

The Kingdom of Benin: Assessment

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Kingdom of Benin, its society, art, and trade.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to answer in full sentences where required. Write clearly and check your spellings.

Ellie the elephant has been reading about the Kingdom of Benin. She discovered that it was a powerful empire in West Africa, famous for its incredible artwork and its well-organised capital city. The people of Benin were master metalworkers who created beautiful objects that told stories of their history and their leaders.

Word bank: Oba · bronze · plaque · craftsmen · trade · Benin City · walls · arts · palace

1. What was the title given to the ruler of the Kingdom of Benin? (1 mark)

2. The people of Benin were famous for creating objects out of which specific metal? (1 mark)

3. Explain one reason why the city walls of Benin were important to the people living there. (2 marks)

4. Describe two jobs or roles that people living in the Kingdom of Benin might have had. (2 marks)

5. How did the brass plaques found in the palace help historians learn about the history of the Kingdom? (3 marks)

6. If a trader arrived in Benin City, what kinds of goods might they have exchanged? Give two examples. (2 marks)

7. Compare life in the Kingdom of Benin to life in Britain at the same time. What are two similarities or differences you have learned? (4 marks)

8. Imagine you are a visitor to the court of the Oba in the 16th century. Write a diary entry describing what you see. Include details about the palace, the art, and the people you meet. (5 marks) (5 marks)

9. Why is it important for us to study the Kingdom of Benin today? Give your own opinion. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a pattern that you might see on a traditional Benin bronze plaque. Think about the shapes and symbols used in their art.



Extension challenge: Total: /25