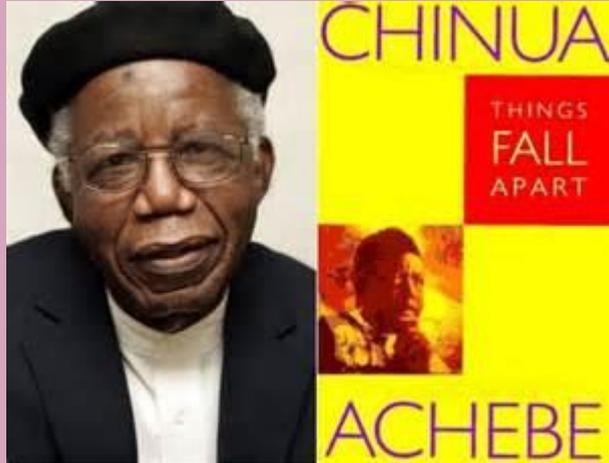




The Life of Chinua Achebe

By: Natalie Haddad, Katie Norris, and Hannah Rutt



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Education and Career

Chinua attended college at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, the country in which he was born in. The University of Ibadan is best known for their excellence in academics and their now famous and successful alumni.

Chinua Achebe worked as an author, publisher, and educator. He taught at Brown University as the David and Marianna Fisher University professor and professor of Africana Studies.

Career as an Author

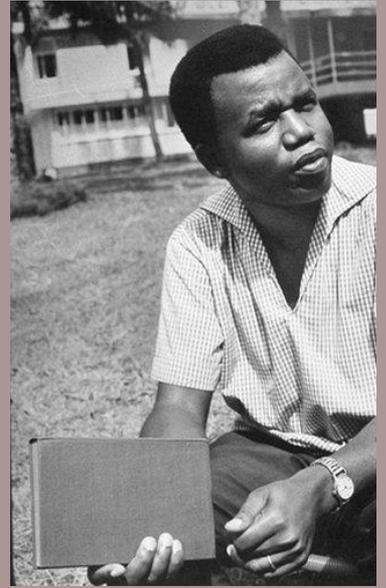
- How the Leopard Got His Claws (1973)
- Beware, Soul-Brother (1971)
- Christmas in Biafra (1973)
- Morning Yet on Creation Day (1975)
- No Longer at Ease(1960)
- Arrow of God (1964)
- A Man of the People(1966)
- Anthills of the Savannah (1987)
- and last but surely not least, Things Fall Apart (1958)

Literary Accomplishments

- Known as the “Father of Modern African writing”
- *Things Fall Apart* won the Margaret Wong Memorial Prize, a major literary award.
- His book, *No Longer At Ease*, was awarded the Nigerian National Trophy for Literature.
- His book of poetry, *Christmas in Biafra*, written during the Nigerian civil war, won the first Commonwealth Poetry Prize in 1972.
- More than twenty universities in Great Britain, Canada, Nigeria, and the United States have awarded Achebe honorary degrees.

Life Experience

- Born November 21, 1930 in South-Eastern Nigeria
- Went to the University of Ibadan
- At a young age he took an interest in World religions and traditional African Culture.
- Wrote many award-winning novels highlighting these topics.
- became a supporter of Biafran and got involved in political parties when there was war in Nigeria.
- later over anger towards the corruption he resigned and moved back to the U. S
- Died in Boston, Massachusetts on March 21st 2013 (82)



Purpose of Work

- Achebe's work was largely inspired by social change in Nigeria during the 1960s and 1970s (1st link)
- He focuses on a clash of traditional African cultures with new, often colonial ways (1st link)
- He wants his readers to draw parallels between cultures (2nd link)
- Very much related to battling the "Single Story"

Interesting Facts

- Before becoming a recognized author and teacher, he worked for the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC)
- He worked as “the director of external broadcasting” (1st link)
- In 1990, Achebe was paralyzed in a car accident
- He was in a wheelchair until he died on March 21st, 2013



<https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Chinua+Achebe%27s+Car+Accident&view=detailv2&&id=FCE4B5A8B71FCEC59AC781CC01D5F30D83DE27C2&selectedIndex=15&ccid=fnhvV%2fDj&simid=607988982795799783&thid=OIP.M7e786f57f0e3e83aff28440263b1ae3ao0&ajaxhist=0>

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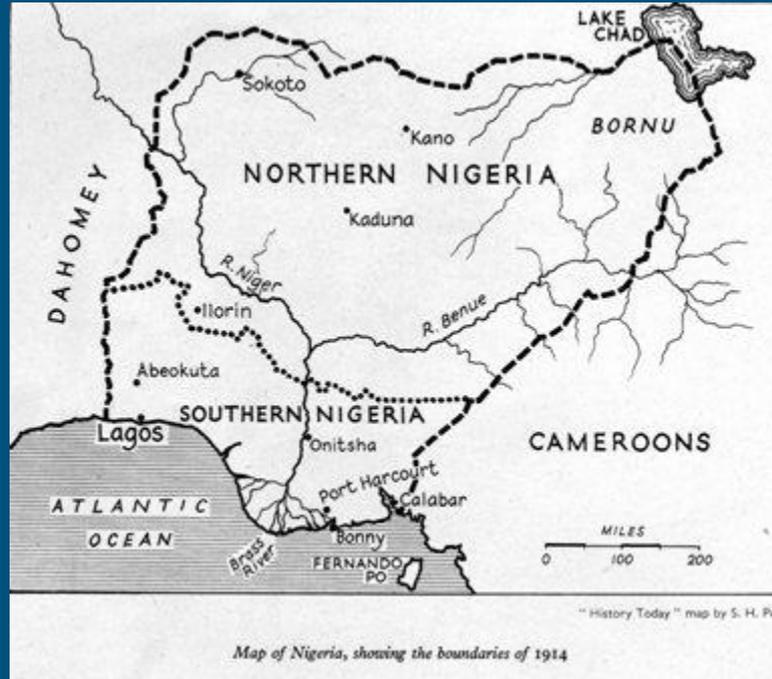


Nigeria Before Colonization

Kelsea Bird, Cameron Swank, Wesley
Earle, Anna Seningen



Map of Nigeria Before Colonization



Savanna States

- The sixteenth century marked a high point in the political history of northern Nigeria.
- During the 16th century, the Songhai empire was very prominent in Nigeria.
- Islamic culture and beliefs blossomed during the Songhai empire.
- Severe draughts were major issues that the pre-colonial people of Nigeria faced in the Savanna States.

Akwa Akpa

- This city-state was founded in 1786.
- This quickly became the center for slave trade.
- 85% of slave ships were English.
- The main ethnic group that got traded for slavery were the Igbo Tribe even though they weren't the main ethnic group of Akwa Akpa.
- The slaves were traded for European goods.

Igbo States : Nri Kingdom

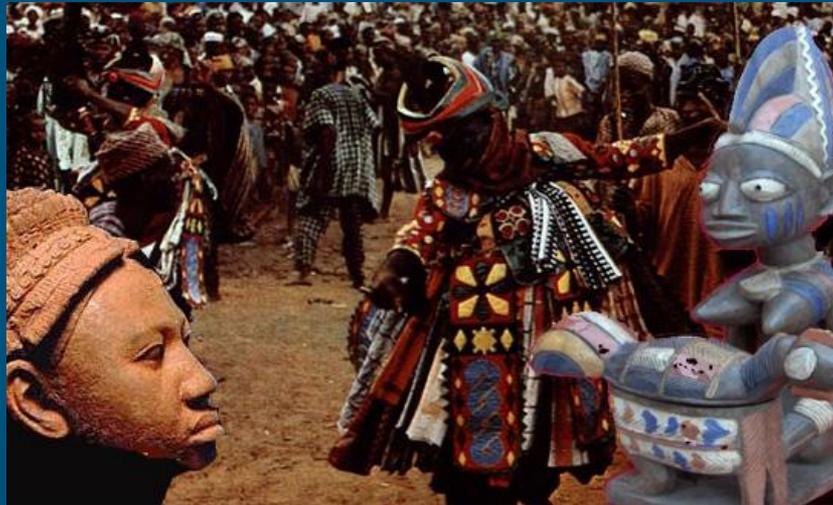
- The city of Nri is considered to be the foundation of Igbo culture.
- The Nri's patriarchal king-figure is Eri.
- Eri origins are unclear, but it was said that he fell from the sky.
- He has been characterized as giving the first societal order to the Nri Kingdom.

Igbo States : Decline

- The Igbo States decline started in the 15-17th century
- City-States under their control started to become more powerful
- The Arochukwu kingdom emerged after the Aro-Ibibio Wars from 1630 to 1720.
- Went on to form the Aro Confederacy which economically dominated Eastern Nigerian hinterland
- The source of their power came from their strong military
- They founded two large settlements, Ena Uda and Ena Ofia in present-day Erai
- Aro and Abiriba cooperated to become a powerful economic force

1000-5000 CE.

Tribal villages in forests of western Africa, to the south of the Sahel, consolidate into powerful kingdoms such as the Yoruba (in what is now western Nigeria) and Edo (mid-western Nigeria). This is the start of an era of city states, kingdoms, and empires.



Late thirteenth century

1472 C.E. - The first European contacts are created into Nigeria as the Portuguese arrive along the coast of modern day Nigeria.

1482 C.E. - The Portuguese explorer Diego Cao reaches the coast of what is now Nigeria. The Portuguese soon begin trading pepper within the region.



Nigerian Kings contribute to slavery

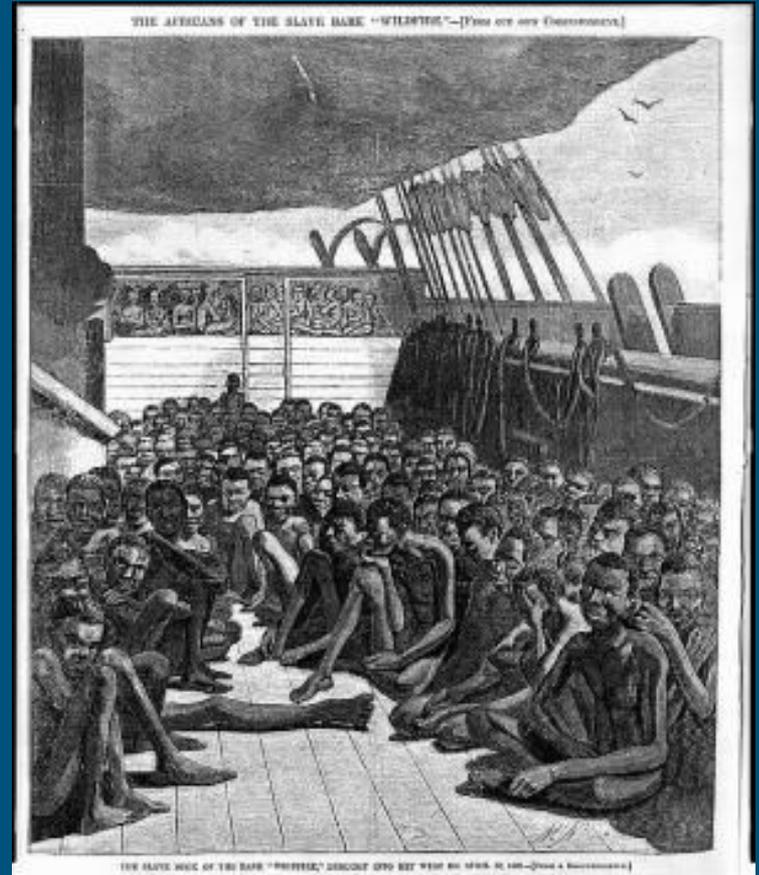
The slave trade was becoming more and more popular as the Dutch, French, British and Portuguese started to settle America. The Portuguese landed on the island of Logos, located in Nigeria, in 1472 and was later granted a slaving monopoly a century after landing there. The Kings of Nigeria at the time became good friends with the Portuguese and saw opportunity and money in the slave trade.

The British took control in 1861 in an attempt to suppress the slave trade and succeeded.

16th century slave trade

During the 16th century, millions of Nigerians will be sold into slavery to aid the southern colonies, in newfound America, with the farming of tobacco and other cash crops.

The Niger Delta, which the Bight of Biafra is centered upon, was a major exporter of slaves during the early 1700's until mid nineteenth century.



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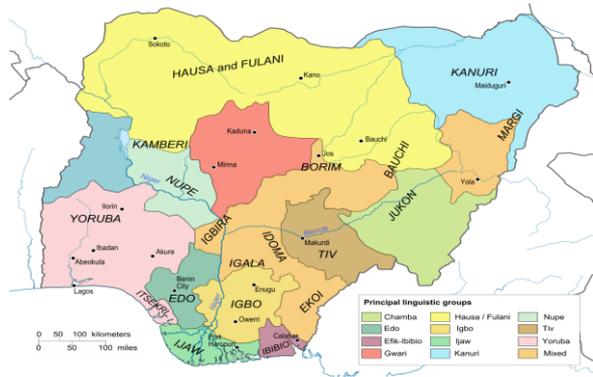
The Colonization of Nigeria

By: Madison A., Sarah B., Carolynne A., Madelyn S.

5th period

When was Nigeria colonized ?

In 1472 Portuguese navigators reach the Nigerian coast. This was the first time that people had explored the coast of Africa. In 1884 British created colonies at the Berlin conference where Africa was divided by European powers. Nigeria was colonized during the race for land that the Europeans started.



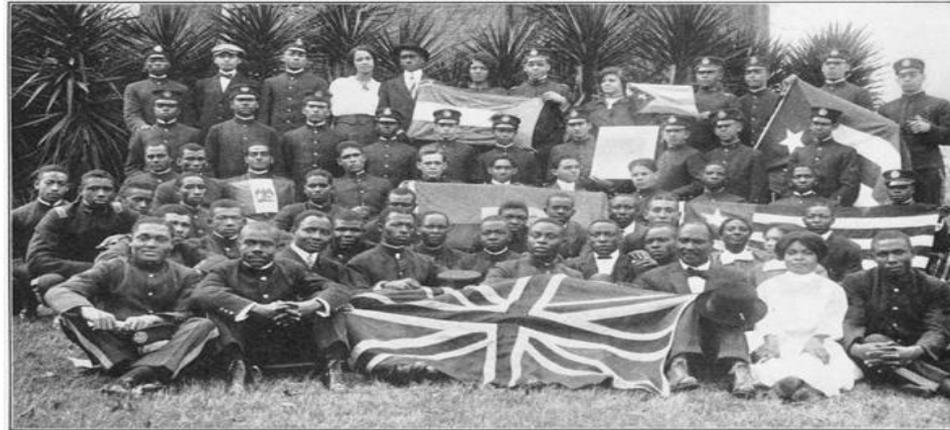
Why was Nigeria colonized?

Nigeria was colonized because the British were looking for oil and they were competing with other European countries to gain occupation in Africa. Also they were looking for slaves to work in their colonies in North and South America.



Factors that contributed to the colonization of Nigeria

The imperialist push was broken into three components: economic, social, and political. Mostly, the Europeans were seeking raw materials and places to sell goods. In addition, they colonized there to show domestic superiority over other countries. Lastly, the unemployment, poverty, and homelessness in Europe caused citizens to obtain colonies in Africa.



Negative and positive impacts of colonization

positive:

1. spread christianity
2. spread education
3. europeans defended africa against enemies

negative

1. weakened culture and eliminated traditions
2. many africans were taken advantage of

CA

3. slavery caused families to tear apart



Who colonized Nigeria?

Nigeria is a country that was colonized by the British. British influence began with prohibition of slave trade to British subjects in 1807. Britain annexed Lagos in 1861 and established the Oil River Protectorate in 1884. British influence in the Niger area increased gradually over the 19th century, but Britain did not effectively occupy the area until 1885.



Importance

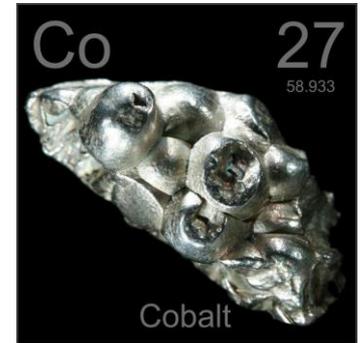
The colonization of Nigeria is important because...

Christianity was spread

Education was spread

Europeans benefited from natural resources

Nigerians fought for their independence



The Problem With Colonizing Africa

Due to the Industrial Age, the demand for raw materials and resources surfaced, and many Europeans suffered from poverty, unemployment, and homelessness. Desperate and power hungry, Europe aimed to colonize Africa.



Africa was already home to millions of people before Europe began to colonize it. Because of Europe's land grab, wars would be fought, culture would be forgotten, and an important time in history lost.

After being taken over by foreign power, colonies tended to be ruled by force and Europeans, meaning Africans lacked an

The Resolution

Unlike the British who tried a more direct and undermining rule, the French found another way to govern.



France adopted a very centralized government to rule over their colonies. While it was stated that Africans could be potential French citizens, the lack of resources to do so made it nigh impossible. However, the french still cooperated and were in alliance with old leaders from before their colonization. Local governments were let run by Africans just as before.



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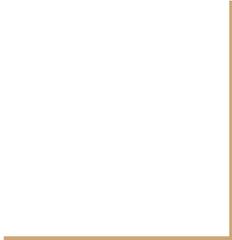
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Present Day Nigeria



Culture

- Nigeria is home to more than 250 ethnic groups.
- The official language is English.
- They won their independence on October 1st, 1960
- The religion in the Northern states is mostly Muslim. In the South the religion is mostly Christian. In some areas indigenous faiths are practiced.
- Dress for women is long robes and head scarves or western style clothing. Men wear loose long-sleeved shirts and pants.
- Their staple foods are rice, beans, yams, and plantains.



Government

- The Federal Republic of Nigeria is governed according to their constitution.
- There is a presidential system of government with an Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary branch.
- There is a government at a federal, state, and local level.



Government Cont.

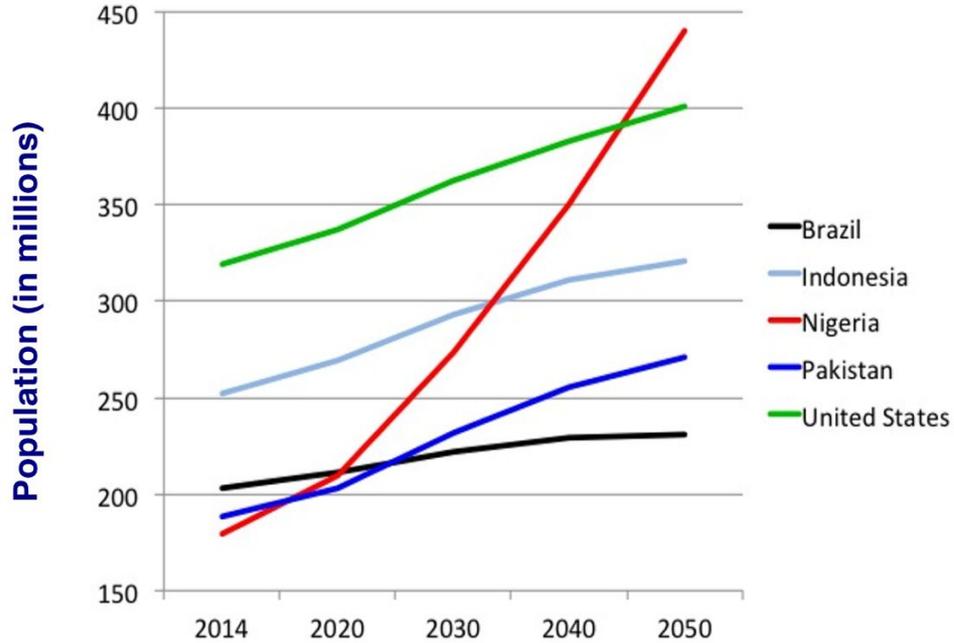
The current president of Nigeria is Muhammadu Buhari. He had been a previous military leader.

Nigeria's government was modeled after the United States' system.

Their constitution has gone through many revisions, the fourth and most recent being in 1999.



Population Projections of the 3rd - 7th Largest Countries



Graph by Wait But Why / Projections courtesy of esa.un.org

Population

Population

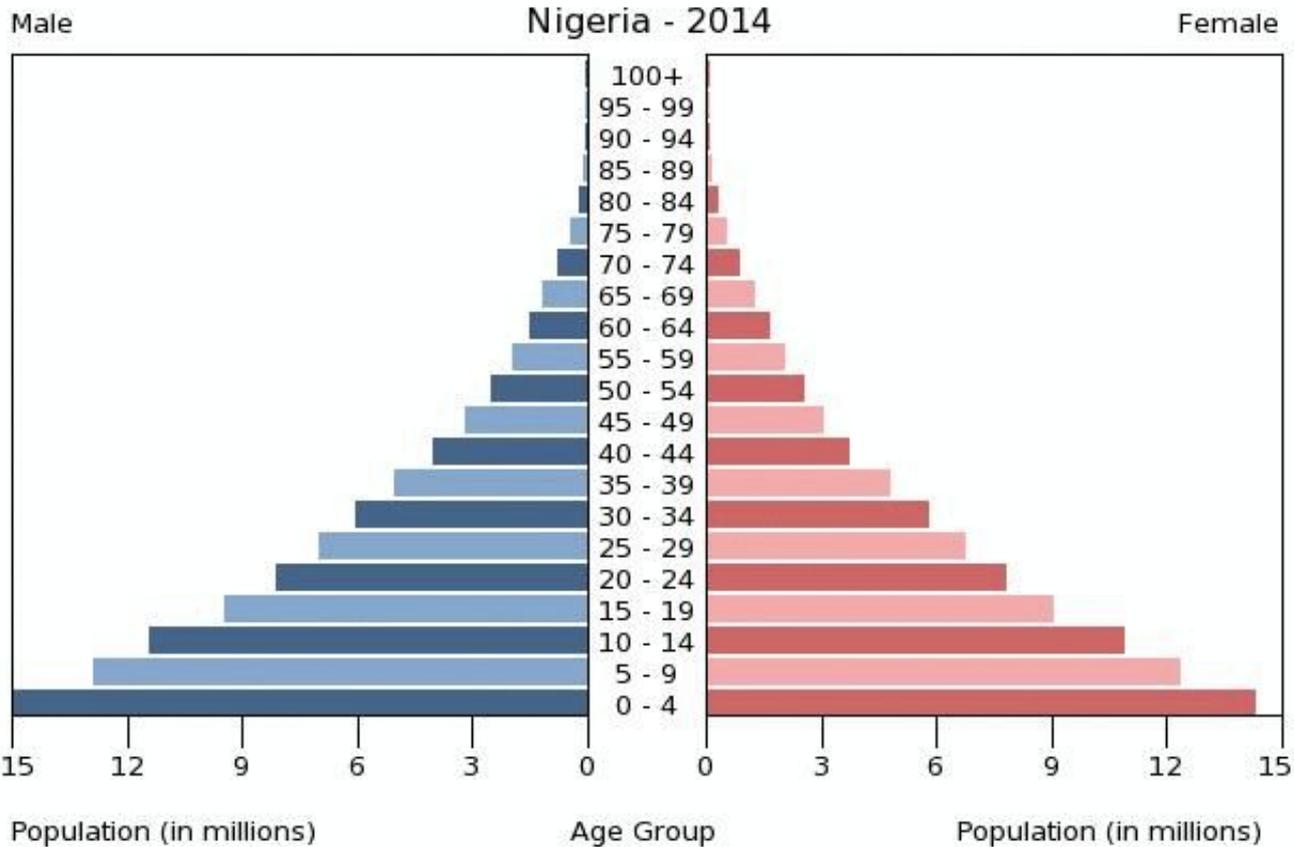
- With an estimated population of 150 million people, Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa and the 9th most populated country in the world.
- Population is unevenly distributed with most near the coast and near the northern river basins.
- Nigeria's population makes up 2.5% of the world's population.
1 out of 40 people live in Nigeria

Government relies a lot on population to save the country.



The Effects of Nigeria's Population

- The high population growth has led to both high birth and high fertility rates.
- Nigeria's large population causes for four large ethnic groups including:
 - Fulani
 - Hausa
 - Igbo
 - Yorubathroughout there are over 350 different languages spoken
- Some causes of the high population growth is from the lack of education.
- Life expectancy rates are decreased because of low oil and export systems so most of Nigeria's population is made of younger adults.

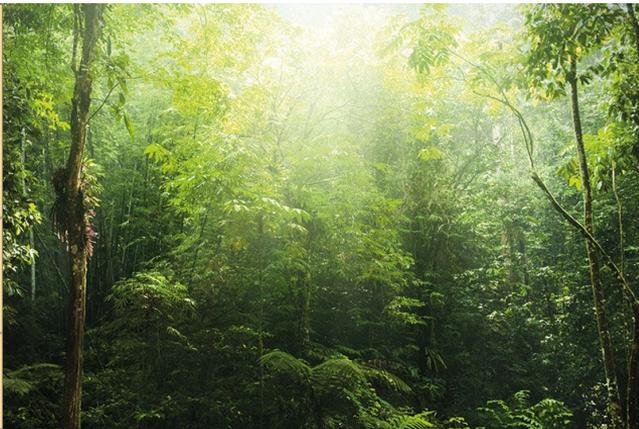


Map of Nigeria



Topography and Climate

- Low lands along coast; plateaus in the north; mountains along eastern border.
- Niger and Benue rivers flow through Nigeria
- Tropical Climate
- Average Temperature: 77° - 82°



Education in Nigeria

- 66% of population is literate
 - Men - 75%
 - Women - 57%
- Gov't believes education is an "instrument for effecting national development"
- Types of Schools
 - Primary
 - Secondary
 - Federal Gov't
 - State Owned
 - Private Secondary



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Igbo Culture

Sarah Nguyen, Clara Martin, Lilly Perez, Emily
Evans

Who are the Igbo people?

- One of the largest single ethnic groups in Africa
- Based in southeastern Nigeria
- Total population of 20-30 million people
- Found also in Cameroon
- Socially and culturally diverse
- Consists of many different subgroups

Origin of the Igbo Tribe

- Igbo and their ancestors have lived in their present homes from the beginning of human history
- The origin of the tribe has been under speculations and has only recently been researched in the past 50 years
- Could possibly be one of the only surviving coherent ethnic groups from the first set of proto-Kwa to enter the forest

Religion

- The Igbo people believe in their benevolent (charitable) creator, the Chukwu.
- The Chukwu is the creator of the visible earth
- There is no concept of a gender such as “male” or “female” associated with the supreme deity Chukwu.
- Ofo and Ogu are their governing law of retributive justice.
- They are allowed to vindicate anyone who is accused of crime as long as “his hands are clean.”
- The Igbo people are credited with a “Chi”, their own personal God, by their individual misfortune and fortune.
- If you lived a good life you would be allowed to continue afterlife in the world of the dead, where many honored ancestors go.
- If you died a bad death and lacked burial rites you were not allowed in the world of the dead, you were to wander homeless and begin to express your grief

Major Beliefs

- Other than their belief in the natural level of the universe, they believe in another level known as the Alusi.
- The Alusi are forces of blessing or destruction, depending on the circumstances.
- A strong Igbo belief is that the spirit of your own ancestor is always watching over you.
- It is against the law to speak poorly of a spirit.
- Funeral ceremonies and death burials are extremely complex, there are several deaths that are considered to be shameful and don't get proper burials.
- If a woman were to die in labour, children die before they have teeth, those who commit suicide and those who died during the sacred month. You were to be thrown into a bush as a funeral ceremony.
- Their belief sometimes lead the Igbo to sacrifice the ones to be considered shameful to their tribe.
- They often sacrificed slaves at funerals to provide a retinue for the dead man in life to come.

Customs of the Igbo People

Farming- Traditionally, the Igbo have farmed yam and cassava, a tuberous shrub, as staple crops alongside corn, pumpkins and beans. In the past Igbo were mainly subsistence farmers and land was owned communally.



Music- Traditional Igbo music is very rhythmic, consisting of flute, ogene, igba, and other instruments. This style is called Ikorodo when vocals are added.

Living- The Igbo people lived in villages. The largest political unit being a village group, averaging 5,000 people, that shared a marketplace, a meeting place, and beliefs and cultures. These village groups were ruled by a council of elders and wealthy, influential men.



Language- Igbo, one of the largest languages of West Africa, is spoken by 18 million people in Nigeria. Igbo is thought to have originated around the 9th century A.D. near the Niger and Benue rivers.

Masquerades- Masquerades were held during annual festivals, burial rites, and other gatherings. During masquerades colorful robes and masks made of wood or fabric were worn. These costumes were said to represent deities or sometimes dead relatives. The identity of the masquerade was a secret though they were always men.

Festivals- One festival with high significance is the new Yam (Iri Ji) festival. This festival, occurring between August and October, marks the beginning of the harvest season for new yam.



Gender Roles- Female

- Cooking and cleaning (household chores)
- Bearing children
- Farming (planted maize, melons, and beans)
- Inferior to men
- Men pay brides wealth
- Often marriages are arranged
- Women seek equality



Gender Roles- Male

- Men learned to work the fields at a young age
- Men obtained a higher status than women
- Men's education centered around defense and politics
- The men are in charge of harvesting Yam crops (staple crop)
- Common for men to have multiple wives
- Sometimes aggressive towards women and children
- Male child is more desired than a girl, a male can carry on the family name
- Often decisions are completely made by the men



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