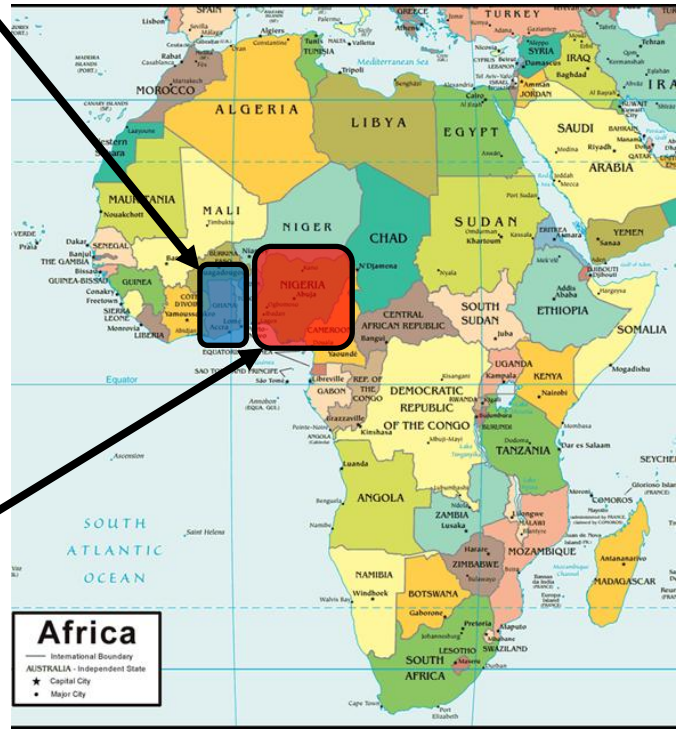
Year 8 history knowledge organiser – : The Asante and Benin kingdoms

Asante key terms	
Akan people	A group of people who emerged in West Africa and speak the Akan languages. The Asante are the main group of the Akan peoples.
Golden Stool	A sacred symbol of the Asante. The stool is believed to contain the soul of the Asante.
Kente cloth	A type of silk and cotton fabric made by the Akan people. It was the cloth of kings.
Gold Coast	The name given to the Asante Kingdom by the British because of the amount of gold there. When it gained independence from Britain, it became known as Ghana.
Asantehene	The leader of the Asante Kingdom.
Kumasi	The capital and most important city in the Asante Kingdom.

The **Kingdom of Asante** was in modern-day Ghana between c.1670 and c.1896. Asante means 'because of war'.

The **Kingdom of Benin** was in modern-day Nigeria between c.1500 and c.1750.



Benin key terms	
Ogisos	'Rulers of the Sky': the name for the first rulers of the Kingdom of Benin.
Oba	The powerful ruler of the Kingdom of Benin.
Bini	The name for the people who lived in the Kingdom of Benin.
Iyoba	The mother of the Oba; the most famous Iyoba was Queen Idia, the mother of Oba Esigie.
Benin Bronzes	Metal workers in Benin made beautiful plaques, masks and statues for the Oba. These are often called 'Benin Bronzes', They are now in the British Museum.
Uzama	The group of chiefs who helped the Oba to make important decisions.

Benin timeline



~~1440~~: ~~Oba~~ Ewuare enthroned and transforms many aspects of Benin.

~~1481–1504~~: Reign of Oba Ezuola, who expands Benin's territories hugely.

~~1550~~: ~~Oba Orhogbua~~ expands Benin to the borders of Lagos. Copper casting grows rapidly at this time.

1608: Succession crisis in Benin and the kingdom's power declines through the seventeenth century.

1897: British seize Benin during the Scramble for Africa.



Asante timeline

1701: Defeat of the Denkyira and establishment of the Asante Kingdom by Osei Tutu.

1742: Conquest of new territories and the Asante gain access to forts in Accra and by the coast,

1821: Gold is adopted as the main currency in Asante.

1896: British seize Asante during the Scramble for Africa.

1900: War of the Golden Stool.