

Exploring the Kingdom of Benin: A Historical Report

Learning objective: To write an informative historical report about the Kingdom of Benin, describing its society, achievements, and trade.

Use the prompts below to structure your report. Remember to write in formal, objective language and use the provided word bank to link your ideas together.

The Kingdom of Benin, located in modern-day Nigeria, was a powerful and influential West African empire that thrived for many centuries.

Word bank: furthermore · consequently · in addition · historically · prosperous · significant · sophisticated · on the other hand · as a result

1. Introduction: Describe where and when the Kingdom of Benin existed. Start with: The Kingdom of Benin was situated in... (2 marks)

2. The Oba and Government: Explain the role of the Oba. Start with: At the heart of Benin society was the Oba, who was considered... (3 marks)

3. Art and Craftsmanship: Describe the famous bronze plaques and ivory carvings. Start with: Benin was world-renowned for its artistic achievements, particularly... (3 marks)

4. Trade and Economy: How did the people of Benin trade with others? Start with: Trade played a vital role in the kingdom's economy, as merchants... (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise why the Kingdom of Benin is important in history. Start with: In conclusion, the Kingdom of Benin remains a significant part of history because... (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist who has just discovered a brass plaque from the Kingdom of Benin. Write a short diary entry describing what you see on the plaque and why it tells us so much about the Oba's life.