

Ellie's Explorer Fact-File: The Kingdom of Benin

Learning objective: To research and record key historical facts about the Kingdom of Benin, exploring its society, trade, and culture.

Welcome, young historian! Join Ellie the elephant on a journey to the Kingdom of Benin. Use your research skills to fill in this fact-file. Remember to use your best handwriting and look for evidence of how this African civilisation influenced the world.

Word bank: Oba · Benin City · Bronze · Trade · Craftsmen · Walls · Edo · West Africa

1. Location and Geography: Where was the Kingdom of Benin located and what was the name of its capital city? (2 marks)

2. The Role of the Oba: Explain who the Oba was and why he was so important to the people of Benin. (3 marks)

3. Master Craftsmen: Describe the famous 'Benin Bronzes'. What materials were used and what were they used for? (3 marks)

4. Trade and Wealth: How did the Kingdom of Benin become wealthy? Mention at least one item they traded. (2 marks)

5. Lasting Legacy: Why is the Kingdom of Benin considered an important part of world history today? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific Benin bronze plaque. On a separate piece of paper, sketch the scene shown on the plaque and write a short paragraph explaining what the image tells us about life in the Kingdom.