The Kingdom of Benin

Year 6 **Spring**

Big Questions

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

Why did the British get involved in **Benin?**

What can the historical Kingdom of Benin tell us about the different ways of seeing history?

Who do the Benin Bronzes belong to?

Timeline		
900	Benin Kingdom is first established when small villages join together.	
900- 1400	An enormous earthen moat is built around the Kingdom boundaries.	
1180	The dynasty of Ogiso kings ends and the Obas begin their rule.	
1440	Benin begins to expand and thrive under the rule of Oba Ewuare the Great.	
1514	Oba Esigie sets up trading links with Portuguese and other European visitors.	
1700	Benin Kingdom enters a period of decline due to a series of civil wars and the abolition of the slave trade with Europe.	
1897	Benin City is destroyed and Benin comes under Britain's control.	
1960	The former Kingdom of Benin becomes part of Edo State, Western Nigeria	

Important People			
Ogiso	The first king (or 'Ogiso') of Benin, under whom the smaller villages joined together to form a Kingdom.		
Igodo			
Ogiso	The last of the Ogiso kings,		
Owodo	banished from the Kingdom with his family.		
Oba	The first of a new dynasty of kings called the Obas,		
Eweke			
Oba	The king who expanded the		
Ewuare	kingdom greatly and set up trading links with Portugal in 1514.		
Oba	The last king of Benin, exiled by		
Ovonramwen	British troops in 1897.		

Important Places

The Kingdom of Benin

The Kingdom of Demin				
Edo	State	e, Western Nigeria		
Progres	sio	n Map Objectives		
History	•	The Obas were part of dynasties, with the kingdom passed down from father to son and the line of Obas has continued up until the present day.		
	•	the Kingdom of Benin was a key trading centre in west Africa, and the Portuguese explorers were keen to trade with the Kingdom of Benin.		
	•	Explorers from Europe were shocked to find a city as advanced as Benin City; they had wrongly assumed that no such things existed in the continent of Africa.		
	•	In the late 19th century, some European countries, including Britain, were undertaking large-scale colonisation of territories around the world.		
	•	The Kingdom of Benin was part of the British Empire until 1960 when the territory became part of Nigeria.		
	•	Many Benin bronzes are still held in museums across Europe, including the British museum, and that many people believe that they should be returned to Nigeria.		
D.T.	•	To develop and explain ideas with design objectives. To produce sketches and computer aided designs to demonstrate their ideas.		
	•	To test and evaluate the final product against design objectives.		

To apply their understanding of how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce more complex

To choose collage materials

To create collage with a clearly apparent theme. To create sketches that communicate emotions and a sense of self with accuracy

To explain why they have used/ combined different tools/techniques to create

structures.

to fit a purpose.

and imagination.

their drawings.

Art