

Marine Academy Primary, Trevithick Road, St. Budeaux, Plymouth PL5 2AF

T: 01752 213939 W: <http://www.marineacademy.org.uk/primary/>

E: primary@marineacademy.org.uk

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

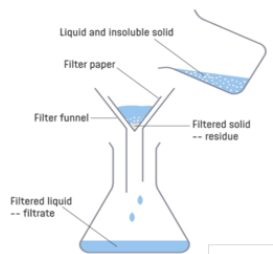
Dear Parents/Carers of Marine Academy Primary **Year 5** pupils,

To kick start the children's time in Year 5, this term they will be learning about **Benin Kingdom** in their **History** lessons and will find answers to the following questions before using their knowledge to complete an end of unit piece at the conclusion of the term:

1. How did the Benin Kingdom begin?
2. What was life like for the Edo people in the Benin Kingdom?
3. How were trade links established and what goods were traded?
4. What led to the Civil War in the 1700s?
5. What was the Transatlantic Slave Trade?
6. Why did the British colonise Benin and what impact did this have?



The Kingdom of Benin began in the 900s when the Edo people settled in the rainforests of West Africa. By the 1400s they had created a wealthy kingdom with a powerful ruler, known as the Oba. Gradually, the Obas won more land and built up an empire. For 200 years Benin was very successful, but in the 1600s the Obas started to lose control of their people. By the 1800s Benin was no longer strong or united. The kingdom came to a sudden end in 1897, when a British army invaded and made it part of the British Empire. A knowledge organiser sharing all of the information – including key vocabulary, a timeline and key facts – that the children will learn about in their History lessons is at the bottom of this letter. Please feel free to use this with your child to develop their knowledge and understanding at home.



In **Science** this term, the children will learn about Separating Mixtures. They will find out what a pure substance is compared to a mixture by learning what particles are and how they behave in liquids, solids and gases. The children will gain an understanding of the key vocabulary used in the process of dissolving. By the end of the unit, the children will know what a formulation is and how we can separate alloy, gas, powder solid or magnetic solid mixtures back into their parts.



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In **English**, the children will be learning about Faraway Fiction through the texts 'Weslandia' by Paul Fleischman and 'The Genius of the Ancients: The Genius of the Benin Kingdom' by Sonya Newland and in **Whole Class Reading** sessions, they will be studying 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo.



In **Maths**, children will learn to: Read, write, order and compare numbers to at least 1 000 000 and determine the value of each digit e.g. what is the value of the '7' in 276,541? Find the difference between the largest and smallest whole numbers that can be made from using three digits. Count forwards or backwards in steps of powers of 10 for any given number up to 1 000 000. Interpret negative numbers in context, count forwards and backwards with positive and negative whole numbers, including through zero. Round any number up to 1 000 000 to the nearest 10, 100, 1000, 10 000 and 100 000. Solve number problems and practical problems that involve ordering and comparing numbers to 1 000 000, counting forwards or backwards in steps, interpreting negative numbers and rounding. Read Roman numerals to 1000 (M) and recognise years written in Roman numerals.

In **RE**, the children will explore the question 'What does it mean if Christians believe God is holy and loving?' and in **SMSC** (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education) the children will learn about 'Me and My Relationships'.



In **Computing** lessons, the children will learn about the topic 'Sharing Information'. In this topic, they will learn to use a range of search tools and advanced searching features. They will also use the Internet to share data with another person and select appropriate software to use for a given task. In the e-safety element of the topic, they will learn how to choose online content for their age group.

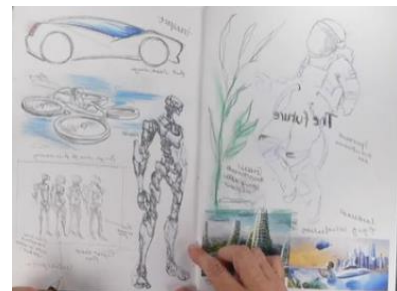


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In **Spanish**, children will extend their food and drink vocabulary and will learn how to say when meal times are and what they usually have, comparing eating habits in Spain. They will also learn how to give their opinions of different food and drink and complete a simple food and drink diary in Spanish. In **Art**, the children will be creating their own futuristic artwork involving printmaking and drawing, while in **PE**, they will be learning to play Netball and this will usually be on a Wednesday.



If you ever have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak to their class teacher or email year5@marineacademy.org.uk. We are really looking forward to another great year ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Victoria Hansford

Mr Callum Cuzner

Teacher

Teacher



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Knowledge Organiser – The Benin Kingdom - Year 5

Vocabulary	Definition
Oba	A king or chief.
Ogisos	The first kings of Benin. Ogisos means "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.
Voodoo (or Vodun)	A religion widely followed in Benin.
Animism	The belief that non-human objects have spirits or souls.
Cowrie shells	A sea shell which Europeans used as a kind of money to trade with African leaders.
Civil war	A war between people who live in the same country.
Moat	A long trench dug around an area to keep invaders out.
Colonisation	When invaders take over control of a country by force and live among the people.

A key misconception

The Benin Kingdom is not the same as the modern day country called Benin.



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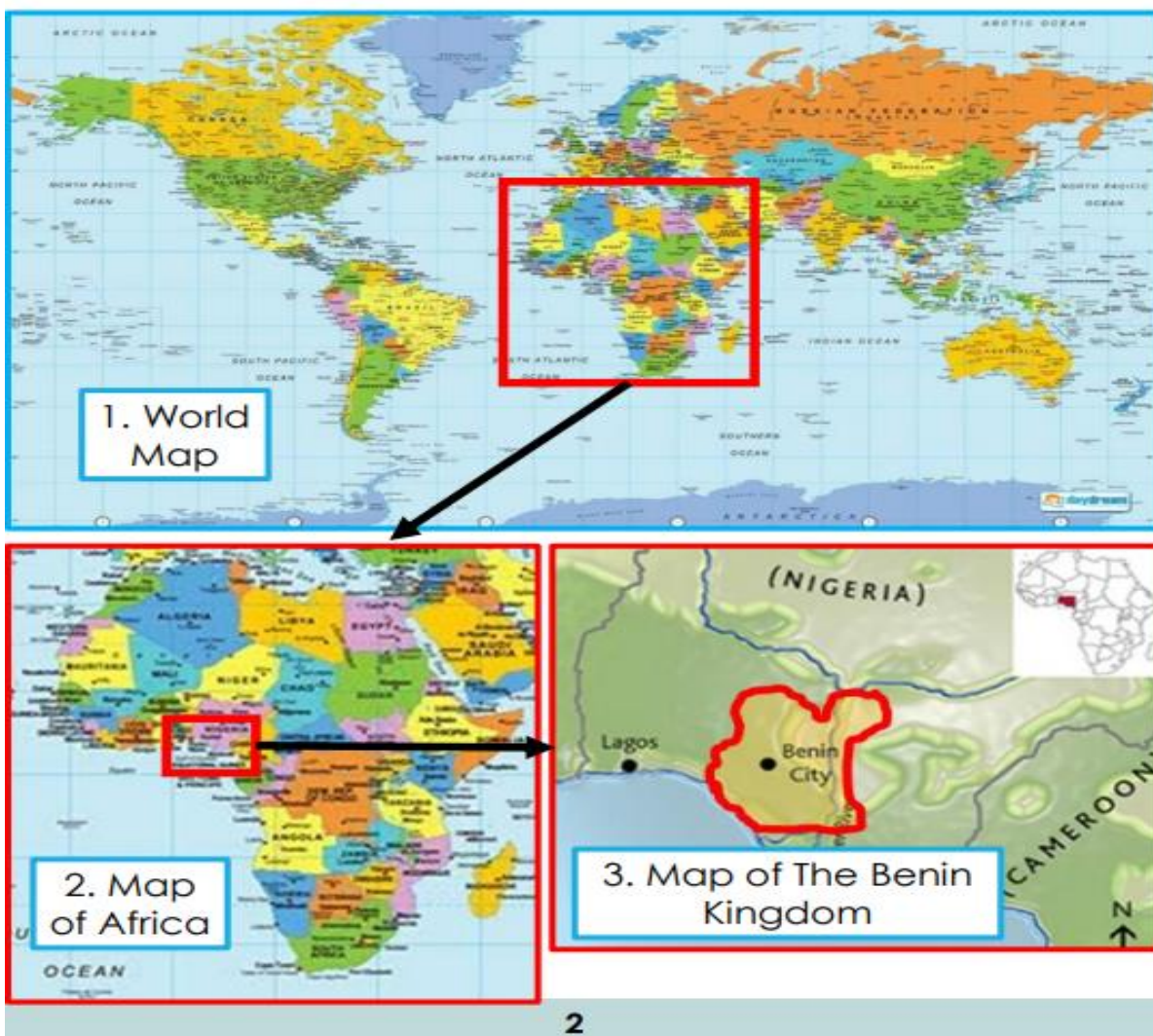
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Location of The Benin Kingdom

The maps below show (1.) the World, (2.) Africa's location within the World and (3.) the location of the Benin Kingdom within Africa.



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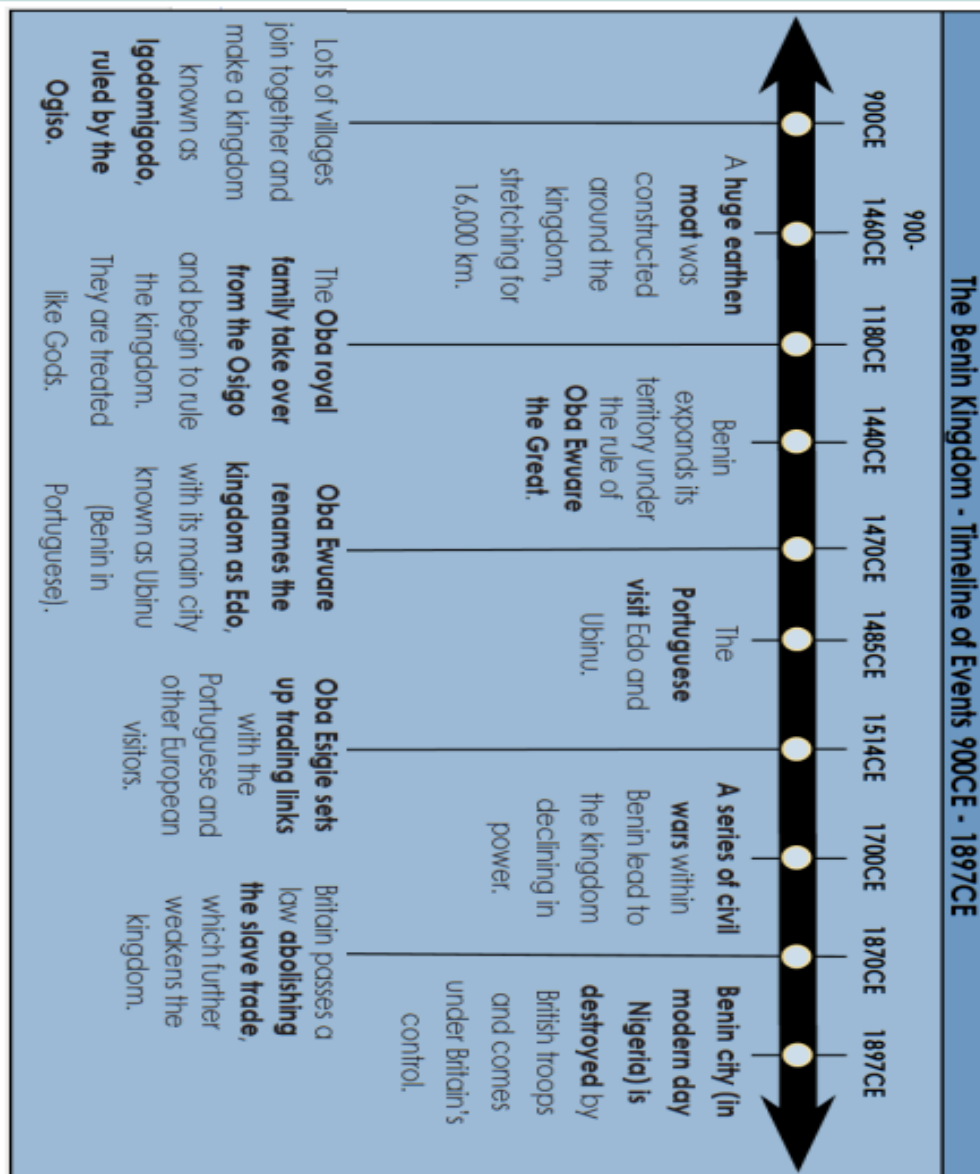


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The Benin Kingdom - Timeline of Events 900CE - 1897CE



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