

Africa's Past

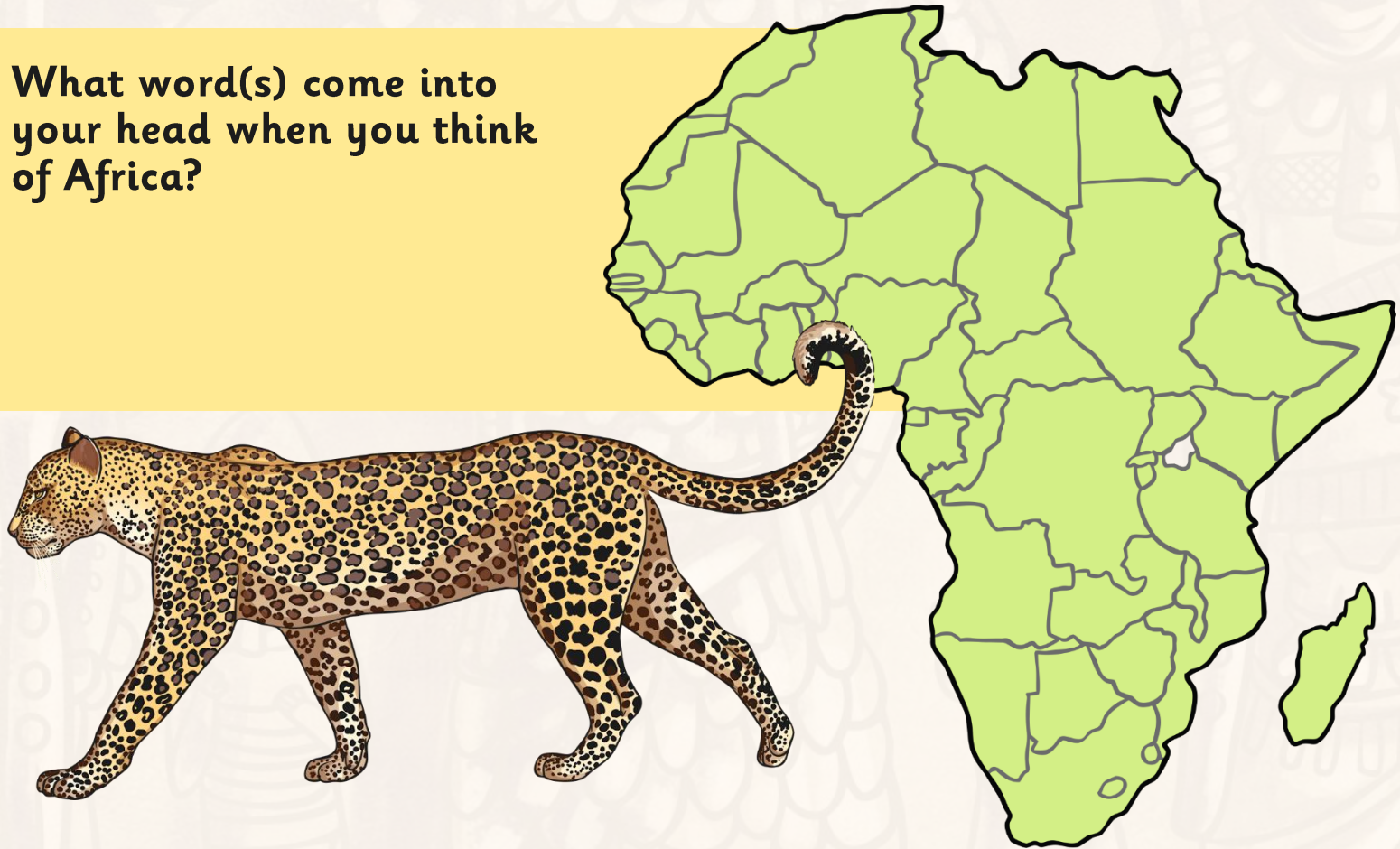


twinkl



What Does Africa Mean to You?

What word(s) come into your head when you think of Africa?



What Does Africa Mean to You?

Images of Africa



What questions do you have about these images?
Do any of them surprise you?

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What Does Africa Mean to You?

Africa is a huge continent with a large variety of physical features, climates and countries. Just like Europe, which has a diverse range of countries and people that live there, it would be impossible to describe Africa in a few words.

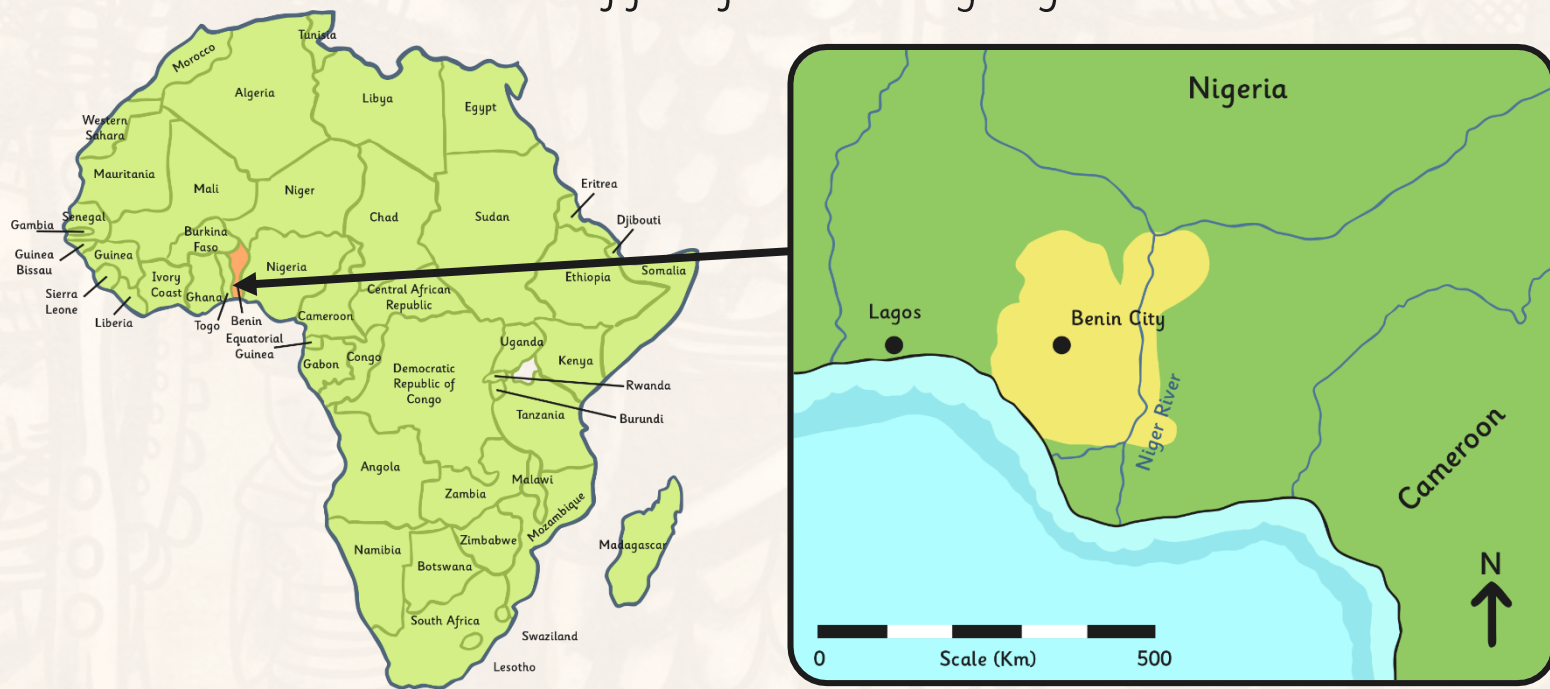
Africa has an extremely interesting history – a part of which we shall learn about in this unit.



Mapping Africa

The ancient Kingdom of Benin was in what is now Nigeria. Modern Benin is a country next to Nigeria – don't be confused between the two!

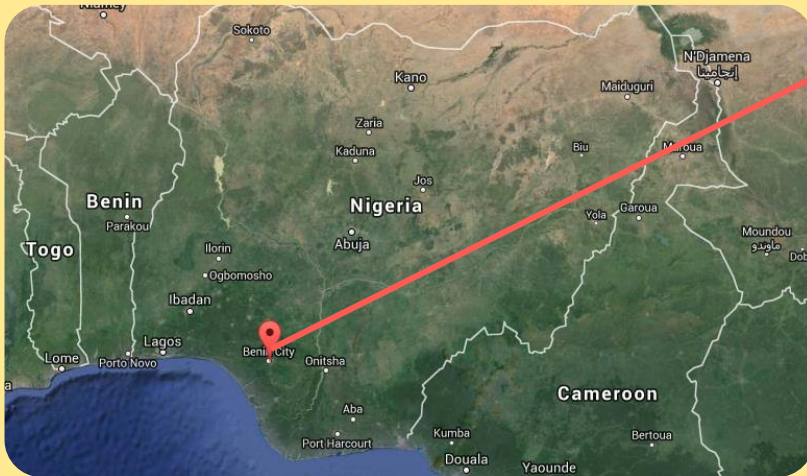
Located entirely within what is now Nigeria, the Kingdom of Benin stretched from Lagos in the west to beyond the River Niger in the east, an area that equates to about a fifth of modern-day Nigeria.



Mapping Africa

Look on [Google Maps](#).

1. What does the terrain of Nigeria look like?
2. Locate Nigeria on your map of Africa.
 - Can you mark Benin City on your map?
 - Where is the town of Ife?
 - The city of Lagos?
 - Can you draw where the River Niger is?
 - Can you name any other countries in Africa?



Source: Map data, Google, 2015



How Did the Benin Kingdom Develop?

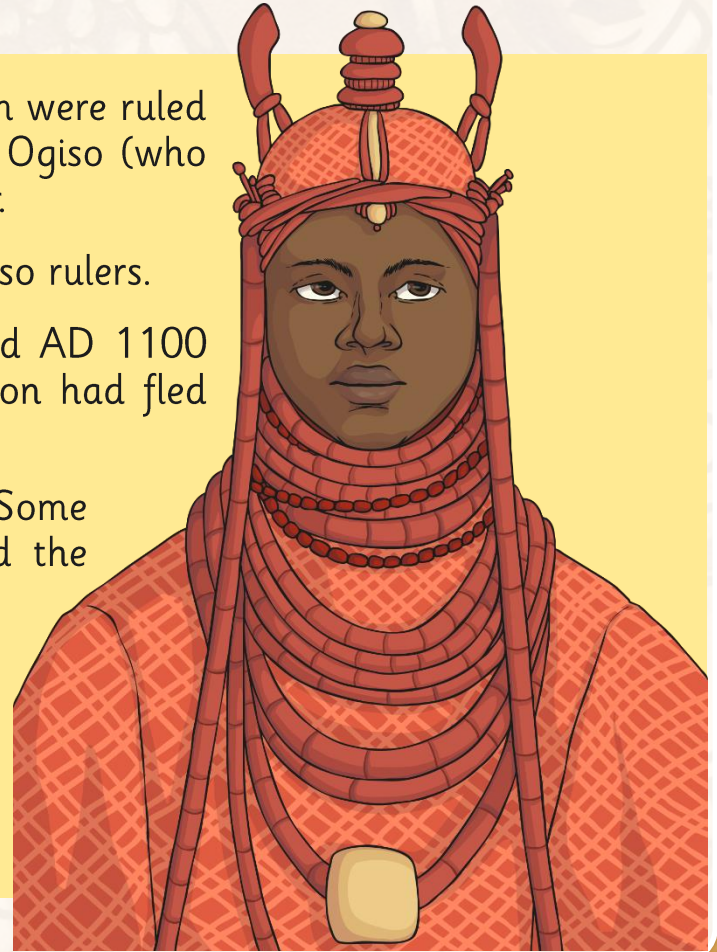
The original people and founders of the Benin Kingdom were ruled by the Ogiso (meaning 'Kings of the Sky'). The first Ogiso (who was called Igodo) became very popular as a good ruler.

Altogether it is thought that there were around 31 Ogiso rulers.

The Ogiso dynasty eventually came to an end around AD 1100 after the last Ogiso (Owodo) died, but because his son had fled from Igodomigodo, there was nobody to rule.

A battle ensued about who should take control. Some people believe that the chiefs of Igodomigodo asked the Yoruba people of the nearby holy city of Ife for help.

In AD 1180, Eweka became the new ruler of Igodomigodo, and changed its name to Edo. He also called himself the Oba (the Yoruba word for king) so Owodo became the last Ogiso of the Benin Kingdom, and the Oba dynasty began.



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Activity

Look at the information about each of these events on your Events in Africa's History Activity Sheet. Cut out each card. Sort these important events of Africa's history into chronological order.

Kingdom of Ghana develops
c. AD 300

Kingdom of Benin develops
c. AD 900

The slave trade increases rapidly
c. AD 1600

17 African countries declare independence
c. AD 1960

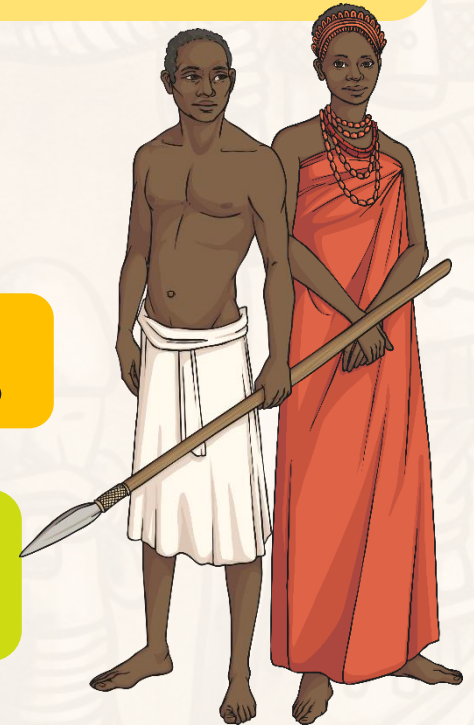
Kingdom of Zimbabwe develops
c. AD 1100

The first humans
1.6 million years ago

The ancient Egyptians
c. 3000 BC

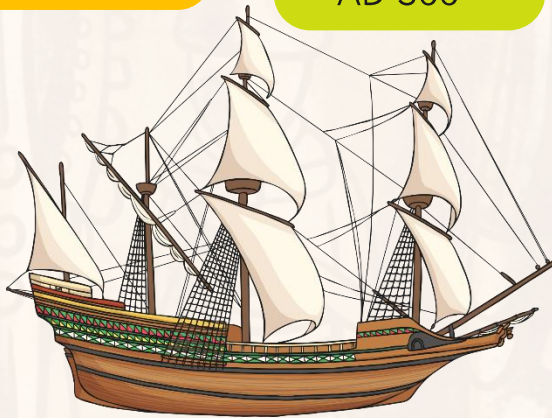
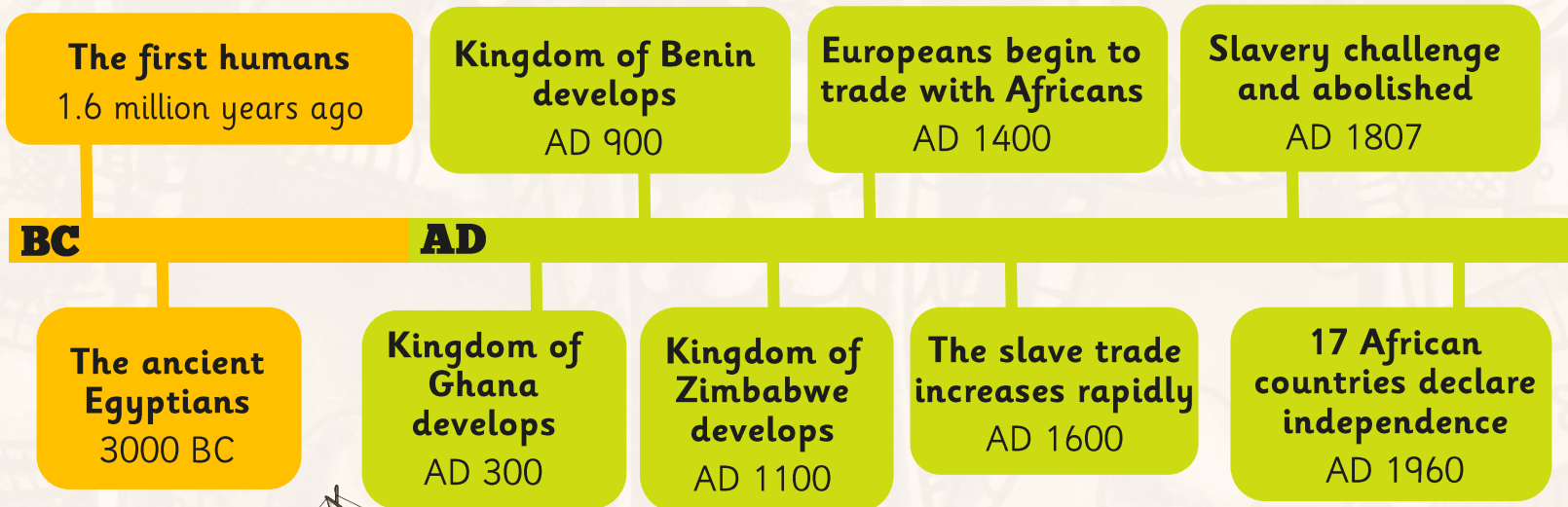
Europeans begin to trade with Africans
c. AD 1400

Slavery challenge and abolished
c. AD 1807



Africa's Past

Check what you thought against this timeline. Does anything surprise you?



←→
What do you think has happened in Africa since the Europeans began to trade with Africans in the 15th century up to 1960?

