

Ellie's Benin Kingdom Expedition

Learning objective: To recall and analyze key facts about the Kingdom of Benin, an influential West African civilisation.

Join Ellie the elephant on her journey back in time! Read the historical facts carefully and answer the questions to test your knowledge of the Benin Kingdom.

Answer Key: 1. A (Oba); 2. True; 3. Bronze; 4. C (The capital city); 5. False (They were famous for bronze and brass); 6. Walls; 7. B (To record history); 8. True; 9. Edo; 10. Trade. --- Historical Context: The Kingdom of Benin was a highly organized society located in modern-day Nigeria. The Oba was the divine ruler, and the city was protected by massive earthwork fortifications. Skilled artisans created intricate plaques to document the kingdom's achievements.

Word bank: Oba · bronze · plaque · Edo · trade · walls · craftsmen · capital

1. 1. What was the title of the powerful ruler of the Kingdom of Benin? A) Pharaoh B) Sultan C) Oba* D) King (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The Kingdom of Benin was located in West Africa. (1 mark)

3. 3. The kingdom was famous for its intricate artworks made from which metal? (One word answer) (1 mark)

4. 4. What was the 'Benin Moat'? A) A place for fishing B) A swimming pool C) Part of the city's defensive walls* D) A royal garden (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Benin artists only worked with wood. (1 mark)

6. 6. Fill in the blank: The city of Benin was surrounded by massive earthwork _____ to keep the kingdom safe. (1 mark)

7. 7. Why were bronze plaques created? A) To use as currency B) To record important historical events* C) To decorate children's toys D) To mark the border (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: The Oba was considered the spiritual and political leader of the people. (1 mark)

9. 9. What is the name of the people who lived in the Kingdom of Benin? (One word answer) (1 mark)

10. 10. The kingdom became wealthy through the exchange of goods with other nations, which is known as _____. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a detailed bronze plaque that tells a story from the Benin Kingdom, featuring the Oba or a scene from daily life.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenges: 1. Explain why the Benin Kingdom required such extensive defensive walls. 2. Compare and contrast the role of an Oba to a leader in a modern country. 3. Justify your answer: Why is it important for historians to study art like bronze plaques to understand the past? 4. What might happen if the kingdom had not developed such advanced metalwork skills? 5. Design a map showing where the Kingdom of Benin was located in relation to the rest of the world. 6. If you were an advisor to the Oba, what invention would you suggest to improve trade, and why?