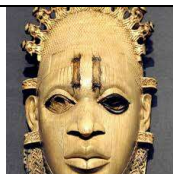
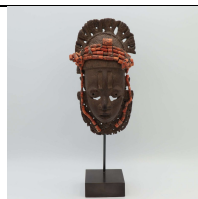


Artefacts

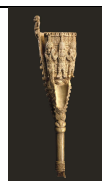
Masks were made for use in ritual ceremonies and represented a link to the spirit world.



Coral beads had a special significance in traditional Edo customs. Chiefs would wear necklaces of coral beads and the Oba would wear necklaces and collars.



The double bell or Egogo, was used by Oba to scare away evil spirits during ceremonies.



Enquiry Question

How can we know so much about the Kingdom of Benin?

Key Vocabulary

Ogiso	The title used by the early rulers of Igodomigodo. It means 'kings of the sky'. There was believed to be 31 Ogiso rulers.
Oba	The title used by Eweka. Eweka was from the Yoruba people and Oba is their word for 'king'.
Edo	The name given to the kingdom of Igodomigodo by Oba Ewaka. The people also became known and 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.



Key Events

AD 400	The Yoruba people start using iron tools, which enable them to clear the forestland effectively. 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 is what now Nigeria is.
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 <u>nobody</u> 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.
AD 1489	It was only when Portuguese contacted the kingdom of Benin that the name 'Benin' began to be used.

Kingdom of Benin