

The Magnificent Kingdom of Benin

Step back in time with Ellie the Elephant to explore the golden age of a West African powerhouse!

- The Oba was the supreme ruler of the kingdom, living in a palace complex that was once considered one of the largest in the world.
- Highly skilled craftspeople belonged to special guilds, where they perfected the art of casting brass and bronze to create detailed statues and plaques.
- The city was protected by a series of massive earthworks, which were enormous walls and moats built to keep the city safe and manage the flow of people and trade.
- Benin was a wealthy kingdom that traded goods like ivory, textiles, and spices with merchants from across the globe.
- Art in the Kingdom of Benin was not just for decoration; it was used to tell stories, mark important historical events, and show respect to the ancestors.

Did you know? Did you know? The Kingdom of Benin was famous for its incredible 'Benin Bronzes'—intricate metal plaques that were hung on the walls of the Oba's palace to record history, acting like a giant, shimmering library made of art!

Key vocabulary: Oba · Bronze · Earthworks · Guilds · Kingdom · Craftsmanship · Trade