in the past acted as they did.
- Show understanding of some of the similarities and differences between different periods.
- Describe and begin to make links between main events, situations and changes within and across different periods and societies

### Geography Skills

- Use maps, atlases, and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- Understand and use a widening range of geographical terms.
- Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

