

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK NINE (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: HISTORY

CLASS: JSS1

TOPIC: HISTORICAL SITES IN NIGERIA: ILE-IFE CULTURE

Ile Ife Culture

Ile- Ife was a popular Yoruba town in the old Oyo empire and is found in present day Osun state. It is believed to be the cradle(place of origin) of the Yoruba people. For this reason, it is considered the traditional headquarters of the Yoruba. Oduduwa, the progenitor of the Yoruba race is believed to have created the world after the flood that destroyed the earth. It is believed that it was at Ife that Oduduwa created the world.

Archaeological Discoveries

Between 1910 and 1911, a German scientist known as Leo Frobenius was shown a bronze artefact of a human head wearing a crown, as well as terracotta heads discovered at Olokun Grove. He took seven of those terracotta heads to Germany to study them properly. In 1938, some bronze and terracotta were found in the compound of one Wunmonije, while in 1957, a brass head was found at Ita Yemo. It was discovered after studying these artefacts that there was a culture/civilization which existed about 1000 years after the Nok civilization. This was between 11th century and 15th century A.D.

Occupation of the people

The people of Ile-Ife were very hardworking people with good technology and skills. they were agriculturists and farmers. They were also skilled craftsmen who were known for their artworks made from bronze and brass. They made sculptures wood as well as other artworks from wood, ivory and beads. The Ile-Ife people also engaged in blacksmithing, salt making and leather works.

Importance of Ile-Ife in Nigerian history

1. It is regarded as the spiritual home of the Yorubas.
2. Ife culture revealed a people with advanced technology and who engaged in trade with the Benin people and the Northerners, especially from the Niger belt.
3. The bronze works, terracotta and glass beads indicate a Yoruba civilization that was rich in arts and technology.
4. Ife culture showed people with self-sustaining agricultural practices
5. The Ife culture also shows the Yoruba nation as a people with common origin, language and tradition.
6. It also shows the cultural and technological relationship between the Yorubas and the Edo people.

7. The artworks found at Ife show that Ile-Ife was a well-known centre of artworks including terracotta carvings, woodwork, stone and white quartz carving, plasticine (pottery), glass bead making, bronze casting and brass casting.

HOMEWORK

1. The Ile-Ife civilization existed between _____ and _____
2. The German archaeologist who studied Ife artefacts was _____
3. Two occupations of the Ife people were _____ and _____
4. One importance of Ife culture in Nigerian history is that _____