

Exploring the Kingdom of Benin

Learning objective: To understand the features and society of the Kingdom of Benin by creating an illustrated scene.

Use your knowledge of the Kingdom of Benin to complete the drawing below. Make sure to include the key architectural and cultural features mentioned in the word bank.

Draw: Draw a busy scene in the capital city of the Kingdom of Benin. In the center, draw the Oba wearing royal robes. Behind him, draw the grand palace walls decorated with rectangular bronze plaques. Surround the palace with lush tropical greenery and palm trees. Use a detailed, historical style to show the architecture and the importance of the king.



Label words: Oba · Bronze plaque · City wall · Terracotta · Palm trees · Ceremonial dress

Steps:

1. Why were the bronze plaques important to the people of the Kingdom of Benin?
2. Label your drawing to point out where the palace walls are located.
3. Describe one item of clothing or jewellery you have drawn on the Oba.
4. In the Kingdom of Benin, artists used a material called terracotta. Can you draw a small terracotta pot near the palace entrance?

5. Look at your drawing: How does the size of the city wall show that the kingdom was well-defended?