

## Topic

### Year 4 Spring Term Benin Empire Knowledge Organiser

Key words	
<b>repatriation</b>	the returning of something or someone to their own country
<b>civilization</b>	the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area.
<b>colony</b>	a country or area under the full or partial political control of another country and occupied by settlers from that country
<b>plaques</b>	a plate made of wood or metal to be hung on a wall decoratively
<b>sculpture</b>	a piece of art made by carving or casting
<b>casting</b>	the process of making art by using a mould (a shape) that liquid could be poured into that then hardens to form that shape.
<b>composition</b>	an object made from several different parts
<b>bronze, ivory, wood</b>	types of materials
<b>merchant</b>	a person that sells stuff
<b>trading</b>	the exchange of resources between 2 different groups of people
<b>profit</b>	the money that you make
<b>export</b>	objects that are sold to other countries
<b>import</b>	objects from another country that are brought in
<b>kingdom</b>	an area controlled by 1 particular person
<b>looted</b>	steal goods from a place during a war or rioting
<b>collection</b>	a group of artworks
<b>savage</b>	fierce, violent and uncontrolled

<b>priest</b>	a person who performs religious ceremonies and duties in their religion.
<b>depose</b>	to suddenly remove a person like a king from a job
<b>primitive</b>	very basic and unsophisticated

Important places/dates	
Benin	
Portugal	
UK	
Nigeria	
16 <sup>th</sup> century	Earliest work recorded
1897	looting of Benin and deposing of the Oba

Main people/ideas	
<b>Oba</b>	a leader or chieftain
<b>colonials</b>	A group of people that go in and take over another place
<b>Victorians</b>	People that lived at the time of Queen Victorian from 1837 to 1901
<b>Edo</b>	People belonging to the Edo tribe

### Brass manilla bracelets

Brass bracelets, like this, were very highly prized by the people of Benin, because they could melt them down to produce molten brass.

Skilled metalworkers in the royal court used molten brass to make beautiful plaques and statues.

#### Did you know?

People believed that brass had the power to drive away evil.



Some imports and exports of the Benin Empire

### How did the kingdom begin?

Around the year 900, groups of Edo people began to cut down trees and make clearings in the rainforest. At first they lived in small family groups, but gradually these groups developed into a kingdom.

### Peppercorns from Benin

Spices like peppercorns were highly valued by people in Europe.

Without any fridges to keep their food fresh, pepper and other spices made their food taste better!



### Ivory from Benin

Ivory from elephants' tusks was a very valuable trading item.

Traders from Europe carried the tusks home on their ships. Then the ivory was used to make a range of objects, including jewellery, walking sticks, chess sets and piano keys.

#### Did you know?

Ivory was seen as a symbol of purity and strength.



The Benin Bronzes are a group of more than a thousand metal plaques and sculptures that decorated the royal palace of the Kingdom of Benin in what is now modern-day Nigeria.