

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK FIVE

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

CLASS: SS1

TOPIC: DRAINAGE OF NIGERIA

DRAINAGE

Drainage refers to water bodies like rivers and lakes.

RIVERS IN NIGERIA:

Nigeria is drained by two main rivers – River Niger and River Benue. River Niger is the largest river in Nigeria and it has its source from Guinea highlands in Guinea. It passes through Mali and Niger Republic to Nigeria and empties itself in the Atlantic Ocean.

River Benue has its source from the Eastern Highlands and joins River Niger at Lokoja. Lokoja, because of this, is known as confluence town. Other rivers in Nigeria take their sources from highlands in Nigeria known as **Hydrological centres**. These are:

Western highlands: They have rivers such as Ogun, Osun and Osse.

North-central highlands: They have rivers such as Kaduna, Hadeija, Zamfara, Yobe, Gana, Gongola and Rima.

Eastern highlands: They have rivers such as Donga and Katsina-Ala.

Eastern scarp lands: They have rivers like Anambra and Cross River.

CHARACTERISTIC OF NIGERIAN RIVERS

1. The volume of the rivers changes with seasons. It increases during the rainy season and reduces during the drying season.
2. Presence of rapids and cataract. This impedes inland navigation.
3. Presence of debris like dead leaves, mud, wood, etc.
4. Short courses with high speed.
5. Specific direction of flow. Rivers in the south flow in the north-south direction while rivers in the north flow in a radial pattern to different directions.
6. Shallowness.
7. The colour changes with the season.
8. Seasonality: Most rivers flow during the rainy season and stop or reduce flowing to flow during the dry season.

Importance of Nigeria Rivers

1. Medium of transportation.
2. Generation of Hydro-Electric Power (H.E.P).
3. Irrigation purposes.
4. Domestic uses.
5. Industrial uses.
6. Provision of employment.
7. Recreation/Tourism.
8. Source of food supply (fishes, etc).

RIVER BASIN IN NIGERIA

River basin refers to the area generally drained by a river. A river basin is also known as a catchment area. In Nigeria, there are five major river basins. These are:-

- The Niger basin
- The Benue basin
- The Chad basin
- The Cross River basin
- The South Atlantic basin

The rivers in these basins are grouped into 3 classes:

Long rivers with large basin e.g. River Niger and Benue.

Short rivers with small basin e.g. River Osun, Ogun, Cross River etc.

Rivers in basins of inland drainage: These are rivers that do not reach the sea but rather flow into Lake Chad. Examples are River Yobe, Hadeija, Gana and Yedseram.

Importance of River Basin

1. Good site for settlement.
2. Provision of suitable lands for agricultural purposes.
3. The medium of communication due to the presence of rivers.
4. Presence of some mineral deposits.
5. Provision of water.
6. Provision of sites for fishing.

LAKES IN NIGERIA

A lake is a body of water surrounded by land. The lakes are grouped into two major types:

Man-made or artificial lakes: They are lakes constructed by man e.g. Lake Kainji on River Niger and Shiroro lake on River Kaduna.

Natural lakes: These are lakes which exist naturally e.g. Lake Chad.

HOMEWORK

1. What is drainage?
2. Give the rivers which take their source from the following highlands.
 - A. The Eastern Highlands
 - B. Western Highlands
 - C. North Central Highlands
3. State three(3) characteristics of Nigerian rivers.