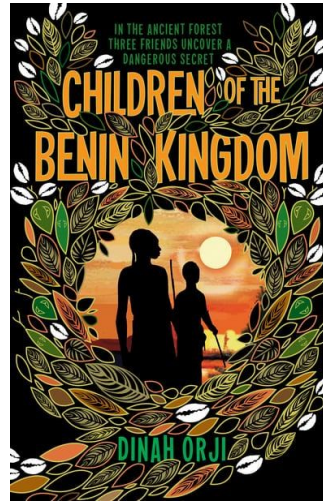




## Year 5 Knowledge organiser Autumn 2—Benin Kingdom

### Vocabulary

Guild	A group of artists or craft-workers who practise the same trade.
Ogiso	The title used by the early rulers of Igodomigodo. It means 'kings of the sky'. It is thought that there were around 31 Ogi-sos 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.
Brass	A yellowy metal made of a mixture of copper and zinc.
Yoruba	The name of the people from the holy city of Ife. The histories of the Edo and Yoruba people are closely linked.
Animists	People who believe that humans, animals and objects all have souls or spirits.



### Religion

The people of Benin worshipped many gods and goddesses. The festivals held to honour them were an important part of life in the kingdom.

Osanobua is the creator god in the Edo religion—the god who is

### Golden threads

*Is there any comparison between Benin society and society in Europe at the time?*

*Who were the Benin kings and how did they rule?*

*How did Benin art/ bronzes influence Europe?*

*How did Benin beliefs compare with those of other civilisations?*

*How were trade routes important to pre-colonial Africa?*

### Key Events

AD 900	The kingdom begins to develop and boundaries are established around the region called Igodomigodo in what is now Nigeria.
AD 1100	The last <b>Ogiso</b> of Igodomigodo, Owodo, dies and there is nobody to rule.
AD 1180	Eweka becomes the new ruler and changes the name Igodomigodo to <b>Edo</b> . He calls himself the <b>Oba</b> .
AD 1300-1700	The 'golden age' of <b>Edo</b> . It has a large, powerful army and skilled craftspeople.
AD 1489	The <b>Edo</b> people begin trading with the Portuguese, who call the place 'Benin'.
AD 1553	The first British ships arrive in Benin. Britain becomes a major power in the slave trade and is keen to gain more control.
AD 1897	The British enter Benin City without permission. Fighting breaks out (the 'Benin Massacre') and only two British officers survive. As punishment, the British launch the 'Benin Punitive Expedition' and destroy Benin City, stealing many treasures. The <b>Oba</b> is exiled and the British colonise Benin.

### Summary

The Benin Kingdom was founded in around CE 900. At this time, the Edo people of West Africa began settling in the rainforests of what is now southern Nigeria.

The early Edo people were ruled by men called Ogisos, which means 'sky-kings'.