Exploring the Kingdom of Benin with Ellie

Learning objective: To learn about the achievements and daily life of the Kingdom of Benin, an ancient African civilisation.

Ellie the elephant has been studying the history of the Kingdom of Benin. Use the word bank to help Ellie complete the sentences about this fascinating civilisation. Once you have filled in the blanks, match the historical feature to its description by writing the correct letter next to the sentence.

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

1. 1. The ruler of the Kingdom of Benin was known as the _____. (1 mark) (1 mark)

2. 2. The people of Benin were famous for their beautiful _____ sculptures and plaques. (1 mark) (1 mark)

3. 3. _____ was the capital city and was protected by huge earthen ramparts. (1 mark) (1 mark)

4. 4. Skilled _____ worked in special guilds to create art for the palace. (1 mark) (1 mark)

5. 5. The kingdom became very wealthy because of successful _____ with other regions. (1 mark) (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: The Kingdom of Benin was a small, poor village. Explain your reason using evidence from your learning. (2 marks) (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a Benin palace plaque. Imagine it shows a scene of the Oba or a historical event, using patterns and shapes like a professional metalworker.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a trader visiting Benin City for the first time. Write three sentences describing what you might see, hear, or smell in the bustling markets.