Iron Age in Africa

Presented by Gian Vasquez
Africa the birth place of Iron

- Africa was one of the first places on earth where iron and the use of iron was first discovered.
- Iron Age: was the time in history when humans discovered iron and learned how to make and use iron tools. Believed to be about 600 B.C.

- 500 B.C. – widespread use of iron: places
  1. Ethiopia
  2. Great Lakes region
  3. Tanzania
  4. Central Nigeria
Activity

• This activity will require two minutes.
• Each student will stand
• They will move quickly and quietly when the teacher begins counting.
• They will meet with their Orange Walk partner and explain the following

1. List the places were iron was being used in 500BC in Africa
2. Define the term Iron Age
Niger and Benue Rivers

- Found evidence comes from 500 BC
- Include implements and terracotta figurines
- Name: Nok Culture
Changes due to Iron

1. Bantu expansion and colonization: The Bantu are believed to be the first to learn of iron and iron usage in Africa.

2. Better tools: Iron was more malleable and could be made into any shape. It was also stronger. It could be used to kill animal predators and clear forest.

3. Weapons: Iron spears and bow points and other weapons could allow for dominance over other people.
Tools improved by Iron

1. Axe heads
2. Hoes
3. Cutlasses

- **Impact:**
  - Agriculture was improved leading to larger surplus
  - Migration
  - Occupational Specialization: People could do other jobs or crafts and trade with the farmers.
  - Trade: people could use the surplus to barter for other stuff that they did not have.
Trade

• Establishment of trade routes inland and coast
• Political control over markets gave rise to power and control

• Centers that developed around large markets
• **Western Sudan**: Trans Saharan trade: Europe and the Mediterranean

1. Ghana
2. Ife
3. Benin
4. Mali
5. Songhai
• **South Central Africa:** Trade with the Indian Ocean: China and India
  1. Great Zimbabwe

• **East African coast:** Trade with the Indian Ocean: China and India
  1. Kilwa
  2. Malindi
  3. Mombassa
  4. Bunyoro
  5. Buganda
1. List three places in Africa where iron use was widespread in 500 BC.
2. Define Iron Age
3. Where in Africa can the Nok culture items be found?
4. Name two changes due to iron
5. Name two tools improved by iron
6. Name one kingdom that emerged in a large market area.