

How did trade contribute to the rise and fall of the Benin Kingdom?

The Kingdom of Benin rose to become a powerful empire in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Key Vocabulary

Oba - A king, or chief.

Ogisos - The first kings of Benin. "Rulers of the Sky"

Empire - Lots of countries or states, all ruled by one monarch or single state.

Guild - A group of people who all do the same job, usually a craft.

Enslavement - people owning other people is called slavery.

Enslaved people have to work for the owners.

Slave trade - The Atlantic **slave trade** was the selling of African people as slaves by Europeans.

Freedom - the state of being free to act or move as one wishes.

Abolish - put an end to.

Exploitation - using things that are available in order to benefit from it.

Colonisation - When invaders take over control of a country by force, and live among the people.

Timeline of Key Events:

Early Period: 900-1300 CE

Golden Age: 1300-1700 CE

Period of Decline: 1700-1897 CE

All dates shown are approximate.

900 CE Benin Kingdom is first established when small villages join together in a conglomerate.

900-1400 CE An enormous earthen moat is built around the Kingdom boundaries.

1180 CE The first dynasty of Ogiso kings ends and the Obas began their rule.

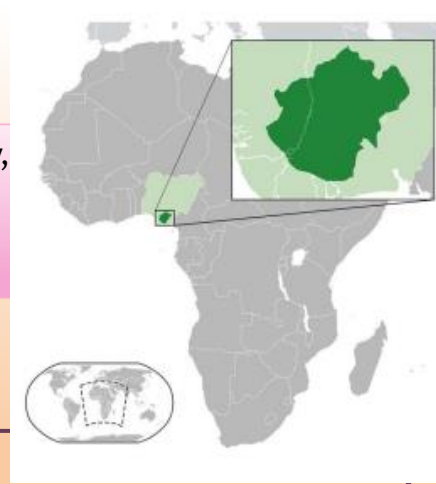
1440 CE Benin begins to expand and thrive under the rule of Oba Ewuare the Great.

1514 CE Oba Esigie sets up trading links with Portuguese and other European visitors.

1700 CE Benin Kingdom enters a period of decline due to a series of civil wars and the abolition of the slave trade with Europe.

1897 CE Benin City is destroyed by British troops and Benin comes under Britain's control.

In the 15th century, European sailors began to sail to Africa.



Key Questions

When and where did the Benin Kingdom begin?

How was society organised (including guilds) in the Benin kingdom?

What does art tell us about the skills and culture of the Benin people?

What is trade and how did it support the growth of the Benin kingdom (imports & exports)?

How did Bristol contribute to the rise of the Benin Kingdom?

Why did the Great Kingdom of Benin end?



The first dynasty of kings were called Ogisos. This dynasty ended in 1180AD. The second dynasty of kings were called Obas.