

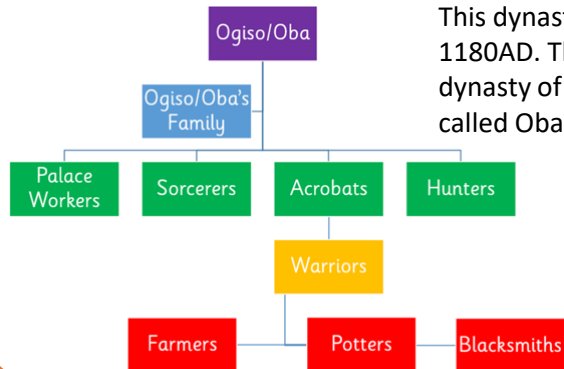
# How did trade contribute to the rise and fall of the Benin Kingdom?



## 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.

## Kingdom of Benin Hierarchy



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



Benin Craftsmen worked different materials such as ivory and brass. The Work was so sophisticated that Europeans began to rethink that perhaps the West Africans were not 'primitive' after all.



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



Because of its position on the west coast of England, Bristol became a key part of the slave trade with Africa and the Americas. Benin was easily accessible and very attractive to colonising countries.

## Key Vocabulary

Oba	a king 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 slavery. enslaved people must 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 for your own benefit.
colonisation	when invaders take over control of a country by force, and live among the people.