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| Key Vocabulary |
| Americas  | North, South and Central America |
| Cowrie shells | Rare kind of seashell, which Europeans used as money to trade with African rulers |
| Empires | Groups of countries or areas that are ruled by another country |
| Enslaved people  | People who are the legal property of someone else, and are forced to obey them |
| Guild | Group of people who all do the same job, usually a craft, in which beginners learn the skills to become masters |
| Looted | Took property by force |
| Moat | Long trench dug around an area and filled with water to keep invaders out |
| Oba | King or chief |
| Officials | People with authority and public duties |
| Plantations | Large area of land where crops are grown |

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| Timeline of events |
| 900 CE | Lots of villages join together and make a kingdom known as Igodomigodo, ruled by the Ogiso. |
| Approximately 900–1460 CE | A 15 km moat and 16,000 km of walls are constructed around the kingdom. |
| 1180 CE | The Oba royal family takes over from the Ogisos and begins to rule the kingdom; they are treated like gods. |
| 1440 CE | Led by Oba Ewuare the Great, Benin wins more land. |
| 1485 CE | The Portuguese visit the Benin Kingdom. |
| 1514 CE | Oba Esigie sets up trading links with the Portuguese and other European visitors. |
| 1700 CE | A series of civil wars in Benin leads to the kingdom declining in power. |
| 1807 CE | Britain passes a law to end the slave trade, which further weakens the kingdom. |
| 1897 CE | Benin City (in modern-day Nigeria) is destroyed by British troops, and comes under Britain’s control. |

