YEAR 6 BENINS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

KEY VOCABULARY AND SPELLINGS

Trade – exchanging of goods

Oba – the Yoruba word meaning 'King'

Yoruba – the name of the group of people who lived within the area of the holy city of Ife

Ife – the holy city nearby the Kingdom of Benin, ruled by the Yoruba people

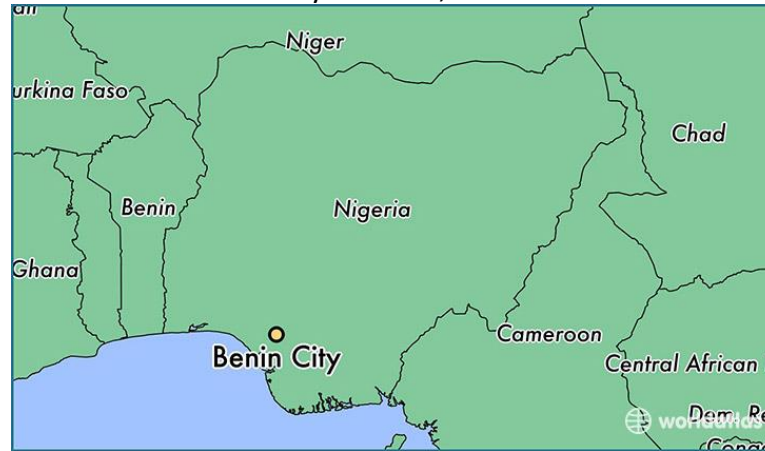**Edo** – The name of the group of people who lived within the ancient Kingdom of Benin

Eweka – the first Oba of the Kingdom of Benin. He came to power in AD 1180

Benin City – the modern city located in Nigeria. It used to be called Edo and Igodomigodo before that

Ogiso – the Edo word meaning 'Kings of the Sky'

LOCATION
Benin city is the location of the ancient Kingdom of Benin. It is located in Nigeria, which is in the west of Africa. The Ancient Kingdom of Benin is NOT located in the modern country of Benin, this is a different country in Africa.

IMPORTANT PEOPLE
Ogiso Igodo – the first king or Ogiso of Benin
Ogiso Owodo – the last of the Igiso kings. He was exiled.
Oba Eweke – the first of a new dynasty of kings called the Obas
Oba Oguole – built the Benin City Wall
Oba Ewuare – expanded the Kingdom greatly and set up the trading links with Portugal
Oba Ovanramwen – the last king of Benin, exiled by British troops after their invasion

THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF BENIN: AD 900-1900
The Kingdom of Benin rose to become a powerful empire in the 16th Century but was destroyed when it was invaded by British forces.

It began as a small group of villages that joined together to improve trading and security. The people worked hard as farmers and craftsmen so that the Kingdom had high quality goods to trade with foreigners.

The Obas were very powerful and were treated like gods, during their rule the Benin Kingdom expanded its boundaries.

Over time there were arguments about who would be the next Oba and this lead to civil wars. British troops invaded and gained control. In the 1960s it became part of independent Nigeria.