

The Kingdom of Benin: A Journey into the Past

Learning objective: To use historical knowledge to describe the achievements and features of the Kingdom of Benin.

Use this writing scaffold to help you organise your information about the Kingdom of Benin. Ellie the elephant has shared some of her favourite historical facts—use these to help you complete each section in detail.

Long ago, in what is now modern-day Nigeria, the Kingdom of Benin flourished as a powerful and highly organised society.

Word bank: furthermore · in addition to · consequently · remarkably · on the other hand · craftsmanship · trade routes · the Oba · bronze plaques · sophisticated

1. Who was the leader of the Kingdom of Benin, and what was his role in society? Start your paragraph with: 'The leader of the kingdom was known as the Oba, who...' (2 marks)

2. What did the people of Benin trade to become so wealthy? Start your paragraph with: 'To build their wealth, the people of Benin traded goods such as...' (2 marks)

3. How did the artists of Benin record their history? Start your paragraph with: 'The artists of Benin were famous for their skill in creating...' (2 marks)

4. What was the city of Benin like to live in? Start your paragraph with: 'Life in the city of Benin was unique because...' (3 marks)

**5. How does the history of the Kingdom of Benin change our understanding of the past?
Start your paragraph with: 'Learning about the Kingdom of Benin shows us that...' (3 marks)**

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer visiting the Kingdom of Benin for the first time. Write a short diary entry describing one thing you see in the city market.