THE NOK CULTURE

THE CULTURE, ARTIFACTS AND OCCUPATION OF THE NOK PEOPLE.

The Nok culture is an early Iron Age culture whose material remains are named after the Ham village of Nok in Kaduna state of Nigeria where their famous terracotta sculptures were discovered in 1928.

The Nok culture appeared in Northern Nigeria around 1500 BC.

The Nok culture was famous for being one of earliest civilizations that blossomed in the Nigeria geographical area, one of its main features was the abundance of terracotta sculptures made by the people who settled in the area in the past.

There were four prominent sites from which excavations were carried out, and the ancient remains discovered have been the basis of our knowledge of the sophisticated culture that existed in the area.

The sites from where the terracotta heads were found are:

(1) The Nok village
(2) Jemaa in Kaduna State
(3) Taruga in the Federal Capital Territory
(4) Katsina Ala in Benue State.

The areas where these terracotta objects were found are called the Nok Culture area.

ARTEFACTS

Artefacts are material remains of human beings, they can be tools, weapons, ornaments or any materials that is of historical or archaeological importance.

The Nok artefacts

Examples of the Nok artifacts are:

(1) Nok Figure
(2) Nok head
(3) Elephant head
(4) A man riding s house
(5) Grinding stone
The Nok people and their occupational Activities

Much is not known about the Nok people. From their remains, it can be deduced that they were a group of people who had a good means of livelihood and a good system of government.

**Occupational Activities**

Farming
Iron Smelters
Stone Carvers
Terracotta Sculptors
Pottery.