

What caused the rise and fall of Benin's Kingdom?

- Invasion
 - Trade
 - Empire
 - Society
- Year 6 Term 1

Key historical concepts

- Significance
- Change and continuity
- Historical enquiry

Timeline

900	The Benin Kingdom was first created when lots of smaller villages joined together to form a larger community
1180	The dynasty of the 'Oba' begins and the Kingdom of Benin is officially formed
1440	The Kingdom of Benin began to expand and prosper under the rule of Oba Ewuare the Great
1451	Oba Ewuare expanded the kingdom and set up trading links with Portuguese visitors
1700	The Benin Kingdom entered a period of decline due to a series of civil wars and the ending of the slave trade in Europe
1897	Benin City is destroyed by British troops and Benin comes under British control

Hidden Figure - Queen Idia

She was a famous warrior who received much of the credit for the victories of her son as his political counsel. Her mystical powers and medicinal knowledge were viewed as critical elements of his success on the battlefield.



Key Facts

- Benin, in modern day Nigeria was an advanced society as long ago as a thousand years, in many ways more advanced than Saxon and Viking society at the time.
- African societies such as Benin developed in their own right and not as a result of contact with Europeans.
- Benin society was organised around the all-important Oba who lived in his own palace within a well-defended city.
- The society is best remembered for its magnificent bronzes.
- At the end of the Victorian period soldiers of the British empire clashed with the inhabitants of Benin and looted a vast number of these superb bronzes many of which are still held in British museums.



Key vocabulary

colonisation	The action or process of settling among and establishing control over the indigenous people of an area
empire	A number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country
export	Sending goods out of a country to be traded with other people or countries
import	Bringing goods into a country as a trade from other people or countries
merchant	A person or company that trades (buys and sells) goods
Oba	The title for the ruler of Benin - it is their word for king
trade	Exchanging goods or money between different people and countries



Historical Concepts - Our Learning Journey

Reception

Invasion - Nursery Rhymes
Empire -
Trade -
Society - Memory Box

Year 1/2

Invasion - Castles
Empire -
Trade - Great Fire of London
Society - Seaside, Great Fire of London, Toys

Year 3/4

Invasion - Romans, Vikings, Anglo Saxons
Empire - Romans
Trade - Stone Age to Iron Age, Vikings
Society - Stone Age to Iron Age, Romans, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Vikings

Year 5/6

Invasion - Benin, Salisbury and WWI
Empire - Benin, Islam
Trade - Benin
Society - Benin, Islam, Crime & Punishment, Propaganda, Tudors, Salisbury and WWI



Ethics

Should the British Museum return the bronzes to Benin?

