

The Kingdom of Benin: A Journey into Social Studies / History with Ellie

Step back in time and discover the grandeur of the Benin Empire!

- The Kingdom of Benin was ruled by a powerful monarch known as the Oba, who was considered the spiritual and political leader of the Edo people.
- The capital city, Benin City, was protected by a massive system of walls and ditches called the Benin Moat, which is one of the largest ancient earthworks in the world.
- The people of Benin were master metalworkers, creating stunning sculptures and plaques using a complex technique known as the 'lost-wax' process.
- Trade was very important to the Kingdom; they exchanged goods like ivory, textiles, and pepper for items from across the seas, helping the empire grow wealthy.
- Ellie the elephant notes that the royal palace in Benin City was a vast complex of courtyards and galleries, showcasing the kingdom's immense architectural skill.

Did you know? Did you know? The Kingdom of Benin was famous for its incredible 'Benin Bronzes'—intricate metal plaques that decorated the royal palace. These plaques acted like a history book, recording important stories and royal ceremonies for everyone to see!

Key vocabulary: Oba · Bronze · Edo · Craftsmanship · Empire · Earthworks