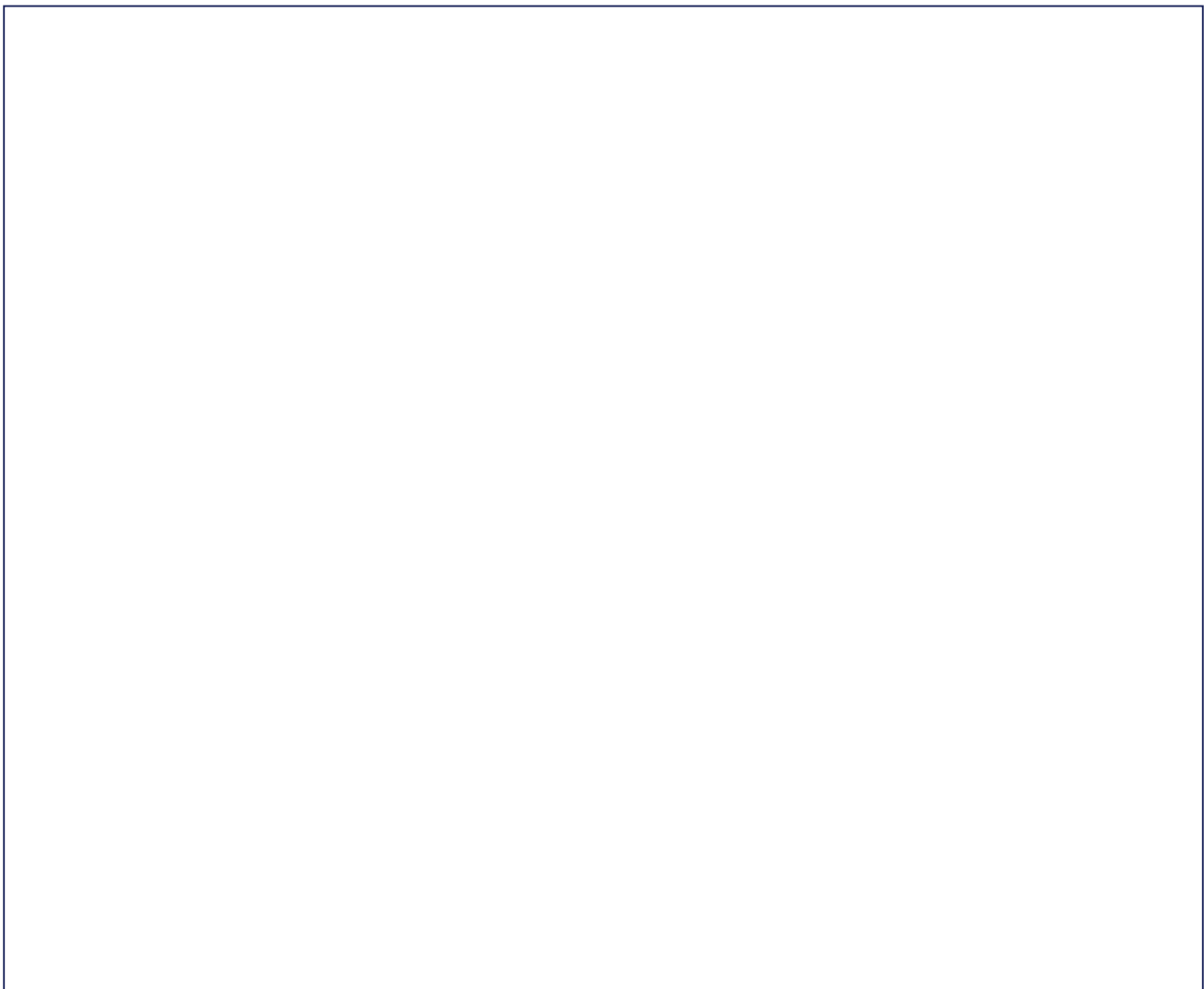


Artistic Wonders of the Benin Kingdom

Learning objective: To understand the artistic traditions and architectural features of the Kingdom of Benin through illustration and labelling.

Use your knowledge of the Kingdom of Benin to complete the drawing below. Focus on the intricate details of the Oba's palace and the famous bronze plaques.

Draw: Create a detailed scene of the interior of the Oba's palace. Draw a large, ornate wall adorned with rectangular bronze plaques featuring relief carvings of a king. Use a historical style, focusing on textures like smooth metal and rough stone. Include a central figure of the Oba wearing a high collar of coral beads. Add a border around your drawing that mimics the geometric patterns found in traditional West African art.



Label words: Oba · Bronze Plaque · Palace Courtyard · Turret · Coral Beads · Relief Carving

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw the palace walls with a high turret. Label the 'Turret' and the 'Palace Courtyard'.
2. Step 2: Draw a rectangular bronze plaque on the wall. Add detail to show a figure wearing 'Coral Beads'.
3. Step 3: Explain why the Oba chose to display bronze plaques in his palace. What message did they send to visitors?
4. Step 4: Compare and contrast the materials used by Benin artists (bronze) with materials used in

modern-day art. Why was bronze a significant choice?

5. Step 5: Justify your answer: If you were the Oba, which historical event would you choose to have carved onto a bronze plaque, and why?

6. Step 6: What might happen if the bronze plaques were removed from the palace walls? How would the 'story' of the kingdom be affected?