



*What I already know... The children will know that Empires are built and change over time. They know that from the 15th century sailors left Europe to find a sea route to Asia; they wanted to buy things such as ivory, pepper and gold from people in Africa. They will know about Tudor exploration and what life was like in Tudor Britain. They will know that by the 18th century, the British had taken over control of the slave trade from the Portuguese and that in 1807, the British missionaries' campaign against slavery led the British parliament to ban the slave trade. They will have learnt about global trading and how we can benefit from this. They will be aware of the importance of oral storytelling in different cultures.*

### Enquiry Questions

*Why do we learn about Benin in school?*

*What sort of place was Benin 1,000 years ago and how do we know?*

*What can we tell about Benin society from the images and artifacts that have survived?*

*What changes took place when the European settlers started trading?*

*Why did the British get involved in Benin and what were the effects for the Benin people?*

*Should the Bronzes be returned to Benin?*

### Key Vocabulary

Animist - The belief that non-human objects and animals have souls.

Artefact - an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest.

Bronze - a yellow or brown mix of copper and tin, sometimes with small amounts of other metals such as lead or zinc.

Casting - the making of an object by pouring molten metal or other material into a mould.

Century - a period of one hundred years.

Cowrie shell - Sea snail shells used as a form of currency.

Descendent - a person related to someone from an earlier generation

the continuation of powerful leaders within the same family over a period of time.

Dynasty - the continuation of powerful leaders within the same family over a period of time.

Edo - The original people and founders of the Kingdom of Benin.

Evidence - proof

European - people who live in Europe

Government - the group of people with the authority to govern a country or state

Guild - a group of specialist craftsmen

Historical sources - they give us an in-depth understanding of things that have happened in the past from the point of view of the people who lived through them.

Ife - The holy city of the Yoruba people, who were closely linked to the Edo people. This remained an important religious centre in the area.

Igodemigodo - The original name for the Kingdom of Benin. This was the first unified city

Ivory - a hard creamy-white substance composing the main part of the tusks of an elephant, walrus, or narwhal, often (especially formerly) used to make ornaments and other articles.

Merchant - Someone who buys and sells goods, especially on a large scale or with foreign countries. The Kingdom of Benin traded with lots of these to help it grow into a powerful empire.

Oba - ruler. The Obas were all worshiped as gods.

Oba Eweke - The first of a new dynasty of kings called the Obas, crowned around 1180.

Oba Aguole - Had the Benin City Wall built around 1283.

Oba Ovonramwen - The last king of Benin, exiled by British troops after their invasion in 1897.

Oracle - Someone who was believed to be able to receive messages from the gods and translate them.

Plaque - Ornamental pieces that could be used to decorate important buildings or show important messages. These were usually made from brass and had intricate artwork on them.

Primary Source - something that originates from the past. For example, a Roman coin that was made by the Romans is a primary source, but a drawing of a Roman coin made in 2003 would be a secondary source.

Secondary source - a work that comments on the past. Typically this is a recently written book that describes past events, A book written about the Tudors in 1525 would be a primary source, but a book written about the Tudors in 1995 would be a secondary source.

Provenance - where the sources came from.

Trade - the buying and selling of goods and services.

Yam - the main crop in Benin which was a sweet potato.

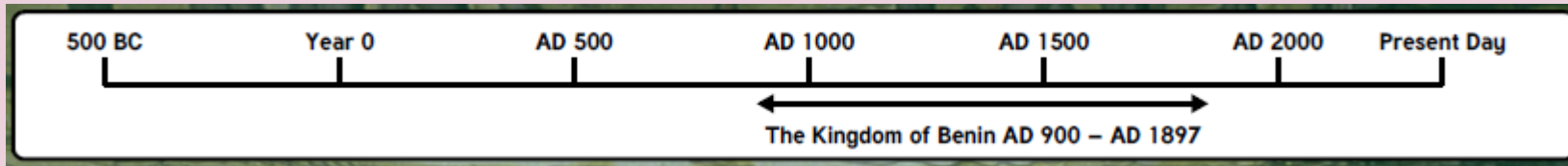
Yoruba - The name of the people from the holy city of Ife. The histories of the Edo and the Yoruba people are closely linked.

### Historical Skills

*Pupils will:*

- 1) continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, Local and World History,
- 2) establish clear narratives within and across the period of study; note connections, contrasts and trends over time
- 3) develop the appropriate use of historical terms.
- 4) address and devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity & difference and significance and construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- 5) Develop their understanding of how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources and that some sources omit information.
- 6) Understand how different versions of past events may exist, giving reasons for this.
- 5) ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgment.
- 6) know and understand significant aspects of the history of the wider world: the nature of ancient civilisations; the expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of past non-European societies; achievements and follies of mankind.

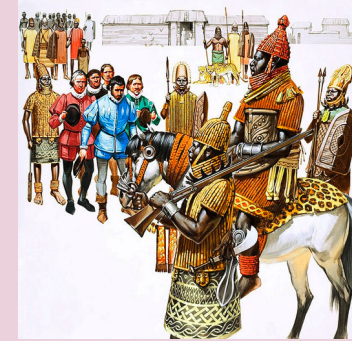
## Timeline



### The Benin Expedition of 1897



### Examples of The Benin Bronzes



*In the fifteenth century, the Portuguese were the first white people to arrive in Benin, before the British. The people of Benin began to trade with them, selling slaves, buying spices, and firearms and learning the art of writing and the Christian religion.*

### Meanwhile, elsewhere...

The Benin Period began in the 900s when the Edo people settled in the rainforests of West Africa, and ruled itself until it became part of the British Empire in 1897. It existed through all these periods of British history...

<b>ANGLO-SAXONS</b> 420 AD - 1066 	 <b>NORMANS</b> 1066 - 1154	 <b>MIDDLE AGES</b> 1154 - 1485	 <b>TUDORS</b> 1485 - 1603	<b>STUARTS</b> 1603 - 1668 	<b>GEORGIANS</b> 1714 - 1820 	<b>VICTORIANS</b> 1820 - 1901
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*Hans Holbein painted the portrait of King Henry VIII to portray him as a wealthy and a powerful king of England. (1497/1498-1543)*

### What came next?

1897 : In the Autumn of 1897, 304 Benin plaques were displayed in the British Museum. More were added to the collection in later years.



*Benin belonged to the British Empire until 1960. Then it became part of the independent country of Nigeria. Today, the Oba of Benin leads religious ceremonies, but he no longer rules his people. Ewuare II (born October 20, 1953) was crowned the Oba of Benin on 20 October 2016. He is the 40th Oba.*



*Links to other areas of the Curriculum: Geography - maps ; countries and continents, Art = 3D English - articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions, maintain attention and participate actively in collaborative conversations, staying on topic and initiating and responding to comments , use spoken language to develop understanding through speculating, hypothesising, imagining and exploring ideas, speak audibly and fluently with an increasing command of Standard English; participate in discussions, presentations, performances and debates; gain, maintain and monitor the interest of the listener(s); consider and evaluate different viewpoints; attending to and building on the contributions of others.*