

What influenced the development of West Africa in the late 18th Century?



# How did Igbo communities respond to the Trade in Enslaved African People?

## Lesson 3



Igbo Ceramic group of figures, Af1951,01.1, The British Museum

**Think** >> **Pair** >> **Share**

**How would you protect your family  
and community from danger?**

Try and think of three examples  
of self-defence.

## Learning Intentions

We will learn...

About the **cultural, political and economic diversity** of Igboland.

To draw conclusions on the impacts that the Trade had in different communities in Igboland

To form an **opinion** on what these impacts meant for these communities.

## Success Criteria

We will be successful if we can...

**Gather** information from primary and secondary sources.

**Describe** 3 ways in which different communities protected themselves against the Slave Trade.

**Explain** the reasons behind their chosen methods of protection.

# Igboland

## Some context...

- The various Igbo-speaking communities were **historically fragmented and decentralised**, with a lot of town or village based centres of power.
- There was a **well-established network of trade** in salt from the coast to the interior and agricultural products from the interior to the coast.
- Communities were responsible for their own **defence and safety**. Their response depended on the environment they lived in.

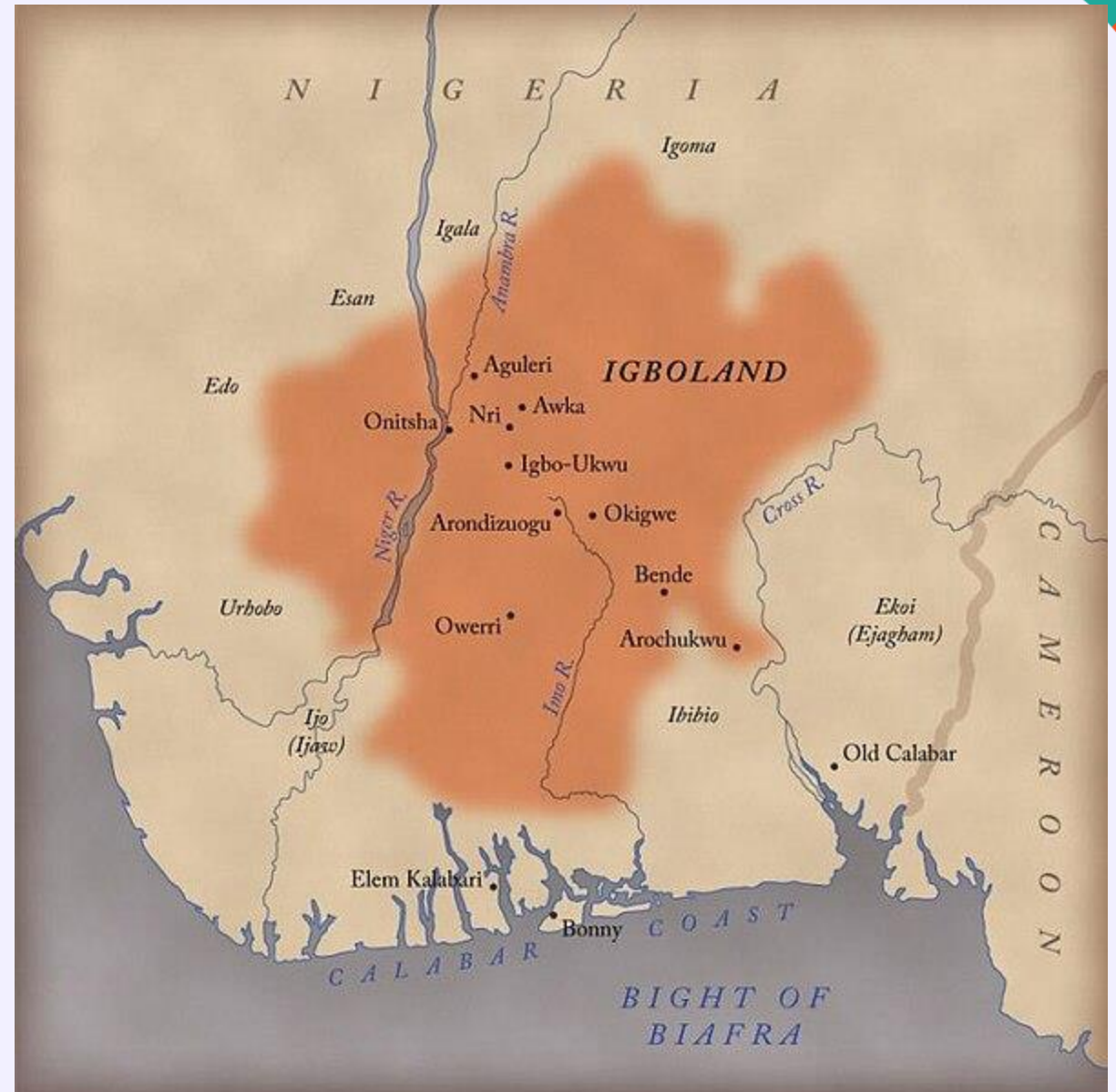


# Igboland

Some of these groups were enslaved, others participated in the trade as a form of defence.

The **major areas** we will study are:

- Western Igbo communities
- Northern Igboland – like Okigwe - which experienced the most intensive raids
- Riverine and coastal towns
- South-Eastern Igbo communities, who were the main dealers in enslaved people in the area.
- Southern Igbo communities like Owerri.





# Guided Reading

**Excerpts from 'The Drums of War' by  
John N. Oriji, Professor of African History**

Read the section of the article and answers the  
questions in the boxes in the margins.

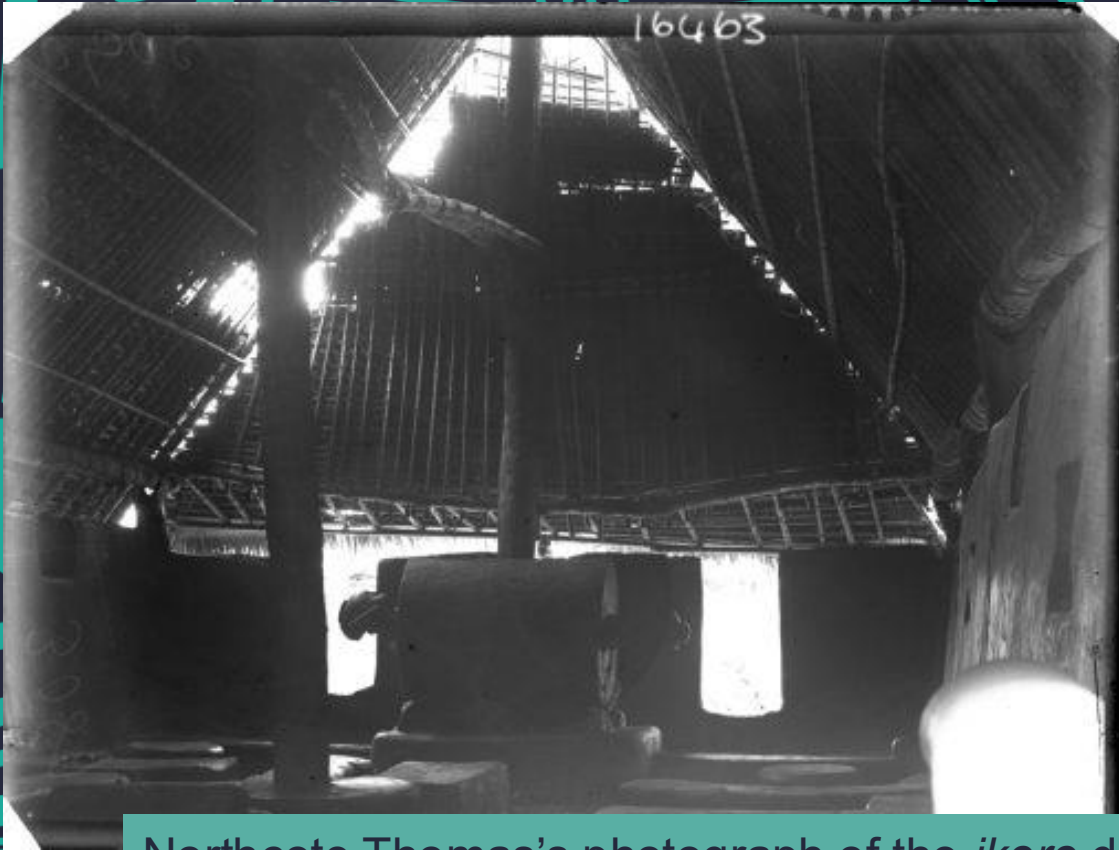


# How did Igbo communities resist?

Copy and complete the table below.

Location	How did they resist?	(In your opinion) Why like this?
Western towns		
Northern towns		
Riverine and Coastal towns		
South-Eastern towns		
Southern towns		

# Ikoro drum



Northcote Thomas's photograph of the *ikoro* drum in the *obu* in Nibo, 1911 (NWT 3089a; RAI 400.16463). This would be sounded to warn the community of attack. Right: the *ikoro* drum today. (Photograph by George Agbo). <https://re-entanglements.net/conflict/>

# Igbo speech (1910)

*Eye bi na agbo nele ali ona uhiena ono gwuo so mhi ne. Omo ovhe lasa ne na now li vho, ogbo kho oshie yele asha kha sha*

In the olden days or in the present, which one is the better to live in? We can see in the old days, a child is not allowed to go out anywhere. Now one can go everywhere. Everywhere is safe.

[https://re-entanglements.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NWT\\_302\\_Okpekpe.mp3](https://re-entanglements.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NWT_302_Okpekpe.mp3)

## Task

Answer the following question in as much detail as you can. Try to mention **at least 3 ways** in which these communities resisted.

**In which ways did the Igbo Communities respond to the trade in enslaved African people?**

