

Benin - Year 6 - Autumn 2

Historical Themes

leadership

When an individual, group or organisation make decisions, influence or direct the decisions of others.

In Year 5 you learnt that the Alexander the Great was a significant **leader** in Ancient Greece. His leadership helped

Oba Ewuare the Great was a significant **leader** who had a moat and miles of protective walls built around his nation.



society

A collection of cultural practices, language and belief systems that unite groups of people.

In Year 5 you learn that Viking **society** had a huge impact on the English language by introducing many words we still use now.

The Edo people of Benin had a hierarchy ruled by Obas. Their **society** valued oral history and had skilled artists.



Tier 2

discern

To find out.

By looking at information from reliable sources you can **discern** how the Benin bronzes were made and that the artists were skilled.

By looking at the Edo lost wax sculpture cockerel you can **discern** that moulds and wax were used to cast bronze sculptures.



kingdom

A **kingdom** is a country or region that is ruled by a king or queen. Kings and queens can have absolute power to make all of the rules/laws.

The Edo people no longer wanted to be ruled by their kings, known as the ogisos. So a prince from Ife was invited to take control of the **kingdom**.

The **kingdom** grew in size and power under the leadership of Oba Ewuare the Great and other Obas who ruled after he died.



Key Vocabulary

oba

The **oba** was the ruler of the Edo people who lived in Benin. Oba means king in the west African language Yoruba.

The first **oba**, or king, in Benin was Eweka. He was the son of Prince Oranmiyan from Ife. Obas were treated as if they were sacred.

The very powerful **oba** lived in a palace and made decisions about war, trade, taxation and ceremonial events.



hierarchy

A **hierarchy** is a system of organizing people into different ranks or levels of importance, e.g. in society or in a school.

Oba Ewuare introduced **hierarchy** succession - meaning that when he died his eldest son would take over as the new oba.

Oba Ewuare introduced **hierarchy** structures town and palace chiefs to help him rule.



trade

Trade is the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services between people, firms, or countries.

Oba Ewuare expanded the kingdom. Obas wanted Benin to control of the coast for European **trade** with the Dutch and Portuguese.

Obas were in charge of **trading** slaves, ivory and other important goods, so that all the profit went to support his court and government.



Things you learnt in previous topics

The Romans **led** by using their army to be able to keep control over the empire.

From the Ancient Greek era we looked at sources to **discern** if Alexander the Great really was great.

Islamic civilisation used cultural exchanges and trade helped to spread the **society** and religion of Baghdad.



How this connects with future learning

Benin became part of the British Empire in 1897. It is now located within the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In 1960 Nigeria joined the Commonwealth of nations and has shared goals e.g. freedom and peace.

Benin art is displayed around the world. In 2021 Nigeria asked for the return of 'Nigerian antiquities'.