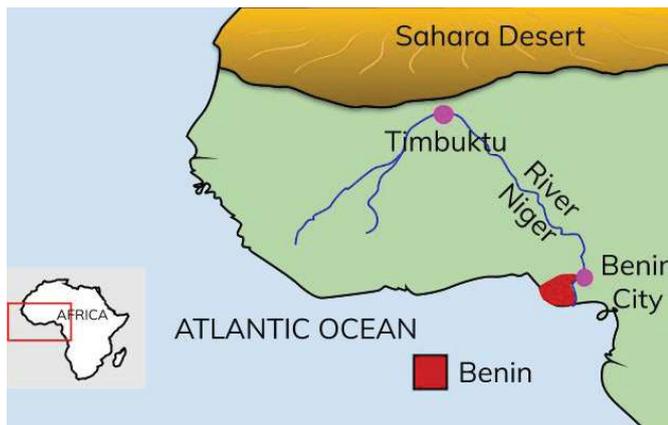


Knowledge Organiser • Benin Kingdom • Year 5



Vocabulary

Oba	A king, or chief.
Ogisos	The first kings of Benin. Ogisos means "Rulers of the Sky".
Empire	lots of countries or states, all ruled by one monarch or single state.
Guild	A group of people who all do the same job, usually a craft.
Animism	A religion widely followed in Benin.
Voodoo (or Vodun)	The belief that non-human objects have spirits or souls.
Cowrie shells	A sea shell which Europeans used as a kind of money to trade with African leaders.
Civil war	A war between people who live in the same country.
Moat	A long trench dug around an area to keep invaders out.
Colonisation	When invaders take over control of a country by force, and live among the people.

Timeline of Events

900 CE	Lots of villages join together and make a kingdom known as Igodomigodo, ruled by the Ogiso.
c. 900-1460 CE	A huge earthen moat was constructed around the kingdom, stretching 16,000 km long.
1180 CE	The Oba royal family take over from the Ogiso, and begin to rule the kingdom. They are treated like Gods.
1440 CE	Benin expands its territory under the rule of Oba Ewuare the Great.
1470 CE	Oba Ewuare renames the kingdom as Edo, with its main city known as Ubinu (Benin in Portuguese).
1485 CE	The Portuguese visit Edo and Ubinu.
1514 CE	Oba Esigie sets up trading links with the Portuguese, and other European visitors.
1700 CE	A series of civil wars within Benin lead to the kingdom declining in power.
1807 CE	Britain passes a law abolishing the slave trade, which further weakens the kingdom.
1897 CE	Benin city (in modern day Nigeria) is destroyed by British troops, and comes under Britain's control.

Key Misconception

The Kingdom of Benin is not the same as the modern day country called Benin