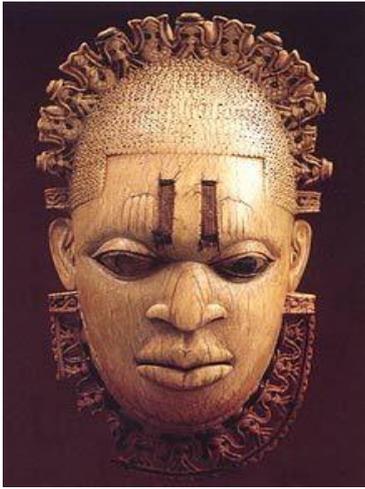


# Year 4 Topic Spring 2019 - BENIN KINGDOM



**Literacy:** Our reading will include *Diary of an Edo Princess*; comparing African creation stories; themes in folktales, using a collection written by Nelson Mandela; poetry for children by Maya Angelou. Children will write their own diary entries, a brief play script and an explanation text. Spelling will focus on prefixes, suffixes and root words. In grammar lessons, we will explore sentence types and associated conjunctions, use of different tenses, expanded noun phrases and adverbial phrases.

**Maths:** We will be working on consolidating all times tables facts, and securing understanding of multiples and factor pairs; we will compare equivalent fractions and learn to add or subtract fractions with the same denominator; we will also write decimal equivalents for tenths and hundredths.



**Science:**

Pupils will be looking at food chains and digestion in the first half term; in the second half term, they will work on electricity, constructing a simple series electrical circuit and learning to recognise that a switch opens and closes a circuit.

**History and Geography:**

Our topic area, the Kingdom of Benin, will cover the early rainforest settlements, growth of the Edo Empire, trade with Portugal and defeat by the British in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We will consider historical sources, lifestyle, belief systems and art. We will also learn about the climate zones, seasons and vegetation of West Africa; the key features of the River Niger and the water cycle.



**RE:** We will consider what religions teach about the natural world and how we can care for it.

**French:** Days of the week, months, seasons, birthdays; foods and expressing likes and dislikes

**PE:** Yoga, Dance, Gymnastics

**Art/DT:** We will develop techniques using pencil and charcoal drawing using scenes from Benin plaques; watercolour painting; pulling and fraying fabrics and tie die to create Benin inspired patterns; clay models of rainforest fruit or animals.

**Music:** We will explore polyrhythms using djembes, the use of call and response, part-singing and singing in a round; timbre in rainforest composition using graphic scores; origins of jazz and blues, songs of slavery.

