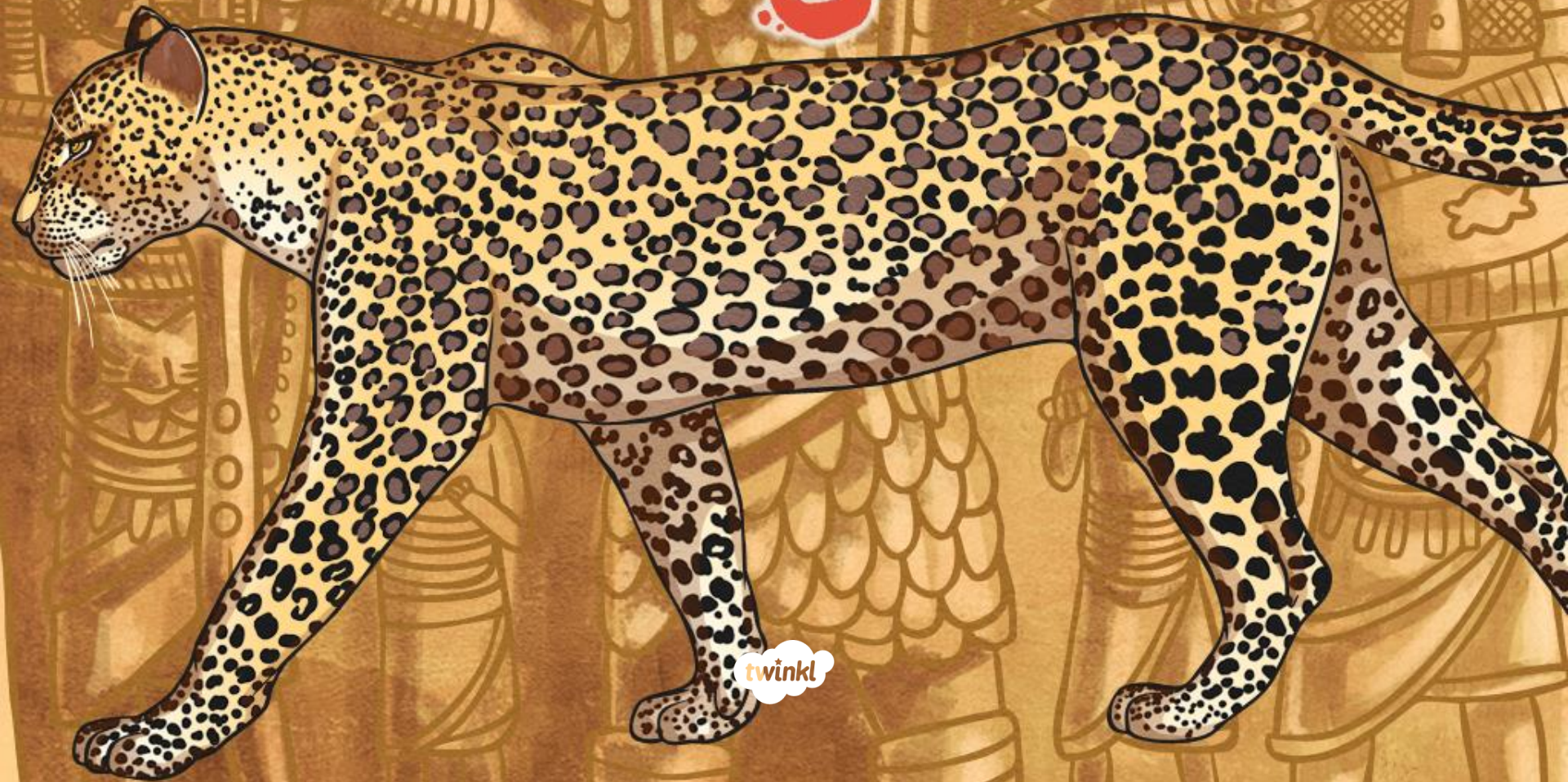


Religion



twinkl

Odd One Out

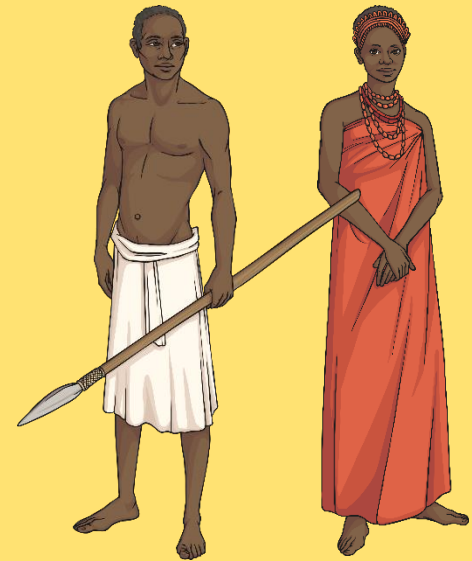
Which one is the odd one out?



Ancient Egypt



The Maya Civilisation



Benin Kingdom

That's right Ancient Egypt and Benin Kingdom are both African civilisations.

Odd One Out

Which one is the odd one out?



Oba



King



Police Officer

The Oba and King are both responsible for leading a nation of people.

Odd One Out

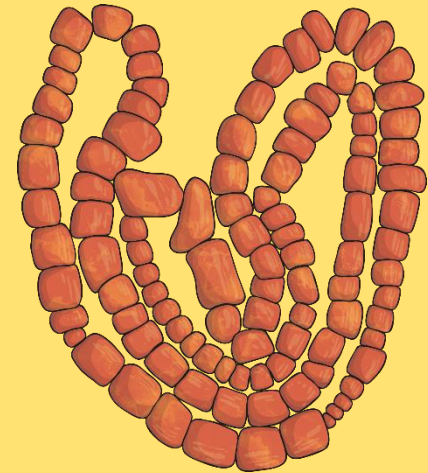
Which one is the odd one out?



Pearl



Bronze



Coral

Coral and bronze were materials often used in jewellery and artworks in the Benin Kingdom.

Odd One Out

Which one is the odd one out?



River Niger



River Nile



River Thames

The River Niger and River Nile are both African rivers.

Religious Artefacts

Activity

1. Look at the picture.
2. Write three adjectives (describing words) that you could use to describe it.
3. Ask two questions about this object.



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Benin Beliefs



In ancient Benin, religious beliefs were centred around **rituals** and **ceremonies**, and a Creator God name Osanobua. There were lots of other gods that were his children.

Connection: *Do you know any other civilisations that had lots of gods?*

Ceremonies were intended to make the Oba seem powerful and great, and were led by a priest (**ohen**). Through these ceremonies, the Benin people practised their beliefs about the gods.

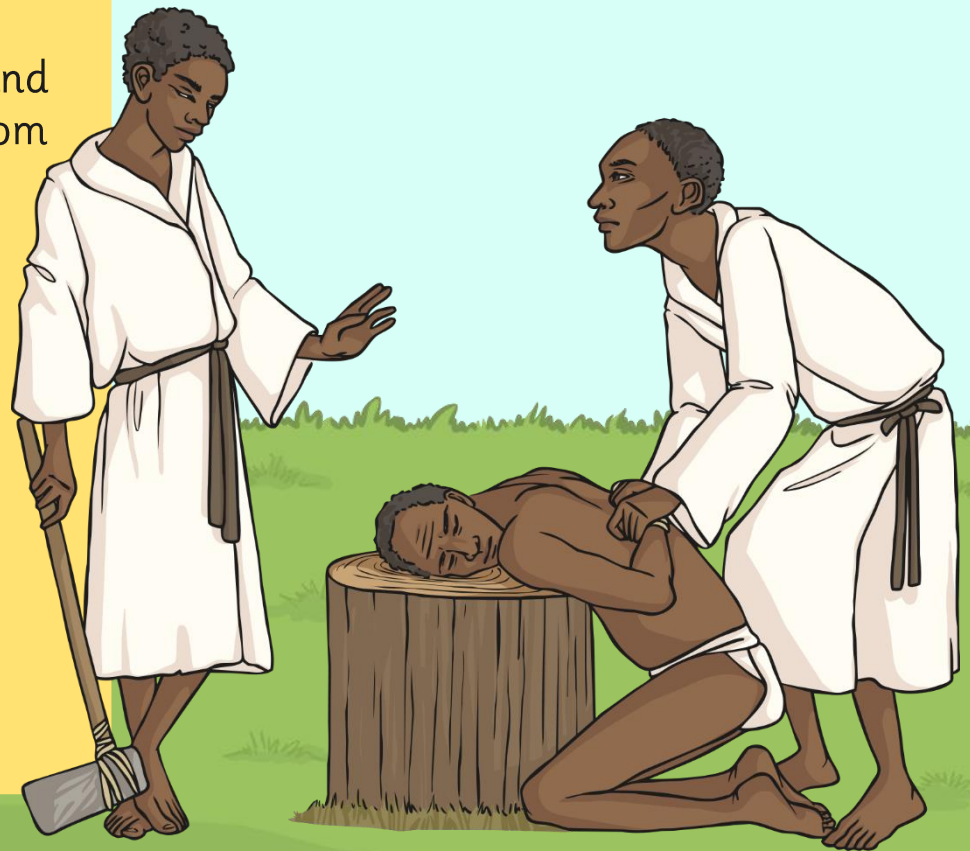


Benin Beliefs



The Benin people made **human sacrifices**. Usually criminals and prisoners were used for this, although archaeologists have found the bodies of women at the bottom of wells, dressed in jewellery and fine clothes, which gives us evidence of other sacrifices.

Connection: *Do you know any other civilisations that made human sacrifices?*



Benin Beliefs



The Benin people believed that after death, people may be either **reincarnated** as another person, or that the spirit joined the Spirit World. The Creator God decided what would happen to a spirit. In the Spirit World, the Benin people believed that the spirits lived in villages together, like on earth, watching the behaviours of their families and punishing bad behaviour.

Connection: *Do you know any other religions that believe in reincarnation?*



Benin Beliefs



Animals in the Benin Religion

The Benin people were **animists**. This meant that they believed that animals and objects had **souls** and **spirits**.

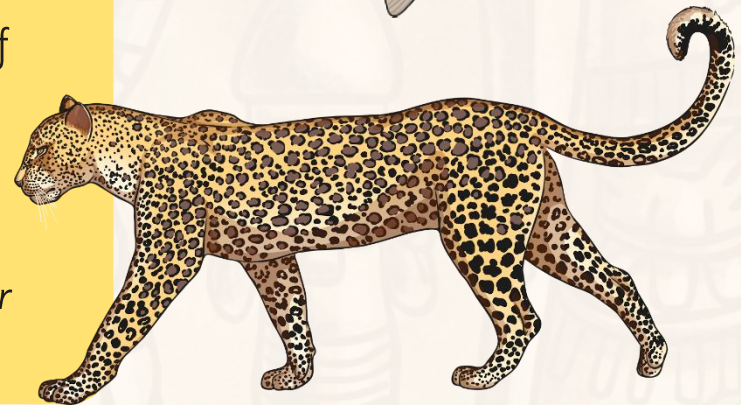
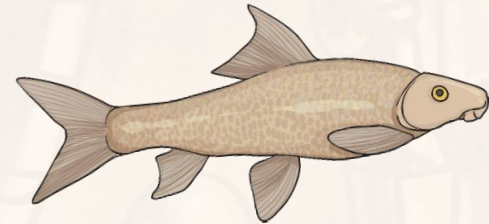
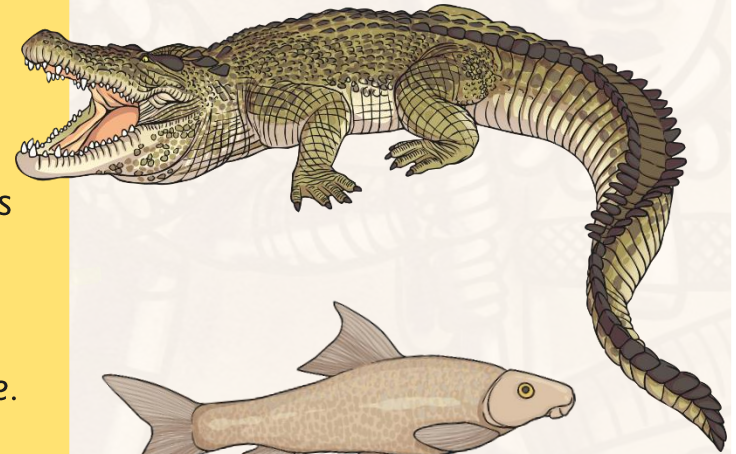
At one time, people **sacrificed** leopards to the gods because they were the symbol of the Oba, so sacrificing them, they believed, would keep the Kingdom safe. Many **warriors** wore necklaces of leopards' teeth to keep them protected during battle.

Crocodiles were known as 'policemen of the waters' and associated with Olokun, god of the water.

Snakes symbolised the power of Osun, the god of nature.

Eagles and mudfish also featured regularly in artworks.

Contrasts: *How are animals treated by people today? Can you think of any religions that use or mention animals in their worship?*



Benin Beliefs



Heads in the Benin Religion

The Benin people believed that the head was the most important part of a person. People thought that this was where intelligence was found.

When an important person died, artists would pay tribute by making a head of the person. People believed that having a head would mean that the spirit could be contacted.

Obas' heads were made from brass.

Contrasts: *How do different religions today act when someone has died?*



Guild of Craftsmen



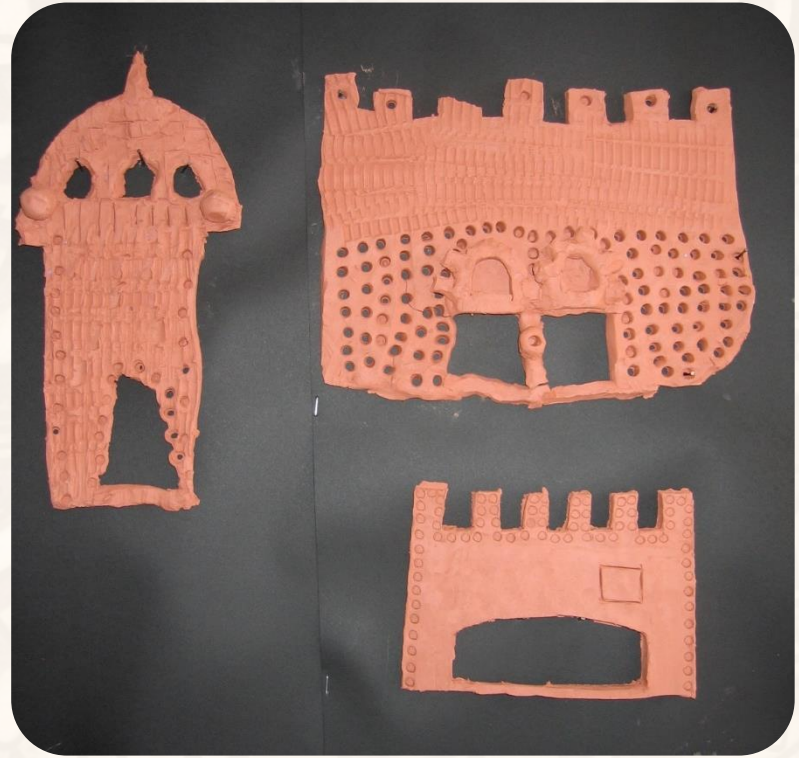
Benin had guilds (groups) of people who had special skills. For example, there were guilds of leopard hunters, astrologers and drummers.

Imagine you have been invited to become part of a guild of craftsmen.

Activity

Draw an **animal tile** to be used as a gift to the gods at one of the Oba's ceremonies.

Look at these 'castle' tiles to help you imagine what you are going to make.



If Objects Could Talk...

Activity

Imagine that this head could speak.

What three things do you think it would want to tell 21st century people about the **Benin Kingdom?**



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