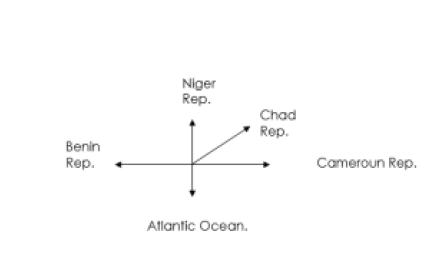


**Location**

Nigeria is located between 4 N and 14 N of the Equator, and between 3 E and 15 E of the Greenwich Meridian. Note that since Nigeria is located between Latitudes 4 N and 14 N, the latitudinal extent of Nigeria is 10 i.e. 15 – 4 while her longitudinal extent is 12 i.e. 15 – 3

**Position**

The position of Nigeria refers to the part of the continent Nigeria is found. Nigeria is in Africa (West Africa). She is bounded in the North by the Niger Republic, in the North-East by the Chad Republic, in the East by Cameroon, in the South by the Atlantic Ocean, and in the West by the Republic of Benin. Nigeria is bounded by French-speaking (Francophone) West African countries.



**Size**

Nigeria is the fourth largest country in West Africa in terms of land area after the Niger Republic, Mali and Mauritania. The total land area of Nigeria is approximately 923, 768 sq km. The greatest distance from east to west is approximately 1,300 km while from north to south is about 1,100 km. In terms of population, Nigeria is the most populous single country in Africa with a population of over 140 million according to the 2006 population census. Hence, she is often referred to as “The Giant of Africa”.

**Political division**

Nigeria came into existence in 1914 when the Northern and Southern protectorates were amalgamated; she had her independence in 1960, precisely 1st October 1960. Before this time, Nigeria was governed by colonial masters which include:-

Sir Fredrick Lord Lugard. (1912 – 1919)

Sir Hugh Clifford (1919 – 1925)

Sir Creamer Thompson (1925 – 1931)

Sir Donald Cameroon (1931 – 1935)

Sir Bernard Boundillion (1935 – 1943)

Sir Anthony Richard (1943 – 1948)

Sir John McPherson (1948 – 1958)

Sir James Robertson (1958 – 1960)