

Ellie's Benin Kingdom Expedition

Learning objective: To evaluate knowledge of the Kingdom of Benin, its societal structure, and its historical significance during the medieval period.

Join Ellie the elephant on a journey back in time! Read the questions carefully and use your historical knowledge to answer. Remember to use full sentences where required.

Answer Key: 1. B (Oba), 2. True, 3. False (The walls were defensive fortifications), 4. Bronze, 5. Benin City, 6. True, 7. Trade, 8. Craftsmen, 9. False (It was a powerful independent kingdom), 10. The Oba.

Word bank: Oba · Benin City · bronze · griot · trade · walls · craftsmen

1. 1. Who was the supreme ruler of the Kingdom of Benin? A) The Sultan, B) The Oba*, C) The Pharaoh, D) The Emperor (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The Kingdom of Benin was located in what is now modern-day Nigeria. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: The Great Walls of Benin were built primarily for decorative purposes to look beautiful. (1 mark)

4. 4. The people of Benin were world-famous for their intricate sculptures made from which metal? (1 mark)

5. 5. What was the name of the capital city that was known for its organised streets and lighting? (1 mark)

6. 6. Multiple Choice: Which of these did the Kingdom of Benin trade with Europeans? A) Gold, B) Spices, C) Textiles and Pepper*, D) Plastic (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: The Kingdom of Benin had a complex system of government with many advisors and chiefs. (1 mark)

8. 8. What was the specific title given to the highly skilled artists who created the Benin Bronzes? (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: The Kingdom of Benin was part of the Roman Empire. (1 mark)

10. 10. Who held the highest authority in the Benin judicial system? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a detailed relief carving in the style of the famous Benin Bronzes, showing a scene of daily life or a royal procession.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why the Benin Bronzes are considered such significant historical artefacts today. 2. Compare and contrast the defensive walls of Benin City with medieval castles in Britain. 3. Justify the statement: 'The Kingdom of Benin was a highly sophisticated society.' 4. What might have happened to the Kingdom's economy if their trade routes had been blocked? 5. If you were a traveller visiting Benin City in the 15th century, what features of the city would surprise you most? 6. Design a new guild for the city of Benin and explain what goods or services they would provide to the Oba.