



### Key Learning Point:

1. I can find out how the Kingdom of Benin developed.
2. I can describe what the people of Benin believed in.
3. I can understand why Benin's sculptures surprised the people who developed them.
4. I can find out about Benin's past and the story of Eweka and how he came to be the Oba of the Benin Kingdom
5. I can examine and evaluate different sources of evidence about Benin and say what they can teach us about the culture.
6. I can explain how and why the kingdom of Benin became powerful and how it came to an end.

**Driver:  
Independence**

### Key Facts and Dates

What was the Ancient Kingdom of Benin?	The Kingdom of Benin (AD 900 to 1900) 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 led to civil wars. British troops invaded and gained control. In the 1960s it became part of independent Nigeria.
Who were the important people?	Ogiso Igodo - the first king or Ogiso of Benin. Ogiso Owodo - the last of the Ogiso 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 (1440) and set up the trading links with Portugal. He promoted brass casting.
AD 400	The Yoruba people start using iron tools which enable them to clear the forest land effectively for the first time. Villages developed and chiefs emerged.
AD 600	The area becomes the Ife Kingdom, one of the earliest kingdoms in the West African Rainforest
AD 900	The Kingdom of Benin begins to develop and boundaries are established around the region called Igodomigodo in what is now Nigeria.
AD 1091	The Edo people were ruled by the Ogiso, which means 'kings of the sky.'
AD 1100	The last Ogiso of Igodomigodo, Owodo, dies and there is nobody to rule.
AD 1180	Eweka becomes the new ruler and changes the name Igodomigodo to Edo. He calls himself the Oba.
AD 1300-1700	The 'golden age' of Edo. It has a large, powerful army and skilled craftspeople.

### Vocabulary

Ogiso	The title used by the early rulers of Igodomigodo. It means 'kings of the sky'. It is thought that there were around 31 Ogiso rulers.
Oba	The title used by Eweka and subsequent rulers. Eweka was from the Yoruba people and Oba is the Yoruba word for 'king'.
Edo	The name given to the Kingdom of Igodomigodo by Oba Eweka. The people also became known as the Edo people
Yoruba	The name of the people from the holy city of Ife. The histories of the Edo and Yoruba people are closely linked.
ohen	A priest who performed religious ceremonies.
animists	People who believe that humans, animals and objects all have souls or spirits.
brass	A yellowy metal made of a mixture of copper and zinc.

