



# Nok Culture

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# Introduction

- The Nok was a civilization located in West Africa around 500 B.C.E.-200 AD.
- They're considered to be the oldest civilization in sub-Saharan Africa
- They're referred to as the Nok due to that being the town where their sculptures came from
- It is estimated that their civilization spread around 78,000 kilometers of Nigeria
- Inspired later cultures like the gbo-Ukwu and the Ife.



# Advancements in Agriculture

- Before the invention of iron farming and getting crops were hard for the Nok
- This is so much of a hassle that farming was the main job the Nok had to do all day
- Even when the Nok had discovered Iron, they still had to use stone tools
- Once Iron was invented, cropping and farming was way easier for the Nok, as their tools were durable, and more time was freed up for the day, allowing them to work on other things like creating baskets



# Smelting

- Smelting is a process that involves melting material and molding it
- This was how the Nok created their tools and weapons
- Axes, hoes, cleavers, arrows, and spears were created using smelting
- This made the Nok the first civilization to switch from Stone to Iron without having to learn to make other materials



# Food, Grains, and Crops

- The Nok would dead plants combined with firewood for cooking
- They also farmed grains like Pearl Millets and cowpeas
- They would eat wild fruits
- And lastly, they have been known to put honey on their food.





# Terracotta Sculptures

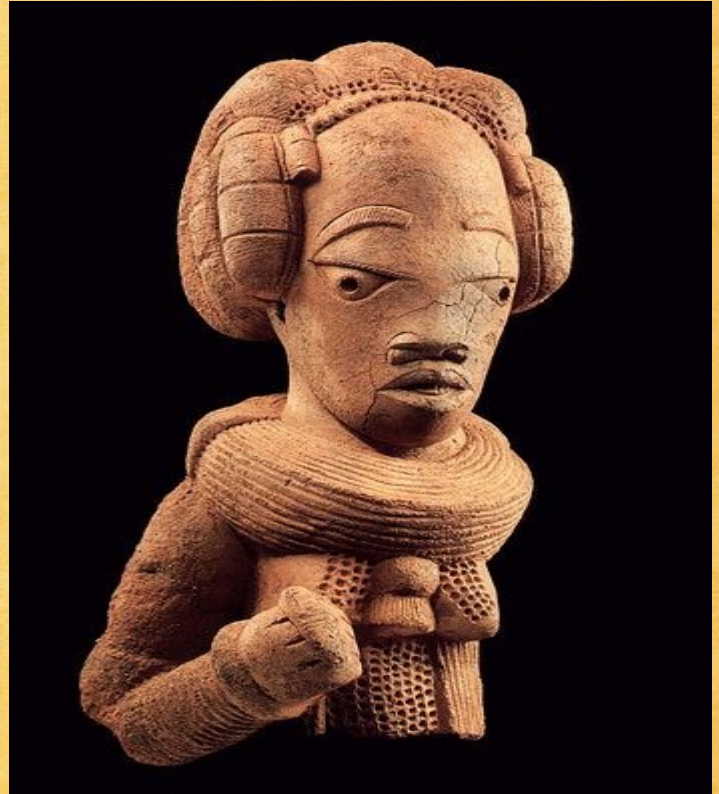
- Sculptures were the first things found about the Nok, alerting people of their existence, as well as being the most well known thing about the Nok
- They were found by Bernard Fagg in 1943
- They were made by terracotta, a clay found in the region
- They would have jewelry, hats, and facial hair on them as well as a top knot hairstyle that was popular in Nigeria



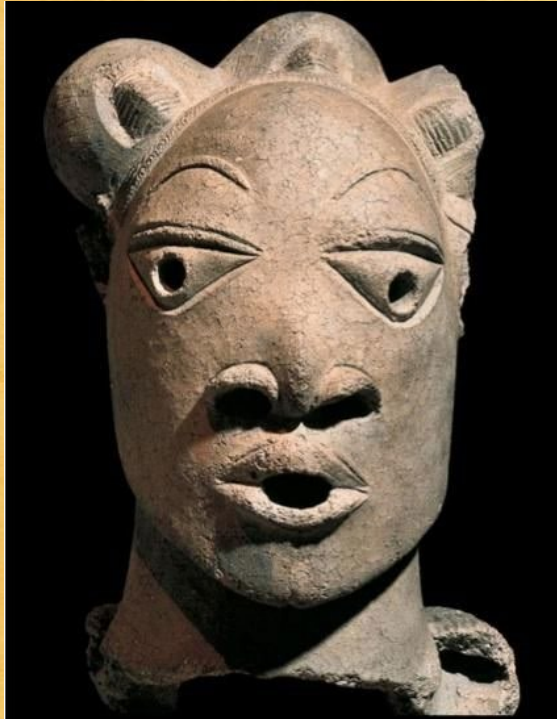


# Creation and Details of the Sculptures

- As mentioned before, the sculptures were formed using terracotta, but also had detailed noses and eyes
- Eyes, mouth, nostrils, and ear holes were made so the sculptures wouldn't crack in the oven
- Some of the sculptures have been broken over time, leaving the head as the only part
- It is believed a full terracotta sculpture would be around 120 cm.



## More Pics of Terracotta Sculptures





# Social and Political Structure of the Nok

- Although not a lot is known about the Nok, it has been said to be the influence of later Nigerian civilizations' beliefs, due to being the earliest one
- The Nok had no general monarchs, but rather clan chiefs who represented their villages
- It's been that they made have used the things mentioned before (art, plants, food)as trade.

# Conclusion

- In conclusion, the Nok has had a great importance, due to their advancements in agriculture and sculptures
- I chose to talk about the Nok due to their art
- It was hard finding information, but I had to pull through to give this civilization the representation it should have.



# References

- [https://www.worldhistory.org/Nok\\_Culture/](https://www.worldhistory.org/Nok_Culture/)
- <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/nok-culture/>
- [https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nok-culture.](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nok-culture)
- [https://dept.wofford.edu/Art\\_History/nok/Nok%20Terracottas/Nok%20Essay.html](https://dept.wofford.edu/Art_History/nok/Nok%20Terracottas/Nok%20Essay.html)