

Slavery Jayden History

- ① The historical kingdom of Benin was established in the forested region of west Africa in the 1200s CE. According to history, the Edo people of Southern Nigeria founded Benin. They no longer wanted to be ruled by their kings, known as the ogisos.

Two things have influenced Benin's culture more than anything else: voodoo and slavery. Some 60 percent of Beninese follow the voodoo religion - with many cultural aspects and religious syncretism spilling over into other aspects of culture as well.

- ② The people of Igbo-ukwu, ancestors of present day Igbo, were the earliest smithers of copper and its ~~metal~~ ^{alloy} in west Africa, working the metal through hammering, bending, twisting and incising. The inhabitants of Igbo-ukwu had a metalworking art that flourishes as early as the ninth century. Three sites have been excavated, revealing hundreds of traditions.

- ③ Benin's culture remains deeply influenced by the legacy of the slave trade as well as by voodoo, the national religion. Explore festivals, fetishes, markets and palaces to gain a greater insight into this fascinating culture.

- ④ The people of Igbo-ukwu, ancestors of present day Igbo, were the earliest smithers of copper and its alloys in west Africa, working the metal through hammering, bending, twisting and incising.

- ⑤ The bronze works of both Benin and produced through the cire-perdue technique. Ornamentation with bead is common to both art traditions. Apart from bronze, the art includes terra-cotta and stone while Benin art included ivory and wood.