

Exploring the Benin Kingdom: Year 5 History Flashcards

Learning objective: To recall key facts about the Benin Kingdom, its society, trade, and culture.

Read the front of each card, test your memory, and then check the answer on the other side to see how much you have learned about the Benin Kingdom.

Who was the ruler of the Benin Kingdom and considered both a political and spiritual leader?

The Oba

Where in the world was the Benin Kingdom located?

West Africa (in modern-day Nigeria)

What was the capital city of the Benin Kingdom known for its impressive walls and planned streets?

Benin City

What famous metalwork were the craftsmen of Benin famous for creating?

Bronze (and brass) plaques and sculptures

What was the name of the language spoken by the people of the Benin Kingdom?

Edo

What were some of the key goods traded by the Benin Kingdom with European explorers?

Pepper, ivory, and cloth

True or False: The Benin Kingdom had a complex system of government and a highly organised society.

True

What were the bronze plaques used for in the Oba's palace?

To record history and decorate the walls of the palace

What were the 'Guilds' in Benin society?

Groups of specialist craftsmen, such as bronze-casters or ivory-carvers, who worked for the Oba

How did the Benin Kingdom protect its capital city?

By building massive earthworks and a deep moat around the city