

Ellie's Benin Kingdom Explorer Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand the social, political, and cultural achievements of the Kingdom of Benin.

Help Ellie the Elephant learn about history! Use your knowledge from class to fill in this fact-file about the Kingdom of Benin. Write clearly and use your own words to describe the life and culture of this ancient West African civilisation.

Word bank: Oba · Benin City · Bronze · Craftsmen · Trade · Walls · Kingdom · Earthworks

1. The Ruler: Who was the Oba of Benin, and what was his role in the kingdom? (2 marks)

2. City Life: Describe the design of Benin City. What were the 'earthworks' and why were they important? (3 marks)

3. Art and Craft: Why were the bronze plaques and sculptures made by the Benin craftsmen so famous? (2 marks)

4. Trade and Wealth: How did the Kingdom of Benin become wealthy through trading with other nations? (3 marks)

5. Historical Legacy: Why do you think historians study the Kingdom of Benin today? What does it tell us about the past? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter visiting Benin City in the 15th century. Write a short paragraph describing one thing you see in the market that tells you the kingdom is prosperous.