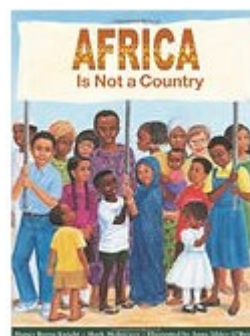
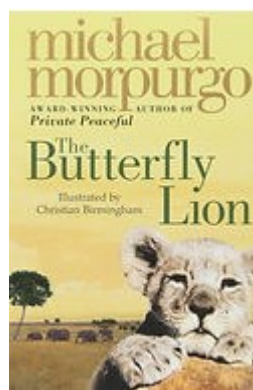
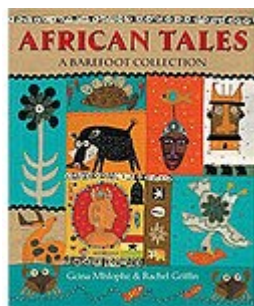
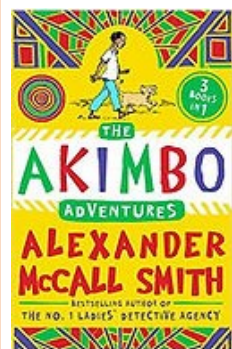


### Theme Overview

“Come Fly With Me! Africa” is a thematic unit based around the continent of Africa, with a key focus on geography and history. The children will be learning about the location of Africa and identifying its largest countries. Alongside this geography element, we will study the Early Benin era. We will also learn about African culture, in particular typical African food and folk tales.

### Recommended Reading...



Access books online for free through Hampshire School Library Service. Ask your child's teacher for their barcode/login information.

### What we should know...

### Inside 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.

### Life in the Kingdom of 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.

### How do we know about Benin?

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. Often the Europeans were shown holding guns! Why do you think this is?

### Kings of Benin

The Kings of Benin were the Ogisos. When they were exiled for misruling the kingdom, a young man called Eweke became king and began a new dynasty called the Obas. The Obas were very powerful and they owned all the land in Benin and were treated like gods. Under their rule, the Benin Kingdom began to grow bigger and richer.

### Timeline

At the start of Benin period (about 900 AD / CE), villages joined together for better security and trading. In the 1100s, there were power struggles and a new ruler from a neighbouring kingdom was brought in by the people to restore peace. In the 1500s, the warrior kings built up vast armies and the empire grew. After the death of the last warrior king, the Benin empire began to shrink. By the 1800s, the Benin empire was struggling, and it fell in 1897 when the British army invaded.



## **Key Vocabulary you should discuss with your child**

**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

## **Concept Flow**

- To know the location of the continent of Africa and identify its largest countries
- To learn about the Benin Early Period
- To know about some aspects of African culture

Please talk to your children about the information on this sheet. The more children discuss their learning the more likely they are to embed the learning to their memory. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.