



Outstanding Adventure

Overview

In this unit, we will learn about the continent of Africa, with a key focus on geography and history. We will be learning about the location of Africa and identifying its largest countries and exploring its culture. Alongside this geography element, we will study the Early Benin era.



Benin

Many people lived in villages in the rainforest, where they worked as farmers. They cleared the forest to grow crops and built houses from mud, wood and leaves. There were also potters and blacksmiths who made simple pots, weapons and tools. These people were known as the Benin tribe. They traded goods (rather than money) with merchants from Europe and with other African kingdoms.



Benin was famous for its arts, which showed animals, people and the gods they worshipped. This artwork teaches us a lot about their lives. Craft workers used ivory, coral, brass (this could only be used in the palace because it was so precious), wood, clay and plant fibres. They made beautiful plaques, masks and statues and often depicted Europeans in their art.

Africa

There are fifty four countries in Africa and the five largest are:- Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Libya and Chad. Benin is located in modern-day Nigeria.

Africa is known for its warm and sunny climate, but not all of it is hot. Some parts, like the Sahara Desert, are extremely dry and hot, while other areas, like the rainforests in Central Africa, get lots of rain and are always lush and green. Africa is very diverse, with over 1,000 different languages spoken. Some of the popular languages are Swahili, Arabic, and Zulu. People in Africa have different customs, foods, and ways of living, but they all share a deep connection to nature and family.

Outstanding Africa

Animals

Africa is home to some amazing animals. The "Big Five" safari animals are a group of five iconic animals often seen on safaris in Africa. They are:

1. **Lion** - Known as the "King of the Jungle," lions are large, powerful cats that live in groups called prides.
2. **Elephant** - The largest land animal on Earth, elephants have big ears and long trunks that they use for drinking, picking up food, and communicating.
3. **Buffalo** - Also called African buffalo, these strong, thick-skinned animals often move in large herds for protection.
4. **Leopard** - A big cat known for its beautiful spotted coat, leopards are great climbers and can often be seen resting in trees.
5. **Rhinoceros** - Rhinos have thick, tough skin and one or two horns on their snouts. They are known for being strong and protective.



Vocabulary

Artefacts: objects relating to the time period

BC / BCE: Before Christ / Before Common Era

Benin: an ancient African kingdom, located in modern-day Nigeria

Coral: a hard substance made from the bones of small sea creatures

Elected: chosen

Exiled: sent away

Ivory: elephant tusks

Merchants: people who buy and sell goods

Misruling: to rule badly

Plaque: an ornament, usually hung on the wall

Restore: bring back

Security: safety

Trading: exchanging goods

Vast: huge