

## World Studies: Countries, Cultures, and Connections - 7

### Chapter 11: Federal Republic of Nigeria – Quick Notes

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**SECTION 1: THE GEOGRAPHY OF NIGERIA**

➤ Essential Question:

- What is the role of religion in Nigeria?

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Slide 2

**SECTION 1: THE GEOGRAPHY OF NIGERIA**

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- delta
- navigable
- tropical savanna climate
- harmattan
- diverse
- Boko Haram

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Slide 3

**LOCATION AND SIZE OF NIGERIA**

➤ Nigeria is in the eastern and northern hemispheres and is located on Africa's west coast.

➤ Nigeria is bordered by Niger, Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and the Gulf of Guinea.

➤ Nigeria's land area is about 356,000 miles, which is roughly six times the size of Georgia.

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**PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF NIGERIA**

➤ The Niger River is the source of the country's name and is the largest river in West Africa.

- The river begins in Guinea and flows through Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin, and Nigeria to the Gulf of Guinea.

➤ The river flows through rain forests and swamps and has a **delta**, which is where a river divides into smaller bodies of water as it meets with a larger body of water.

➤ Most of the river is **navigable**, or ships can operate on it, which is great for trade and shipping.

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##### PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF NIGERIA, Pt. 2

- While the coastline is rich in oil, government corruption and other problems have prevented the country from enjoying these benefits.
- The country has low plains in the south with some dense forests, highlands and extinct volcanoes in the central part of the country, and the north has rolling plains with plateaus.

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##### CLIMATE OF NIGERIA

- Nigeria is just north of the Equator, meaning temperatures are high, with the most common climate being the **tropical savanna climate**.
  - That means monthly average temperatures are above 64° F year-round.
  - A dry winter season is followed by a rainy season in May.
- Along the coast is hot and wet most of the year, with tropical rain forests in this area.
- The climate is hotter and drier in the north, with few plants being able to grow.
  - During the winter, a dry wind called the **harmattan** blows from the northeast, carrying dust from the Sahara across the region.

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#### Slide 7

##### NATURAL RESOURCES OF NIGERIA

- Nigeria has large deposits of petroleum and natural gas along with other natural resources.
  - Unfortunately, the money from selling the oil has not benefitted many, due to mismanagement and corruption.
- Nigeria has other natural resources that the government has not invested in because of its investment in the oil trade.
- Even though Nigeria has a large amount of arable land, it still has to import much of its food to meet the needs of the people.
- Nigeria also has talc, gypsum, iron ore, lead, zinc, gold, coal, gemstones, rock salt, and kaolin.

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##### IMPACT OF LOCATION IN NIGERIA

- About half the people in the country still live in rural areas, practicing traditions.
- The coast is heavily populated because it is easier to trade and is the center of the oil industry.
- Areas along the Niger River and its delta are also heavily populated.
- Cities like Lagos and Abuja are both large urban centers.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN NIGERIA**

- Deforestation is a problem, causing soil erosion as well as destroying habitats for plants and animals and disrupting the water cycle.
- Urbanization brings with it pollution problems.
  - Nigeria deals with oil spills quite a bit, which can contaminate the water, air, and land.
- The government needs to balance earning money from oil with protecting the environment.

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**PEOPLE OF NIGERIA**

- Nigeria is a very diverse, or varied, country, with the Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba ethnic groups making up a 5th of the population.
- Nigeria is also divided by religion, with half being Muslim, 40% being Christian, and the remaining 10% practicing indigenous beliefs.
  - Religious tensions are a constant problem, with the militant Muslim group **Boko Haram** trying to take over parts of the country.
- Generally, religion is taken very seriously, and most people will make frequent references to their faith.

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**SECTION 2: A BRIEF HISTORY OF NIGERIA**

➤ Essential Question:

- What was the immediate aftermath of independence in Nigeria?

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**SECTION 2: A BRIEF HISTORY OF NIGERIA**

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

|                        |                               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • merchant             | • Independent State of Biafra |
| • missionary           | • civil war                   |
| • Pan-African Movement | • military coup               |
| • nationalism          | • civilian rule               |

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#### EARLY HISTORY

- Throughout its history, Nigeria has had many different ruling systems and has come in frequent contact with foreign traders.
- The first group of traders that came to Nigeria were **merchants**, or people involved in trade, from North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.
  - These traders brought gold, ivory, iron, slaves, and gum, as well as the Quran and Islam.
- Two of the four trans-Saharan trade routes went through Nigeria, which made it a crossroads of people, goods, and ideas from around the continent.
- European traders arrived in the 15th century, looking for gold and slave labor.
  - For over 300 years, the human slave trade was conducted along Africa's shores, with the center of the trade in Nigeria.

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#### BRITISH COLONIAL HISTORY

- The British stayed in Nigeria even after they abolished slavery in 1807.
  - They were interested in Nigeria's cocoa, groundnuts, rubber, and palm oil, so they made permanent settlements in Nigeria.
  - The British used the Niger River to move inland.
- Along with their takeover, they brought **missionaries** to promote Christianity in the country.
- British influence and control over Nigeria grew over the 19th century.

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#### PAN-AFRICAN MOVEMENT

- This movement began as a reaction to colonial rule in Africa.
- The goal of the **Pan-African Movement** was for all people of African descent to work together to improve Africa and to think of Africa as a homeland.
- Another goal was to end European colonial rule, and as it spread through Nigeria and the rest of Africa, many Nigerians began pushing for independence.

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#### INDEPENDENCE

- After World War II, Nigeria was granted more freedoms through a series of constitutions, and **nationalism** (love for one's country and a desire for independence) grew.
- After gaining independence in 1960, war broke out between the Muslim north and Christian south, leaving thousands dead or injured.
- When the country tried to reorganize itself into twelve regions, the Igbo people in the east declared themselves to be the **Independent State of Biafra**, resulting in a 30-month **civil war** (war between citizens of the same country).
  - By the end, Biafra was again part of Nigeria, but **military coups** (military takeovers of the government) and violence occurred in the years following.

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**INDEPENDENCE, Pt. 2**

- In 1999, a new constitution was adopted, and a civilian government was established.
- Nigeria is currently experiencing its longest period of **civilian rule** (which means that the leaders have not been part of the military), despite some minor violence around elections.
- There were accusations of voting irregularities and corruption in the 2023 election, leading to protesting in the streets.

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**SECTION 3: GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA**

➤ Essential Question:

- How do citizens participate in the government?

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**SECTION 3: GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA**

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- republic
- federal government
- presidential democracy
- Federal Executive Council
- National Assembly
- Supreme Court

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**STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT**

- Nigeria is a **republic**, which means it has elected representatives.
- Nigeria also has a **federal government**, which means power within the government is divided among the national, state, and local governments.
- Nigeria is a **presidential democracy**, which means a president is both head of government and head of state.
- The constitution, written in 1999, established a civilian government and has been amended several times.

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**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

- Citizens ages 18 and up vote directly for the president and legislature.
- While the constitution guarantees freedom of speech, expression, press, and religion, these rights are not always protected.
  - Both the government and Boko Haram have been guilty of limiting people's rights.

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**BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT**

- The head of government (president) and cabinet make up the executive branch.
  - The cabinet, called the **Federal Executive Council**, is appointed by the president.
- The legislative branch, called the **National Assembly**, is made up of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives.
- The judicial branch has a **Supreme Court**, with a chief justice and 15 justices, appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.
  - Sharia Law is used in some states in the north, but most Nigerian laws are based on British law traditions.

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**CHALLENGES FACING THE GOVERNMENT**

- Government corruption and terrorism are common problems in the country.
- The country also has had a long period of military dictators as rulers, so they are getting used to elected leaders.
- The government is working to strengthen its democracy and diversify its economy.
- The Nigerian government forces have a lack of understanding on how to respond to peaceful protests, like when they killed close to 500 people in 2015.
- Boko Haram has been a looming threat to the government and citizens of Nigeria since 2009.

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**SECTION 4: ECONOMY OF NIGERIA**

➤ Essential Question:

- What factors are driving Nigeria's economic growth?

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**SECTION 4: ECONOMY OF NIGERIA**

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- Nollywood
- diversified economy
- infrastructure
- naira

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**TYPE OF ECONOMY**

➤ Nigeria has the largest economy in Africa, with a GDP of \$362 billion as of 2023.

➤ Nigeria's economy is mixed, leaning toward a market economy.

➤ Because of their oil reserves, Nigeria is a member of OPEC, and their reserves have been a dominant source of income since the 1970s.

➤ Nigeria's economic growth has recently been driven by agriculture, telecommunications, and services, but it has not been enough to decline poverty levels.

➤ Nigeria's entertainment industry includes a growing film industry that has been nicknamed **Nollywood**.

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**TYPE OF ECONOMY, Pt. 2**

➤ The most important challenge is developing a **diversified economy**, or one that is broadened to focus on other resources and industries instead of just one.

- Nigeria is branching into telecommunications, financial services, and cement.

➤ Nigeria is trying to improve its **infrastructure**, which includes roads, railways, and communication systems.

- This would not only benefit Nigerians, but also businesses trading goods.

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**Natural Resources**

➤ Nigeria has a wide variety of natural resources.

➤ It has roughly 37 billion barrels of petroleum and 209 trillion cubic meters of natural gas.

➤ It also has talc, gypsum, iron ore, lead, zinc, gold, coal, rock salt, gemstones, and kaolin.

- The government does not focus too much on these resources, though.

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**Human Capital**

- Nigeria should have a strong economy thanks to its rich oil deposits, but years of corruption, civil war, and military rule have left it poor.
- Investment in human capital is a way to make the economy grow.
- The literacy rate is currently about 62%, with 71% for men and 52% for women.
- Investments in healthcare have improved the child mortality rate, and Nigeria also faces the second-highest rate of HIV/AIDS in the world.

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**Capital Goods**

- Nigeria has heavily invested in capital goods for the oil industry.
- However, focus on this part of the economy has left many Nigerians without proper food or housing.
- Nigeria does not have a large manufacturing sector, with most of their non-oil related capital goods having to be imported.
- Infrastructure improvements have begun, making the transportation of goods and people easier.

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**Entrepreneurship**

- Currently, it is not easy to be an entrepreneur in Nigeria.
- Nigeria's government is working to help small businesses thrive.
- It costs about four times the average annual income to get a business license.

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**TRADE**

- Trade is very important to Nigeria.
- In 2023, the country's exports totaled roughly \$60 billion, and its imports totaled roughly \$72 billion.
- The country's major exports are crude petroleum, natural gas, fertilizer, refined petroleum, and gold, while its imports were refined petroleum, wheat, garments, plastics, and automobiles.

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**CURRENCY**

- The currency of Nigeria is the **naira**, which can be exchanged at banks or electronically so trade can occur.
- In 2024, one US dollar can be exchanged for about 1,591 Nigerian nairas.

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**SECTION 5: U.S.-NIGERIA RELATIONS**

➤ Essential Question:

- What are some reasons the relationship between the two countries was strained?

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**SECTION 5: U.S.-NIGERIA RELATIONS**

➤ What terms do I need to know?:

- diplomatic relations
- African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

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**IMPROVING RELATIONS**

- The US established **diplomatic relations**, or an arrangement where two nations have representatives in each other's country, with Nigeria in 1960, following its independence from the United Kingdom.
- From 1966-1999, Nigeria experienced many civil wars and military coups.
- Following the adoption of the new constitution in 1999, relations improved, along with cooperation on foreign policy goals like peacekeeping.
- The two countries hold talks on key areas: good governance, anti-corruption, trade, investment, food security, security, and counterterrorism.

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**U.S. ASSISTANCE TO NIGERIA**

- The US wants to help improve economic stability, security, and well-being for Nigerians by strengthening their democracy.
- Nigeria is combatting corruption in their government, and improving transparency will help citizens trust the government again.
- The US also wants to help with health, education, and agricultural production.

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**BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

- The US is Nigeria's largest foreign investor in Nigeria, with most investments concentrated on petroleum, mining, and the trade sector.
- Nigeria is eligible for preferential trade benefits under the **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)**, which increases the market access to the US for qualifying countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The US and Nigeria have signed a bilateral trade and investment framework agreement.

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**NIGERIA'S MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Nigeria and the US belong to many of the same organizations, including the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization.
- Nigeria is also an observer to the Organization of American States.
- Nigeria is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), who's goal is to control the price of oil in the world by controlling the supply.

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