

Exploring the Benin Kingdom with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand where the Benin Kingdom was located and what it was famous for.

Hello! I am Ellie the elephant. I have a great memory for history! Use the word bank to help you answer these questions about the Kingdom of Benin.

The Kingdom of Benin was a powerful empire in West Africa. Today, this land is part of the country called Nigeria. The people of Benin were famous for making beautiful art out of a metal called bronze. The king of Benin was called the Oba. He lived in a large palace. The kingdom became very rich because they were good at trade, which means they swapped things like cloth and spices for other items.

Word bank: Africa · Nigeria · Bronze · Oba · Trade

1. The Kingdom of Benin was located on which continent? (1 mark)

2. Which modern-day country is where the Benin Kingdom used to be? (1 mark)

3. What was the special title given to the King of Benin? (1 mark)

4. The artists of Benin were famous for making statues and plaques out of which metal? (1 mark)

5. Explain one reason why the Kingdom of Benin became very rich. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a beautiful bronze plaque. You could draw a picture of a King (the Oba) or a warrior on it.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a trader in the Benin Kingdom. If you were selling a basket of spices for £5 and a bolt of cloth for £4, how much would they cost altogether?