

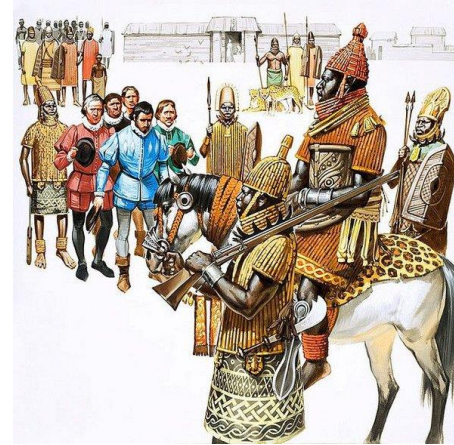
The kingdom of Benin (also known as the Edo Kingdom) was a civilisation that was located in West Africa in the area now known as Nigeria.



Year Six History Kingdom of Benin

The Edo people did not write down their history but passed it on through oral tradition.

The reason that the Kingdom of Benin was so prosperous was largely due to its skilled craftsmen and the subsequent trading of goods to the rest of Africa and then Europe.



Benin Bronzes

The Edo people wanted to make things of value, and so they established specialist guilds where people could learn a craft to a very high level of skill. Craftworkers used lots of different materials including iron, bronze, wood and ivory to make pots, tools, weapons and artworks.

Oba	A chief or ruler in Benin / Nigeria
artefact	an object made by a human being who lived in the past.
traders	People who buy and sell goods or currency.
conquer	To defeat an enemy, or to take control of the land in another country.
kingdom	A country or territory ruled by a king or queen.
Empire	A large group of countries ruled over by one rule.
prosperous	Rich and successful.
guilds	A group of people who do the same job.
civilisation	a complex human society, usually made up of different cities, with certain characteristics of cultural and technological development.

Chronology

900	1180	1440	1500	1897
The Kingdom of Benin origins	The first Oba, Eweka, ruled the kingdom	Kingdom of Benin begins to expand and prosper.	Portuguese traders come to Benin and Benin reaches its peak.	British soldiers conquer and destroy Benin.