

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK SEVEN AND EIGHT

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

CLASS: SS1

TOPIC: VEGETATION OF NIGERIA

MAJOR ZONES/BELTS OF VEGETATION IN NIGERIA ARE:

Vegetation refers to the total plant cover of an area. In Nigeria, the vegetation is divided into a number of major belts or zones which include;

1. Mangrove Swamp Forest
2. Tropical/Equatorial Rainforest
3. Guinea Savannah
4. Sudan Savannah
5. Sahel Savannah
6. Montana Savannah

CHARACTERISTICS AND IMPORTANCE OF EACH VEGETATION ZONE

1. MANGROVE SWAMP FOREST: This is found mainly in delta and coastal areas like Port Harcourt, Warri and Calabar.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MANGROVE:

- a. It has tall woody trees.
- b. It has aerial roots.
- c. It had evergreen trees with broad leaves.
- d. Trees found include: white mango, red mango, raffia palms, etc.

IMPORTANCE OF MANGROVE

- a. Raffia palm is used for making basket bags, brooms, cane chairs and the production of palm wine
- b. Mango trees are used for both building and firewood.
- c. Rice cultivation is mostly in swampy areas.

2. TROPICAL RAINFOREST: This is found in Southern part of Nigeria e.g. Benin, Akure, Ibadan, Abeokuta, Abia, Sapele.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RAINFOREST

- a. It has tall trees, but the trees roots and evergreen boards leaves.
- b. Trees are in different heights, stories or layers that is; bottoms, middle and layer
- c. There is little undergrowth due to the dense canopy of the forest
- d. Presence of climbers, creepers, epiphytes and parasitic plants
- e. They have numerous species of trees like obeche, mahogany, iroko. etc

IMPORTANCE OF RAINFOREST

- a. It provides timbers for constructional purposes
- b. Limbering of these trees provide employment
- c. Cultivation of trees crops like cocoa rubber and oil palm common.
- d. Forest provides wood ad sources of fuel

3. GUINEA SAVANNAH: This is found in Enugu, Lokoja, Ilorin, Makurdi, Osogbo e.t.c

CHARACTERISTICS OF GUINEA SAVANNAH

- a. It has the largest vegetation belt in Nigeria.

- b. It had tall grasses with few scattered trees.
- c. The trees are deciduous.
- d. Trees have thick barks.
- e. Trees have long tap roots.
- f. Trees have tiny leaves to reduce transpiration
- g. Grasses are green during rainy season and brown during dry season.

4. SUDAN SAVANNAH: This is found in Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Bauchi, Dutse etc

CHARACTERISTICS OF SUDAN SAVANNAH

- a. It had short numerous grasses.
- b. Presence of scattered and shot deciduous trees.
- c. Some trees have thorns while others have thick barks.
- d. Popular plants include acacias, silk cotton's, late palm and baobab.

5. SAHEL SAVANNAH: This Savannah is found in Maiduguri and Damaturu.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SAHEL SAVANNAH

- a. It has short scanty grasses.
- b. Grasses are fewer poorer and in patches.
- c. Presence of short and tough shorts/trees plants.
- d. Plants include : acacia, gum Arabic, late palm and baobab.

6. MONTANA SAVANNAH: This vegetation Is found In Jos and Adamawa area.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MONTANA VEGETATION

- a. It is associated with highland areas.
- b. It has varied trees at its windward side.
- c. It has grasses at its leeward side.
- d. Presence of short, scattered and deciduous trees.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLIMATE (RAINFALL) AND VEGETATION IN NIGERIA

- 1. High rainfall of over 2000mm gives rise to mangrove swamp forest in the South.
- 2. Heavy rainfall supports the growth of tall trees like; Obeche, Mahogany, Iroko, etc in the South.
- 3. Heavy rainfall in the forest zone does not support the growth of grasses.
- 4. High rainfall supports the growth of climber creepers and epiphytes.
- 5. Low rainfall gives rise to Savannah vegetation.
- 6. Low rainfall supports the growth of drought resistant trees with tiny leaves.