

Rhema Ejiroghene Jss1 Governor History Mid Assignment.

1. Discuss about the Benin culture and traditions?

Benin's history is one of great violence and tragedy, but also of perseverance. Today, the region is one of the most politically stable in West Africa and continues to overcome the torrid legacies of its past. The culture is eclectic, largely a result of many different ethnic groups in the country, but is also strongly connected to the often misunderstood and misrepresented Voodoo religion.

History

Benin was once a great African kingdom, but it was transformed into the largest supplier of humans for the slave trade. The Portuguese arrived in the area in the 15th century, which marked the fall of one of Africa's most powerful territories. At the height of the slave trade, tens of thousands of people were being deported at a time and Benin's waterfront earned the name the Slave Coast.

In 1872, the country was colonized by the French and in 1904; it became Dahomey, part of French West Africa. With the wave of decolonization gaining momentum in the late 1950's, Dahomey became a self-governing state in 1958 and finally gained full independence in 1960.

Post decolonization saw several military coups. The last of these uprisings resulted in a strict Marxist government which ultimately transformed into an oppressive dictatorship. This ended in 1990 when the newly renamed Republic of Benin held its first free and fair elections.

Today, democracy is still the dominant political system, with the elected president heading the government. The country's economy is still severely underdeveloped though, with a large portion of the country's population living in abject poverty. More about Benin's past can be learned at the Abomey Historical Museum just outside of Porto Novo.

Culture

Benin's culture is as rich and diverse as its landscape. With strong religious roots to inform most of the traditions, Benin's culture is certainly one of the most unique and interesting in Africa.

Music is of utmost importance in the country. The rhythmic sounds of drumming can be heard at most festivals and religious events. Not just a way to celebrate, music in Benin provides a way to express religious fervor. The country is also home to notable musicians, including the internationally acclaimed singer Angelique Kidjo.

The strong influence of the Voodoo religion is an important part of Benin, which tells of healing and rejuvenating talismans ('fetishes'). The tradition of oral storytelling is still alive and well, which accounts for the absence of Beninese written literature, even though the culture prides itself in its ancient stories and folklore.

As with most clothing in West Africa, the textiles are vibrant and ornately decorated. Each cultural group, be it Fon, Yoruba, or Edo, has unique but recognizable attire, and in most tribes, different colors and patterns are worn for different occasions. Attending a cultural gathering in Benin, especially during a local festival, is a feast for the eyes.

2.(2) Discuss the history and tradition of Igbo Ukwu.

The archaeology of Igbo-Ukwu is the study of an archaeological site located in a town of the same name: Igbo-Ukwu, an Igbo town in Anambra State in southeastern Nigeria. Archaeological excavations revealed bronze artifacts dated to the 9th century A.D. The site was initially discovered by Isiah Anozie in 1939 while digging a well in his compound. As a result of these finds, three excavation areas at Igbo-Ukwu were opened in 1959 and 1964 by Charles Thurstan Shaw: Igbo Richard, Igbo Isaiah, and Igbo Jonah. Excavations revealed more than 700 high quality artifacts of copper, bronze and iron, as well as about 165,000 glass, carnelian and stone beads, pottery, textiles and ivory beads, cups, and horns. The Igbo-Ukwu finds are the oldest bronze artifacts known in West Africa and were manufactured centuries before the emergence of other known bronze producing centers such as those of Ife and Benin. The bronzes include numerous ritual vessels, pendants, crowns, breastplates, staff ornaments, swords, and fly-whisk handles.[1]

3.write significances of Benin culture and tradition.

- 1.The artwork of Benin reflects of the history cultures traditional of Benin people
2. It projected the Benin people and Nigeria to foreign countries
3. It expose 1 of the earliest civilization in Nigeria to the outside world.

4.)(4) Write about the people and occupational activities of Igbo Ukwu people

Igbo Ukwu is a popular town in Aguata LGA of Anambra state. Igbo Ukwu is located some 40 kilometers south east of Onitsha.

The Igbo Ukwu Culture

The Igbo Ukwu archeological or historical discovery was due to a chance discovery, following the digging of well for water by one Mr Isaiah Anozie in 1938. He found a number of bronze objects while trying to make a water tank in his compound. On hearing this discovery, the federal department of antiquities (FDA) of the colonial government arranged for the digging of

the site between 1959 and 1964 through Prof Thurston Shaw, who was asked to study the discovered objects .

Following this instructions, diggings were carried out in three compounds that were near each other.

They were the compounds of ;

Isaiah Anozie

Richard Anozie and

Jonah Anozie.

The archeologist, Prof Thurston Shaw named the sites;

Igbo Isaiah site

Igbo Richard site

Igbo Jonah site.

Occupational Activities of the Igbo Ukwu people

They were farmers, traders, smelters and arts technologists in pottery, bronze, copper and iron works.

5.) What are the similarities between the Ile-Ife people, Benin people and Igbo Ukwu people and tradition?

Ife heads and figures have profuse scarification while benin heads and marks have marks on

their foreheads. Most benin art works are stylized while ife arts works are naturalistic.

Igbo ukwu arts are mostly utility objects with ornaments while Ile ife arts are mostly heads to dignify the king.