

Year Group 5/6: African Mediaeval Kingdoms

Year group:	5&6	Term:	AUTUMN 2	Theme:	Ethiopia and Benin			
Prior learning					Cross-curricular and visits/visitors			
Know that: Christianity spread across the Roman/Byzantian Empire and into Africa Aksum was a powerful Christian empire. Terrace farming, salt mining and trade utilising control of the Red Sea made Aksum powerful. Christianity in Aksum began at the same time as Christianity in the Roman Empire.					Disciplinary Knowledge			
					Historians use special skills – this is called disciplinary knowledge. Chronology Identifying where periods studied fit into a chronological framework by noting connections, trends and contrasts over time. Sequencing events and periods through the use of appropriate terms relating to the passing of time (<i>empire</i>) In depth study of different periods, using appropriate vocabulary when describing the passing of time and historical concepts Events, People and Changes Understanding significant aspects of history – nature of ancient civilisations; expansion and dissolution of empires; characteristic features of societies; achievements and follies of mankind. Establishing a narrative showing connections and trends within and across periods of study. Presenting a clear narrative within and across periods that notes connections, contrasts and trends over time. Begin to recognise and describe the nature and extent of diversity, change and continuity and suggest relationships between causes. Communication Produce detailed structured work to select and deploy information and make appropriate use of historical terminology and contrasting evidence. Enquiry, Interpretation and Using Sources Understand the methods of historical enquiry, how evidence is used to make historical claims, and <i>begin</i> to discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed. Use sources as a basis for research from which they will begin to use information as evidence to test hypotheses Begin to recognise why some events, people and changes might be judged as more historically significant than others. Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of different sources and that different versions of past events often exist, giving some reasons for this. Begin to evaluate sources to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed, and establish evidence for particular enquiries.			
Knowledge - Content								
1. An old empire falls; a new empire rises – Reasons for the fall of the Aksumite Empire and the growth of the Ethiopian Empire – its origin story and its difficulties.								
2. Zara Yaqob – The stabilising of power under a new king. How the king brought order and loyalty by establishing his authority and rule.								
3. The trappings of power – The establishment of the Christian Church using art, relics, books. The display of power through rules, rituals, art and regalia.								
4. A rainforest kingdom – Oral traditions of the peoples of West Africa. The Oba of Benin. The challenges of living in a rainforest region.								
5. The Leopard of the House – The power of the oba. The rise of Oba Ewuare. How Oba Ewuare established and maintained his power.								
6. Rules, rituals and regalia – The crafts of the Edo and their beliefs. The rules created by the oba. The importance of honouring the oba.								
Key Vocabulary					Challenging Vocabulary			
transform	furtively	feverish	Christendom	trapping of power	oral traditions	smelting	society	spectacle
millet	Zara Yaqob	banquet	ambassadors	deftly	maze	okra	ceremonial	gong
spectacular		distributed	brocade	horns	creaks	hesitant	guilds	responsible
befell	entreaty	hides	relief	hornbills	canoes	Ile-Ife	turret	apprentices
felled	heartfelt	tendons	psalter	pangolin	superior	protruding	regalia	
quarries	tonsured	rations	psalms	reclaim	Uzama	gaping	artisans	
Solomonic	lavish	hive of activity	miniature	Edo	exploiting	mystical	resemble	Igue
appointed	forefathers	activity	parasol	intricately	smelt	earthly	perch	
overthrown	hierarchy	numerous	mediaeval	virtues	iron ore	coral	gallery	
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