

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK THREE

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

CLASS: SS1

TOPIC: NIGERIA: POSITION, LOCATION, SIZE AND POLITICAL DIVISIONS



LOCATION

Nigeria is located between latitudes 4° N and 14° N of the Equator, and between longitude 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. $14 - 4$ while her longitudinal extent is 12° i.e. $15 - 3$.

POSITION : Nigeria as a country is found in West Africa. She is bounded to the North by Niger Republic, to the North-East by the Chad Republic, to the East by Cameroon, to the South by the Atlantic Ocean, and to 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 gained her independence in 1960, precisely 1st October 1960. At independence, the country had three regions which were the Northern, Eastern and Western Regions. In 1963, a fourth region known as the Mid-Western Region was created from the Western Region with its headquarters in Benin City.

In 1967, the country was split into 12 states by Gen. Yakubu Gowon and in 1976 it was further divided into 19 states. In 1987, 2 more states were created by Gen. Ibrahim Babangida.

Today, Nigeria has 36 states and a federal capital territory at Abuja which is the federal capital of Nigeria. These states are divided into 6 geopolitical zones which are:

North Central (also known as **Middle Belt**): consisting of Benue, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, and Plateau states, as well as the Federal Capital Territory.

North East: consisting of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe States.

North West: consisting of Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara States.

South East: consisting of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo States.

South South (also known as **Niger Delta region**): consisting of Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, and Rivers States.

South West: consisting of Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, and Oyo States.