

# Chapter 11

## Federal Republic of Nigeria

### Chapter Preview

#### *People*

Muhammadu Buhari, Hausa people, Yoruba people, Igbo people, Wole Soyinka

#### *Places*

Abuja, Gulf of Guinea, Niger River, Niger River delta, Benue River, Lagos

#### *Terms*

delta, navigable, tropical savanna climate, harmattan, diverse, Boko Haram, merchant, missionary, Pan-African movement, Independent State of Biafra, civil war, civilian rule, republic, federal government, presidential democracy, Federal Executive Council, National Assembly, Supreme Court, Nollywood, diversified economy, infrastructure, naira, diplomatic relations, military coup, transparency, African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

**Top:** Young villagers carrying grain near Obudu Cattle Ranch close to the border of Cameroon and Nigeria.

**Background:** The Nigerian National Mosque in Abuja is a symbol of Nigeria and its large Muslim population.

Tucked into the curve of land created by the Gulf of Guinea on the southern side of West Africa is the “Giant of Africa,” Nigeria. Its population of 186 million people makes it the most populated country in Africa and the eighth most populated country in the world. That is a little less than half the population of the United States, but that population is living in an area the size of just the southeastern corner of the United States. Nigeria’s people have worked to use their natural resources to increase their wealth; however, they have faced many challenges.

Nigeria is famous for its wildlife and beautiful, expansive forests. Lions, giraffes, and leopards can be found along with hyenas, elephants, and gorillas. Even camels are native to this country. Nigeria’s location between the Tropic of Cancer and the Equator means that temperatures are warm to hot all year. There is also enough rainfall in parts of the country to support tropical rain forests. Numerous national parks have been created to preserve the natural beauty of the country. The largest, Gashaka Gumti National Park, includes over 2,400 square miles with millions of birds from over 500 known species.

Nigeria also has the largest economy in Africa, with a booming oil business. Despite the wealth that comes from the oil industry, many people in Nigeria are still very poor. Since gaining independence from Great Britain in 1960, Nigeria’s people have faced many challenges including military rule, pollution, and ethnic and religious group conflict. However, in 1999, a new constitution was adopted, and Nigeria became a democracy. Despite the progress toward becoming a democracy, the government of Nigeria must still try to solve ethnic and religious conflicts and continue to diversify its economy.

**Bottom Left:** Much of Nigeria’s wealth comes from natural resources such as oil. **Bottom Right:** The drill monkey lives in a small remote area of Africa that includes part of Nigeria. It is threatened by human activity destroying its habitat.

“

*Nigeria has no business with poverty. With our human and material resources, we shall strive to eradicate poverty from our country.*

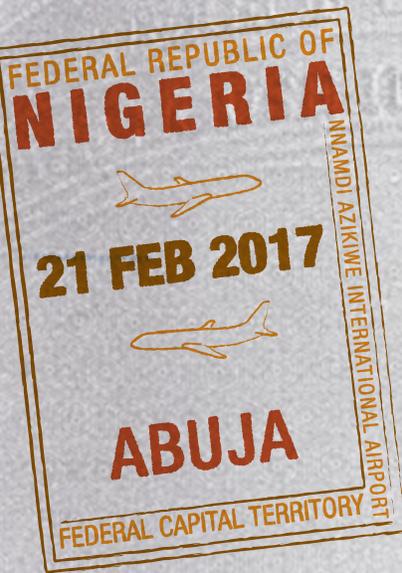
- Olusegun Obasanjo, former president of Nigeria



# PASSPORT



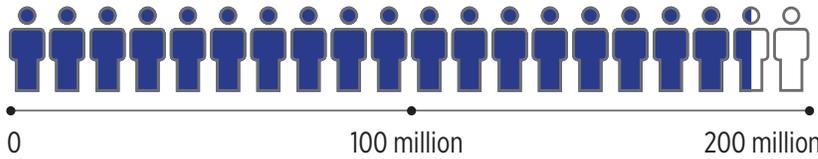
**Official Name:** Federal Republic of Nigeria  
**Capital:** Abuja  
**Form of Government:** federal presidential republic  
**Head of Government:** President  
**Head of State:** President  
**Suffrage:** 18 years of age; universal  
**Currency:** Nigerian naira (NGN)



**Top Left:** Flag of Nigeria. **Top Right:** Muhammadu Buhari was elected president of Nigeria in 2015. **Middle:** Nigeria's National Assembly building in Abuja. **Right:** A Nigerian naira banknote.

# CULTURE CONNECTION

## POPULATION



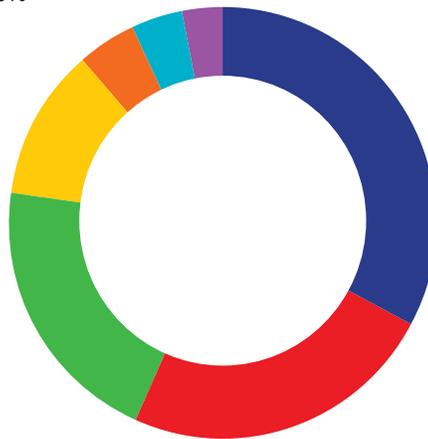
**Nigeria**  
 186,053,386 (est. July 2016)  
 Population Rank 8

**United States**  
 324,386,000 (est. 2017)  
 Population Rank 3

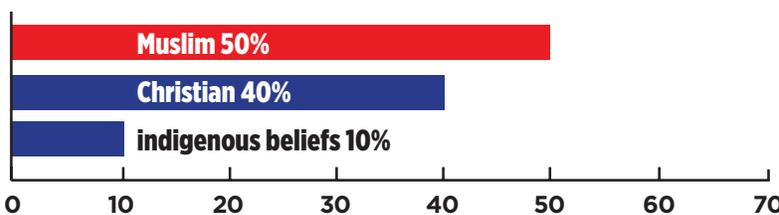
## ETHNIC GROUPS

(Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups; the most populous and politically influential are as follows:)

- Hausa and the Fulani 29%
- Yoruba 21%
- Igbo (Ibo) 18%
- Ijaw 10%
- Kanuri 4%
- Ibibio 3.5%
- Tiv 2.5%



## RELIGION



## FUN FACTS

Nigeria has the highest rate of twin births when compared to any other country.

### Official Language:

**English**

(Hausa is highest-used native language)

### Phrases in Hausa

- Hello** – Salama alaikum
- Goodbye** – Sai an jima
- Good morning** – Ina kwana
- Good afternoon** – Barka da yamma
- Thank you** – Na gode
- You're welcome** – Ba kome
- Yes** – A (drawn out like ayyy)
- No** – A'a



## LIFE EXPECTANCY

**Average** 53.4 years

**Male** 52.4 years

**Female** 54.5 years



## EDUCATION

**Literacy** total population 59.6%; male 69.2% / female 49.7%  
 Other statistics not available

**Below:** Nnambi Azikiwe was a leader of the independence movement in Nigeria and later served as the first president. **Middle:** Goodluck Jonathan was president of Nigeria from 2010 to 2015 during a time of increased terror attacks. **Bottom Left:** There were worldwide protests after Boko Haram kidnapped more than 200 Nigerian schoolgirls in 2014. **Background:** Ikeja town shows the abundant population in Nigeria.

# TIMELINE

## OF NIGERIA HISTORY



Figure 11.1



1900

**1934** Birth of Wole Soyinka

**1960** Nigeria gained independence from Great Britain  
United States established diplomatic relations with Nigeria

**1966** Beginning of a period of civil wars and military coups

**1971** Nigeria became a member of OPEC

**1986** Wole Soyinka became first black African to win the Nobel Prize in Literature

**1991** New capital of Abuja created

**1992** Beginning of Nollywood

2000

**1999** Nigeria adopted a new, democratic constitution  
People's Democratic Party became governing party

**2003** Presidential elections marred by irregularities and violence

**2007** General elections marked first civilian-to-civilian transfer of power

**2011** Elections regarded as credible

**2015** All Progressive Congress defeated the People's Democratic Party  
Government forces were accused of violence against civilian protesters



**Area:** 356,669 square miles

**Area Rank:** 32

**Natural Resources:**

natural gas, petroleum, tin, iron ore, coal, limestone, niobium, lead, zinc, arable land

**Environment:**

soil degradation; rapid deforestation; urban air and water pollution; desertification; oil pollution (water, air, and soil); has suffered serious damage from oil spills; loss of arable land; rapid urbanization

**Map 11.1**

**Nigeria**

**Map Skill:** What is the capital of Nigeria? Why do you think it is located where it is?

## Section 1

# The Geography of Nigeria


 Setting a Purpose

## As you read, look for

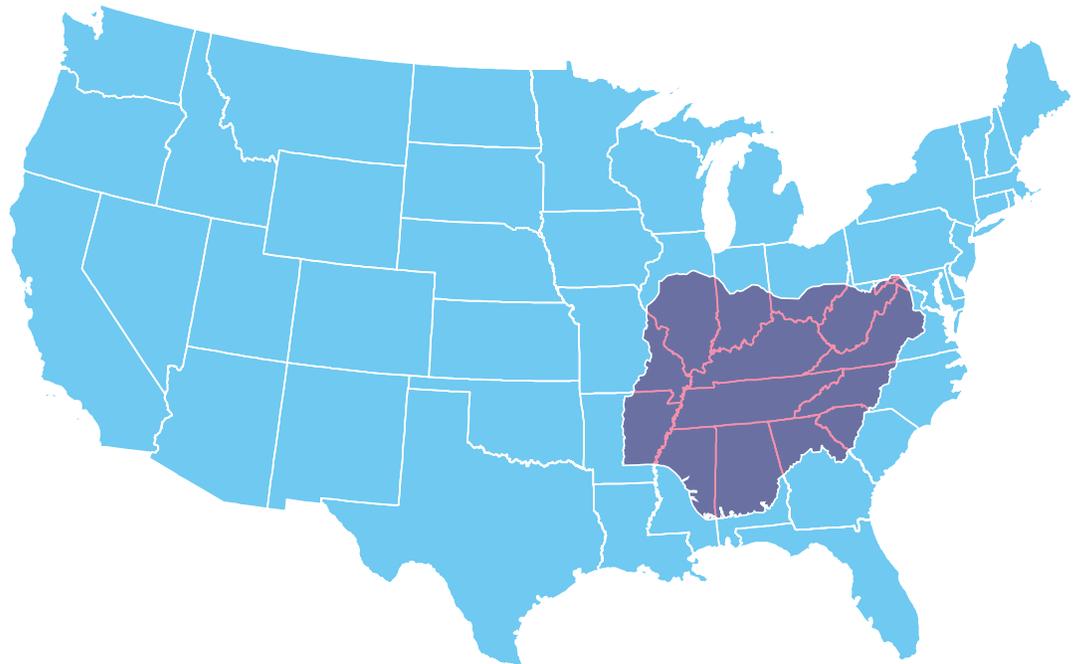
- ▶ how Nigeria's location impacts trade;
- ▶ the Niger River delta's impact on people in Nigeria;
- ▶ the most important natural resource found in Nigeria;
- ▶ the number of ethnic groups in Nigeria;
- ▶ the role of religion in Nigeria;
- ▶ **terms: delta, navigable, tropical savanna climate, harmattan, diverse, Boko Haram.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa.

## Location and Size of Nigeria

Nigeria is located on the west coast of Africa. It lies in the eastern and northern hemispheres between the Tropic of Cancer and the Equator. The country of Niger lies to the north of Nigeria. Benin forms the western border of Nigeria with Cameroon and Chad to the east. The capital of Nigeria is Abuja, which is located in the center of the country. In addition to sharing borders with four countries, Nigeria is bordered to the south by the Gulf of Guinea, a part of the Atlantic Ocean. The 530-mile coastline on the Gulf of Guinea helps make trade easier for Nigeria. The coastline is an area rich in oil reserves. This has both benefited and harmed the people and economy of Nigeria.



Nigeria's land area is about 356,000 square miles, making it the 14th-largest country in Africa and the 32nd-largest country in the world. To put that in perspective, Nigeria is about six times the size of Georgia, or a size similar to the combined areas of Georgia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida.

### Physical Features of Nigeria

Nigeria is located where the Niger River flows into the Gulf of Guinea. The Niger River is the largest river in West Africa and is the source of the country's name. The river begins in the country of Guinea and flows northeast, then southeast, then south for over 2,600 miles before ending in the Gulf of Guinea. It is the third-longest river in Africa behind the Nile and Congo Rivers. The Niger flows through the countries of Guinea, Mali, Niger, Benin, and Nigeria. Interestingly, the Niger River begins only 150 miles away from the Atlantic Ocean, but instead of flowing west to the Atlantic, it flows north due to changes in elevation. Another unusual thing about the Niger River is that it has an inner delta in the middle of the river instead of just at the mouth. A **delta** is where a river divides into smaller bodies of water as it meets with a larger body of water. This inner Niger River delta is almost the size of the country of Belgium. The area around this delta is good for agriculture and fishing.

The Niger River enters Nigeria in the northwest corner and flows south toward the Gulf of Guinea. It flows through tropical rain forests and swamps before joining with the Benue River near the city of Lokoja. The Benue River flows into Nigeria from Cameroon in the east. The combined rivers flow south creating another large delta at the mouth of the river at the Gulf of Guinea. Most of the Niger River is **navigable**, which means ships can operate on it. This makes it very important to trade and shipping. The Nigerian coastland is rich in oil, though problems and corruption in the government have meant the Nigerian people enjoy few benefits from their country's oil wealth.



**Top:** Livestock herds are sometimes forced to make a dangerous crossing on the Niger River. **Above:** Nigeria is named for the Niger River, which stretches across the country. **Left:** Nigeria's beautiful coast extends along the Gulf of Guinea.

## DID YOU KNOW ?

Zuma Rock in Nigeria is a stone monolith that rises above the surrounding landscape to a height similar to Stone Mountain near Atlanta.



## DID YOU KNOW ?

Nigeria has been a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) since 1971.

Landforms vary in the country. In the southeast and along the coast, low-lying plains may be dotted with dense forests or mangrove trees. The central part of the country has rugged highlands and extinct volcanos. The tallest mountain is on the eastern side of this area, Chappal Waddi, at nearly 8,000 feet above sea level in the Gashaka Gumti National Park. Further north, gently rolling plains are interrupted by plateaus (areas of relatively level high ground) that climb as high as 1,500 feet.

### Climate of Nigeria

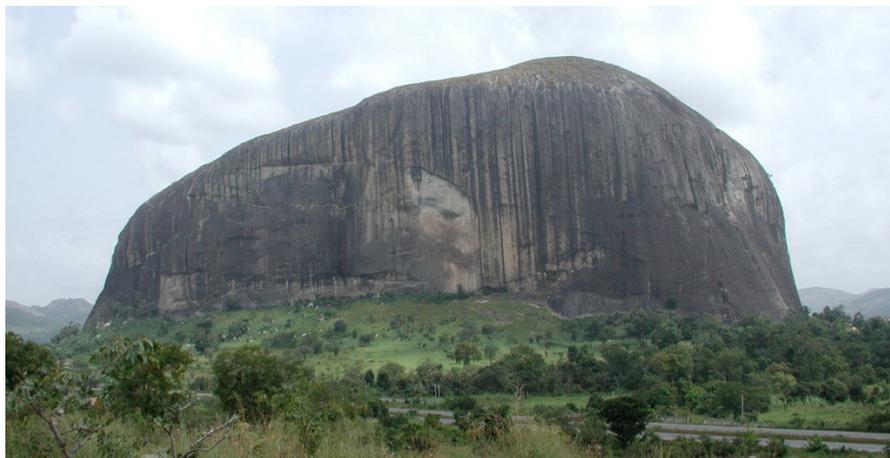
Nigeria's location just north of the Equator means that temperatures will be high. There are several different climates found throughout Nigeria, but the most common climate is the **tropical savanna climate**. That means that monthly average temperatures are above 64 °F all year. A dry season in winter is followed by a rainy season that begins in May. Up to thirty inches of rain may fall in that season.

Other climate zones can be found in Nigeria, too. Along the coast it is hot and wet throughout most of the year. There are even tropical rain forests found in this area. To the far north, the climate is hotter and drier as the Sahara Desert grows closer. In this area, few plants will grow and the ground is sparsely covered with short, brush-like vegetation. In winter months, a dry wind called the **harmattan** blows from the northeast carrying dust from the Sahara Desert across West Africa.

### Natural Resources of Nigeria

Nigeria has very large deposits of petroleum and natural gas, in addition to other natural resources. The country has oil reserves of about 23 billion barrels. Unfortunately, the money Nigeria gets from selling oil to other nations has not benefited most Nigerians. Mismanagement and corruption have left most Nigerians in poverty while a few have benefited from the country's oil trade.

Nigeria has other valuable natural resources, like arable land, which the government is not investing in because of its investment in the oil industry. Even though Nigeria has a large amount of arable land, it actually has to import food to meet the needs of its people. Nigeria's other valuable resources include talc, gypsum, iron ore, lead, zinc, gold, coal, rock salt, gemstones, and kaolin. The Nigerian government has also not invested in these resources because of its attention to the oil industry.



**Above:** The city of Lagos is home to over 8,000,000 people. **Right:** Zuma Rock rises about 2,400 feet above the surrounding landscape near Abuja.

## Where People Live in Nigeria

Like many countries in Africa, about half of the people in Nigeria continue to live in rural areas, usually following the traditions of their ancestors. The coast of Nigeria is heavily populated because it is easier to trade and it is the center of the oil industry. Areas along the Niger River and the delta are also heavily populated. The city of Lagos was the capital of Nigeria until 1991 and continues to be the largest city in Nigeria. The capital, Abuja, was created in 1991. The city was built to be the capital so no ethnic group in Africa could claim to control it because it is located in the center of the country. It was believed that construction of the city would also help spread development to inland areas of the country.

## Environmental Issues in Nigeria

Like many countries, Nigeria faces environmental issues. Deforestation is a problem as land is cleared for farmland and development. Without forests, land can begin to erode and good soil can wash away. Deforestation destroys habitat for plants and animals, but humans can be affected, too. The lack of forest can disrupt the water cycle in a region causing the soil to dry out and become barren.

As urbanization continues, water and air pollution continue to rise. The most significant environmental issue, however, is oil pollution. Pollution from oil spills can contaminate the air, water, and land. The government of Nigeria must figure out how to balance earning money from their plentiful oil reserves with protecting the environment from oil-related pollution.

## People of Nigeria

Nigeria is a very **diverse** (varied) country. Over 250 ethnic groups live in Nigeria. The largest ethnic groups are the Hausa in the north, the Yoruba in the southwest and the Igbo (or Ibo) in the southeast. Each of these groups represents about a fifth of Nigeria's total population. As a result of these large populations, the languages of these three groups, along with English, are used by the government of Nigeria.



**Above:** This street market is in Kano, the second-largest city in Nigeria. **Left:** Some of Nigeria's oil is found offshore in the Gulf of Guinea.



Nigeria is also divided by religion. About 50 percent of the population of Nigeria is Muslim, 40 percent of the population is Christian, and the remaining 10 percent of the population practices indigenous beliefs. Religious tensions and conflict have been present in Nigeria since it gained independence in the 1960s. Almost as soon as Nigeria became independent, a religious war broke out between the Christian south and the Muslim north. These tensions remain high today, with a militant Muslim group called **Boko Haram** trying to take over parts of Nigeria.

In Nigeria's northern states, the vast majority of people are Muslim and are Hausa. The Hausa have been Muslims for almost a thousand years, and were converted to Islam by Arab traders and merchants from the 10th century. In the southern states, the majority of Nigerians are Christian, while some groups continue to practice indigenous beliefs. Generally, religion is taken very seriously, and most people will make frequent references to their faith and church activities. Southern indigenous faiths center on a belief in spirits and also in a Supreme Being or creator, known as Olorun/Olodumare in Yoruba culture and Chineke/Chukwu by Igbo people.



**Top:** The National Christian Center of Nigeria is in the capital city of Abuja.

**Above:** The beautiful Bashir Tofa Mosque is in the city of Kano.

## Reviewing the Section

1. How does Nigeria's location affect trade?
2. What is a delta? How does the Niger River delta impact people in Nigeria?
3. What is the most important natural resource found in Nigeria? Why are other natural resources not being developed in Nigeria?
4. What is Nigeria's most important environmental issue?
5. How many ethnic groups are there in Nigeria? How do you think this affects life in Nigeria?
6. How does religion divide Nigeria's people? Do you think this could cause problems? Why or why not?
7. Putting It All Together: How does Nigeria's geography affect where people live? Why?

## Section 2

# A Brief History of Nigeria

### As you read, look for



- ▶ the influence of Arab traders;
- ▶ why Europeans were first interested in Nigeria;
- ▶ the colonial power's main interests in Nigeria;
- ▶ the Pan-African movement and how it led to independence in Nigeria;
- ▶ the immediate aftermath of independence in Nigeria;
- ▶ terms: **merchant, missionary, Pan-African movement, Independent State of Biafra, civil war, civilian rule.**

## Early History

Throughout its long history, Nigeria has had periods of kingdoms, states, empires, and caliphate and colonial rule. As a result of Nigeria's location within the continent of Africa, its people have come into frequent contact with traders from different parts of the world. Some of these contacts benefited the people of Nigeria, while others did not.

The first groups of traders who journeyed to Nigeria were **merchants** (people involved in trade) from North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Along with gold, ivory, iron, slaves, and gum, these Arab traders also brought the Quran and Islam with them. There were four trans-Saharan trade routes, and two of them went through Nigeria. These routes served to connect people and goods from different parts of the continent.



**Above:** This terracotta figure is from the Nok culture, which thrived in Nigeria about 2,500 years ago. **Left:** West African artists used ivory traded in Nigeria to create works to sell in other markets.

Another group of traders that had a significant impact on the history of Nigeria came from Europe. These traders arrived in the 15th century in search of gold and slave labor. The traders were Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, French, and British. For over 300 years, the human slave trade was conducted along Africa's shores, and Nigeria was a central part of that trade. During this time, more Africans crossed the Atlantic to the New World than did Europeans.



## British Colonial History

Even after the British abolished the slave trade in Britain in 1807, British interest in Nigeria did not end. The British were interested in Nigeria's exports of cocoa, groundnuts, rubber, and palm oil. As a result, the British began establishing permanent settlements on the coast of Nigeria and continually moving inland. The British used the Niger River as a way to explore further inland. Along with conquest and colonization, the British also brought **missionaries** (people sent to promote Christianity in a foreign country) to convert Nigerians to Christianity. British influence and control over Nigeria grew throughout the 19th century.

## Pan-African Movement

As the British continued to spread their influence and control throughout Nigeria, another idea was spreading as well. It was the **Pan-African movement**. This movement began as a reaction to European colonial rule. The goal of the Pan-African movement was for all people of African descent to work together and to think of Africa as their homeland. It encouraged Africans to join together for the betterment of everyone and to help every African country's economy. Another goal of the Pan-African movement was to end European colonial rule. As the Pan-African movement began to spread through Nigeria and the rest of West Africa, many Nigerians began to push for their independence from the British.



**Top:** This stamp from Nigeria's colonial period has an image of the British monarch. **Above:** The colors of the Pan-African flag were symbolic of freedom for people of African descent. **Right:** This young Nigerian girl was one of millions who suffered from malnourishment and starvation during Nigeria's civil war in the late 1960s.



## Independence

A series of constitutions after World War II granted Nigeria greater freedom under British rule. The Nigerians were not satisfied with partial freedom and continued to push for Britain to withdraw completely. Nigeria finally gained independence from Britain in 1960, and most people expected the new state to be stable and calm. Within a few months, however, war broke out between the Christian south and the Muslim north. The religious war left many thousands dead or injured. The country tried to reorganize as twelve different regions. The Igbo (Ibo) people in the east declared themselves to be the **Independent State of Biafra**. This resulted in a thirty-month-long **civil war** (a war between citizens of the same country). Due to battle wounds, food shortages, and disease, it is estimated that up to three million Biafran people may have died as a result of the war. At war's end, Biafra was again a part of Nigeria. The violence did not end, however. Military coups and outbreaks of violence marked the years that followed.

In 1999, a new constitution was adopted and a peaceful transition to civilian government was completed, but Nigeria continued to experience long-standing ethnic and religious tensions. Although both the 2003 and 2007 presidential elections were marred by significant irregularities and violence, Nigeria is currently experiencing its longest period of **civilian rule** (which means that the leaders have not been part of the military) since independence. The general elections of April 2007 marked the first civilian-to-civilian transfer of power in the country's history, and the elections of 2011 were generally regarded as credible. The 2015 contest was considered the best-run election in Nigeria since the return to civilian rule, with the opposition party, the All Progressives Congress, defeating the People's Democratic Party that had governed since 1999.

### Reviewing the Section

1. How did Arab traders influence Nigerian history?
2. Why were Europeans first interested in Nigeria?
3. Which country controlled the colony of Nigeria? What were the colonial power's main interests there?
4. What is the Pan-African movement? How did the Pan-African movement lead to independence in Nigeria?
5. How did Nigeria gain its independence? When?
6. What happened as soon as Nigeria became independent?
7. Make a Prediction: Based on what you have learned about the history of Nigeria, what do you think the future holds for Nigerians: continued peace or a return to conflict and war? Why?



**Above:** The new Millennium Park in the capital of Abuja is an example of hope for the future of Nigeria.

# special Feature

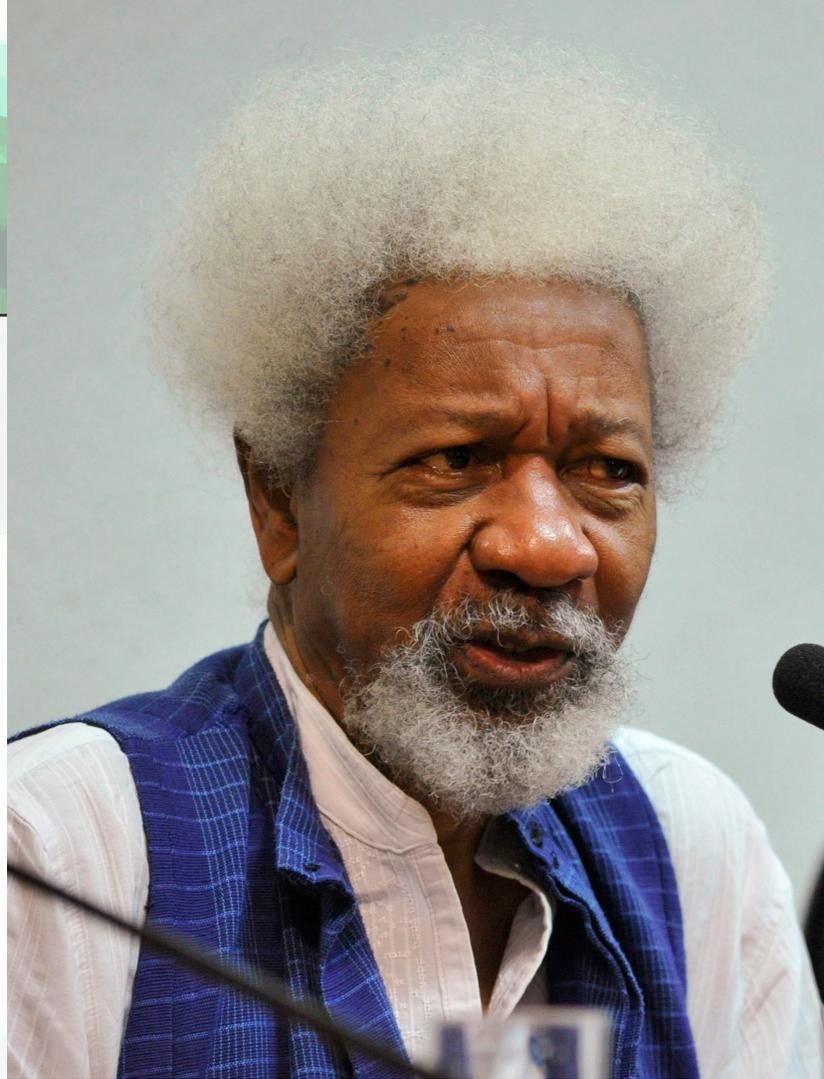
## Wole Soyinka

Akinwande Oluwole “Wole” Soyinka is one of the best-known political activists and writers in Nigeria. Born in Abeokuta, Nigeria, on July 13, 1934, Soyinka attended school in Nigeria before leaving to finish his education at the University of Leeds in England. After graduation, Soyinka returned to Nigeria, where he published and produced his first play in 1960. *A Dance of the Forests* was written as part of the Nigerian independence celebrations.

Soyinka was very outspoken in his support for democratic rule in Nigeria. Much of Soyinka’s work focused on his dislike and distrust of authoritarian rulers in Africa. In 1967, Soyinka was arrested for speaking out against the war that broke out when Biafra tried to become a new, independent nation. During his twenty-two months in solitary confinement, Soyinka wrote a poetry collection called *Poems from Prison*. Upon his release, Soyinka published a narrative of his stay in prison called *The Man Died* in 1972.

In 1986, Soyinka was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. He was the first black African to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. To date, Soyinka has published hundreds of works ranging from plays to poems to novels. Many of his works focus on his distrust of dictatorships in Africa, while others focus on Yoruba folklore. All of his major works are written in English. Soyinka has also been a visiting professor at universities in the United States, England, and Nigeria. In 1996, Soyinka was named the Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Arts at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Today, Soyinka is still a political activist who continues to fight for democratic rule in Nigeria. Do you think Soyinka is like Nelson Mandela? Why or why not?



“

*One thing I can tell you is this, that I am not a methodical writer.*

- Wole Soyinka



**Top:** Wole Soyinka spoke at the Commission on Human Rights and Participatory Legislation in Brazil in 2015. **Right:** Professor Soyinka won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1986.

## Section 3

# The Government of Nigeria

### As you read, look for

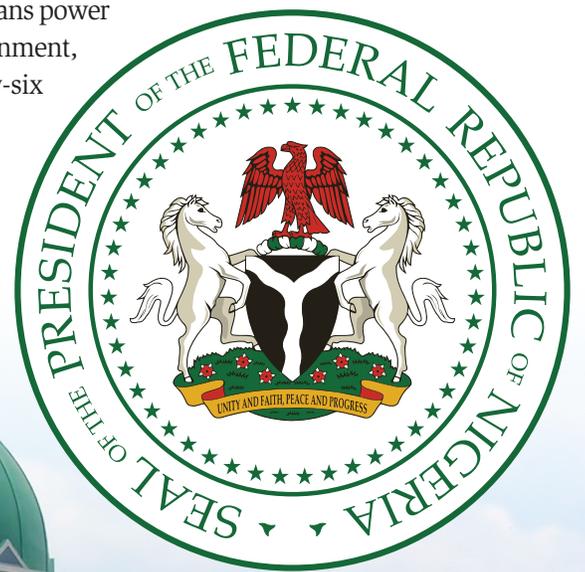
- ▶ the type of government in Nigeria;
- ▶ how citizens participate in the government;
- ▶ freedoms Nigerian citizens enjoy;
- ▶ terms: **republic**, **federal government**, **presidential democracy**, **Federal Executive Council**, **National Assembly**, **Supreme Court**.



## Type of Government

The official name of Nigeria is the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The name suggests the country is a **republic**, which means it has elected representatives. Nigeria has a **federal government**, which means power within the government is divided among the national government, state governments, and local governments. There are thirty-six states in Nigeria.

Nigeria's government is based on a constitution that was written in 1999. That constitution allowed for a peaceful transition from military rule to civilian rule. Since then, the constitution has been amended several times. The constitution sets up the structure for the government. The government of Nigeria is divided into three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.



**Above:** The Seal of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. **Bottom:** The National Assembly of Nigeria meets in this building in the capital of Abuja.

## Branches of Government

The head of government and the cabinet make up the executive branch. Nigeria has an elected president, so it is a **presidential democracy**. The president is elected for a four-year term and can serve two terms in a row. Citizens age eighteen and older are allowed to vote in elections. The president serves as both the head of government and the head of state. The executive branch also includes the cabinet called the **Federal Executive Council**. The president appoints people to the cabinet.

Nigeria is currently enjoying its longest civilian rule since independence. Even though this shows progress, both the 2003 and 2007 presidential elections were marked with violence and possible cheating. There are six major political parties in Nigeria, but only two political parties have had a president elected since 1999. The People's Democratic Party ruled Nigeria from 1999, but lost the 2015 election to the All Progressives Congress political party.

The legislative branch is called the **National Assembly** and is made up of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate has 109 seats with three senators from each state and one from the capital, Abuja. Senators are elected for four-year terms. The House of Representatives has 360 seats. Members are also elected to four-year terms.

The judicial branch has a **Supreme Court** with one chief justice and fifteen justices, who are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. They serve on the Supreme Court until they reach the age of sixty-five. Islamic law, or Sharia Law, is used in some form in the twelve states in the northern part of Nigeria, but not the rest of Nigeria. Because of years of colonial rule, much of the law in Nigeria is based on British law traditions.



**Above:** Muhammadu Buhari is the first president to be elected from the All Progressives Congress. **Right:** Nigerian flags wave proudly. Continued independence and freedom will depend on good decisions from the country's leaders.

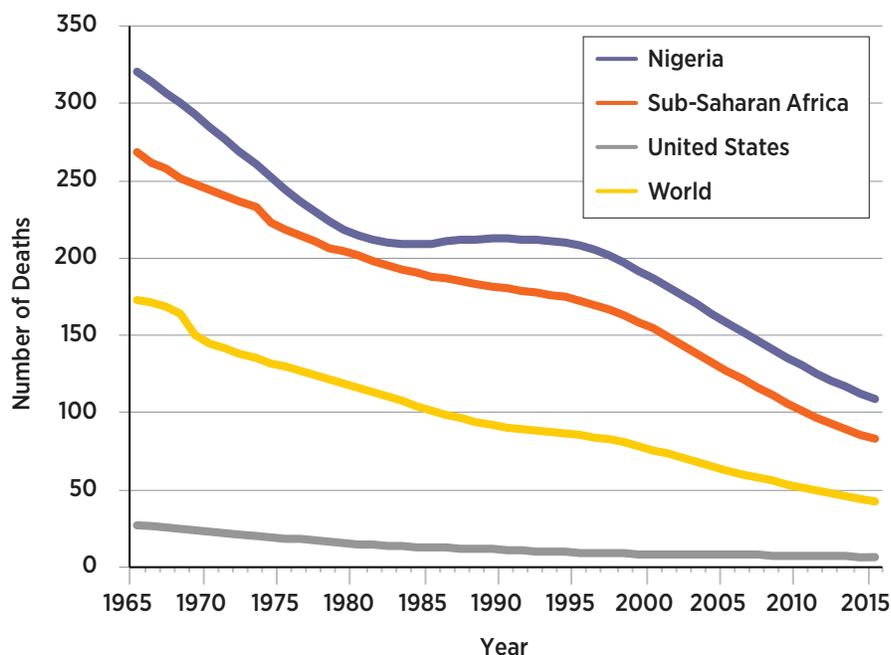
## Challenges Facing the Government

The government of Nigeria faces many challenges including government corruption and terrorism. The country has a history of violent and nonviolent rule by military dictators. Citizens are learning what it is like to have responsible, elected leaders. The government continues to work toward making sure its democracy is working properly. It is also working to diversify its economy, making it less dependent on oil.

Government forces were accused of killing 150 peaceful protesters in 2015 who were marching in favor of Biafran independence. Later in the same year, the army was accused of killing more than 340 Shia Muslims. International governments expressed concern over the violence. The events were reminders that the Nigerian government forces may have a lack of understanding of how to respond to peaceful protest in a democratic society.

### Reviewing the Section

1. What type of government does Nigeria have?
2. How do citizens participate in the government?
3. What freedoms do Nigerian citizens have?
4. When was Nigeria's constitution written? Why is it important?
5. Who is the head of government in Nigeria? How does he gain power?
6. Putting It All Together: What do you think the biggest challenge facing Nigeria's government is? Why?



**Figure 11.2**

**Child Mortality Rate (under 5, per 1,000 live births)**

**Top:** Nigeria is currently losing about 1,300 square miles of forest each year. Deforestation continues to be one of the biggest environmental problems in the country.

## Section 4

# The Economy of Nigeria

## As you read, look for

Setting a Purpose

- ▶ the type of economic system in Nigeria;
- ▶ Nigeria's most valuable natural resources;
- ▶ factors driving Nigeria's economic growth;
- ▶ Nigeria's top exports and imports;
- ▶ economic diversification in Nigeria;
- ▶ terms: **Nollywood, diversified economy, infrastructure, naira.**

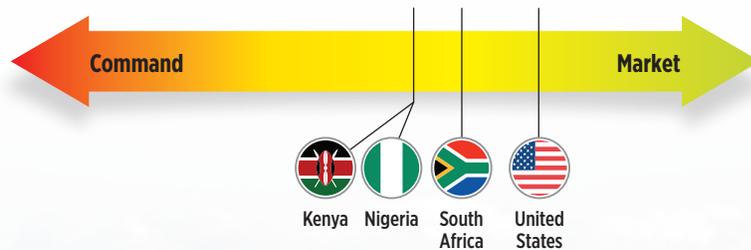
## Africa's Largest Economy

Nigeria has the largest economy in Africa. In 2015, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Nigeria was about \$1 trillion. Nigeria's economy is mixed, leaning toward a market economy. As the government continues to improve and work for freedom for businesses, the economy moves along the economic continuum toward a more market-based economy. An established system of courts and stability in government make the country more attractive for businesses.

As a result of their large oil reserves, Nigeria is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Oil has been a dominant source of income and government revenues since the 1970s.

Figure 11.3

### Economic Systems in Africa



**Above:** Nigerian banknotes. **Right:** An oil tanker makes its way to port in Lagos.

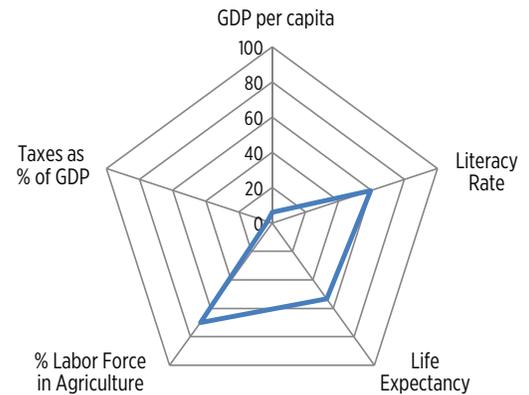
Nigeria's economic growth over the last five years has been driven by growth in agriculture, telecommunications, and services. This economic growth has not been enough to bring about a decline in poverty levels, however. Over 70 percent of Nigeria's people still live in extreme poverty.

Nigeria's economy grew steadily to over 7 percent every year between 2005 and 2014, but growth was slower in 2015. This growth was driven primarily by the non-oil sectors, such as financial services, telecommunications, entertainment, and others. The entertainment sector includes a growing film industry that has been nicknamed **Nollywood**. Investment from foreigners in Nigeria's economy has been high with an average of \$2 billion per quarter since 2013. Most of the foreign investment has been in areas that are not oil related.

### Economic Challenges

The most important economic challenge facing Nigeria is developing a **diversified economy** (an economy that is broadened to focus on other resources and industries instead of just oil). The three areas where Nigeria is trying to diversify its economy are telecommunications, financial services, and cement. The government of Nigeria is also trying to improve the infrastructure for all Nigerians. **Infrastructure** includes roads, railways, and communication systems. An improved infrastructure would make Nigeria a better location for business because it would be easier to move people and goods throughout the country.

**Figure 11.4**  
Nigeria Spider Graph



**Left:** A Nigerian boy takes goats and sheep to graze. Many Nigerians live and work on farms.

# special Feature

# NOLLYWOOD

## Nollywood

Chances are, you have never heard of Nollywood, but you might guess that “Nollywood” is one name used to describe the Nigerian movie industry. The Nigerian film industry is the second-largest movie producer in the world behind India’s Bollywood. Nollywood produces an average of 1,000 films a year, while Hollywood in the United States produces around 600 a year. The average Nollywood film is produced in seven to ten days, while the average Hollywood film takes a year to produce. One of the biggest challenges the Nigerian film industry faces is piracy. The industry is valued at \$3 billion, but the actual movie industry sees very little of that money as most of it goes to video pirates (people who illegally copy and sell video).

Nollywood began in 1992, when the film *Living in Bondage* was released in Nigeria. Even though it was filmed with a commercial camera and went straight to home video, it was a major success. The first Nollywood directors were all self-made with little experience and very little money. When Nollywood began, there was a scarcity of funding and few movie theaters in Nigeria, but there was not a shortage of original ideas for movies. Most Nollywood films are dramas or comedies, but there are also historical pieces, as well as horror and romance.

Today, Nollywood is continuing to grow at a fast pace. Nollywood is Nigeria’s largest employer after agriculture, making up 5 percent of Nigeria’s Gross National Product (GDP). Nigerian movies form about 11 percent of Nigeria’s non-oil exports. You can even find Nigerian films on Netflix. What would you expect to see in a Nigerian movie?



**Top:** Nollywood is the colloquial name given to the Nigerian film industry.

**Top Right:** Director Bond Emeruwa and crew shoot a scene. Nollywood is the second-largest employer after agriculture in Nigeria.

## Trade in Nigeria

Trade is very important to the Nigerian economy. Since Nigeria has large deposits of petroleum, it is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The major exports of Nigeria are petroleum and petroleum products (95 percent), cocoa, and rubber. Nigeria mainly exports its goods to India, the Netherlands, Spain, Brazil, France, Japan, and the African countries of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and South Africa. The major imports of Nigeria are machinery, chemicals, transport equipment, manufactured goods, food, and live animals. Nigeria mainly imports goods from China, the United States, the Netherlands, and India.

In order to trade, these countries must exchange their currencies for Nigeria's currency, the **naira** (₦). Currency can be exchanged at banks or electronically so that trade in goods and services can occur. In 2017, one US dollar could be exchanged for about 315 Nigerian naira.

In 2013, Georgia's exports to Nigeria totaled \$248 million. Nigeria is currently the 31st-largest export market for Georgia. Top exports from Georgia to Nigeria include motor vehicles, paper and paperboard, heavy machinery, aircraft parts, and aluminum. Georgia leads the other US states in the export of the following goods to Nigeria: paper and paperboard (1st), aluminum (1st), gas turbines (2nd), and aircraft parts (3rd). In 2013, Georgia's imports from Nigeria totaled more than \$25 million. Top imports from Nigeria include mineral fuels and oils, soaps and waxes, electrical machinery, and fish.



**Above:** Modern apartments are available to men working in Nigeria's petroleum industry. **Left:** Traffic on a busy Lagos street generates air pollution that can cause respiratory problems for people in the city.

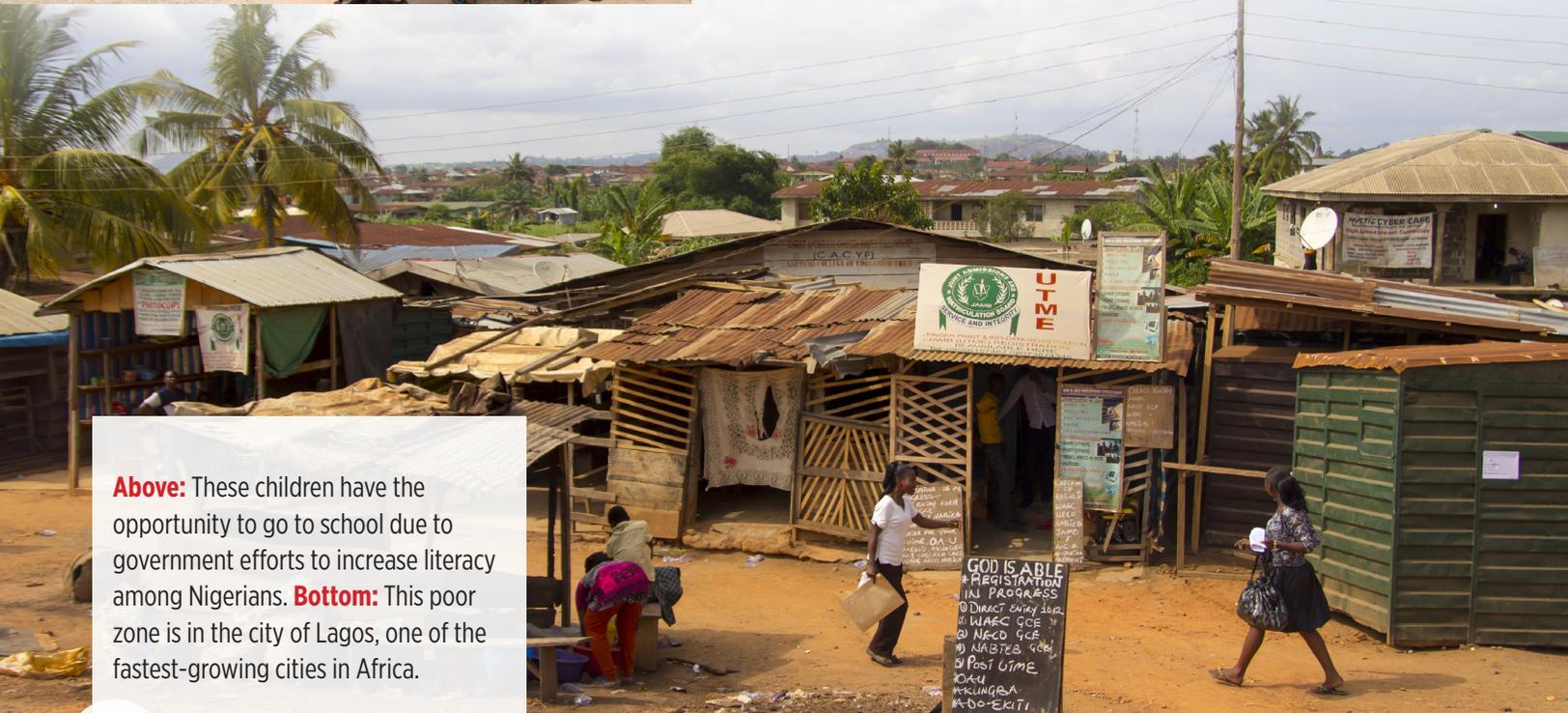
## Natural Resources in Nigeria

Nigeria is one of those countries in Africa that has a wide variety of natural resources. It has a reserve of about 23 billion barrels of petroleum and 160 trillion cubic meters of natural gas. Nigeria is rich with a variety of other natural resources that include talc, gypsum, iron ore, lead/zinc, gold, coal, rock salt, gemstones, and kaolin. Because Nigeria's government is still heavily focused on oil, most of these other natural resources have received little investment.

## Human Capital in Nigeria

Nigeria is an example of a country that should have a strong economy because it has rich deposits of oil. However, years of government corruption, civil war, and military rule have left Nigeria poor. Nearly 70 percent of the people in Nigeria have to live on less than one dollar a day. Even though it has good farmland, it must import food to keep its people from starving.

Investment in human capital is one way the Nigerian government can help its economy continue to grow. The literacy rate in Nigeria is about 60 percent. This means that about 40 percent of the population in Nigeria cannot read and write. Breaking the literacy rate down by gender shows that about 70 percent of men are literate, while only about 50 percent of women are literate. One reason for the low literacy rate is that almost 30 percent of children between the ages of five and fourteen have to work to help their families and cannot attend school. Also, many girls do not attend school because it is believed to be more important to marry at a young age.



**Above:** These children have the opportunity to go to school due to government efforts to increase literacy among Nigerians. **Bottom:** This poor zone is in the city of Lagos, one of the fastest-growing cities in Africa.



## Capital Goods in Nigeria

Nigeria has invested heavily in capital goods for its oil industry. New technology is required to compete in the global market. The concentration on capital goods for this part of the economy, however, has left many Nigerians without proper food and housing. Nigeria does not have a large manufacturing or industry sector. In fact, most of their capital goods that are not oil related come from imports from other countries.

## Entrepreneurship in Nigeria

Currently, it is not very easy to be an entrepreneur in Nigeria. However, Nigeria's government is working to improve the environment for small business to thrive. While the requirement to have a minimum amount of money to start a business has been eliminated, it still costs about four times the average yearly income to get a license to start a business.

## Reviewing the Section

1. What type of economy does Nigeria have?
2. What are two of Nigeria's most valuable natural resources?
3. What are four things that are driving Nigeria's economic growth?
4. What are Nigeria's top exports and imports?
5. What does diversifying an economy mean? Why does Nigeria need to do this?
6. Copy the chart below and complete it with information from the reading.

Factor of Growth	How Does Nigeria Invest in It?	Examples in Nigeria
Natural Resources		
Human Capital		
Capital Goods		
Entrepreneurship		

**Top:** A tanker ship passes an oil rig near Lagos on its way to the Atlantic Ocean.

## Section 5

# US-Nigeria Relations

## As you read, look for


 Setting a Purpose

- ▶ when the US-Nigeria relationship began;
- ▶ reasons the relationship between the two countries was strained;
- ▶ areas of focus in the current United States-Nigeria relationship;
- ▶ imports and exports between the two nations;
- ▶ how being a member of international organizations helps the people of Nigeria;
- ▶ terms: **diplomatic relations, military coup, transparency, African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).**



**Above:** US Secretary of State John Kerry met with Nigerian President Buhari in 2016 in Morocco.

## Improving Relations

The United States established **diplomatic relations** (an arrangement where two nations have representatives in each other's country) with Nigeria in 1960, following Nigeria's independence from the United Kingdom. From 1966 to 1999, Nigeria experienced a series of civil wars and **military coups**. (A military coup is an overthrow of the government by military forces.) Following the 1999 inauguration of a civilian president, the US-Nigerian relationship began to improve, as did cooperation on foreign policy goals such as regional peacekeeping. Under the US-Nigeria Binational Commission, the two countries hold talks on five key areas: good governance; **transparency** (the obligation to share information with citizens) and integrity; energy and investment; regional security; the Niger delta; and agriculture and food security.

## US Assistance to Nigeria

The United States wants to help improve economic stability, security, and well-being for Nigerians by strengthening their democratic government and improving transparency. As Nigeria works to combat corruption in government, improving transparency and accountability will help people begin to trust the government again. The United States also wants to help with health and education services, as well as improving agricultural productivity.



## Bilateral Economic Relations

The United States is the largest foreign investor in Nigeria, with US foreign direct investment concentrated largely in the petroleum/mining and wholesale trade sectors. US exports to Nigeria include wheat, vehicles, machinery, oil, and plastic. Nigeria is eligible for preferential trade benefits under the **African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)**, the 2000 act of the United States that increased market access to the United States for qualifying countries in sub-Saharan Africa. US imports from Nigeria include mineral fuels, cocoa, rubber, art and antiques, and food products. The United States and Nigeria have signed a bilateral trade and investment framework agreement.



## Nigeria's Membership in International Organizations

Nigeria and the United States belong to a number of the same international organizations, including the United Nations, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization. Nigeria also is an observer to the Organization of American States. Finally, Nigeria is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as a result of its large oil reserves. The goal of OPEC is to control the price of oil by controlling the supply in the global economy. The United States is not a member of OPEC.

## Reviewing the Section

1. When did the US-Nigeria relationship begin?
2. Why was the relationship between the two countries strained? Why did it get better in 1999?
3. What are five focus areas for US-Nigeria relations?
4. What are Nigeria's top exports to the United States? What are the United States' top exports to Nigeria?
5. How does being a member of international organizations help the people of Nigeria?

**Top:** Captain Shawn Duane took part in a community relations project in a local village as part of the Africa Partnership Station. **Above:** In 2010, US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with the Nigerian Secretary to the Federal Government Yayale Ahmed at the US State Department in Washington, DC.

# Chapter Review

## Chapter Summary

### Section 1: The Geography of Nigeria

- Nigeria is named for the long Niger River, which is important for trade.
- Nigeria has large oil reserves and has been a member of OPEC since 1971.
- Nigeria has the largest population in Africa, which includes over 250 ethnic groups and diverse languages and religions.

### Section 2: A Brief History of Nigeria

- Arab merchants were some of the first people to interact with Nigerians and influence the culture.
- The British used the Niger River to colonize further into Nigeria for its natural resources.
- Nigeria gained independence in 1960, but civil war broke out between different religious groups.
- In the 21st century, the country has improving political stability, free elections, and decreasing violence.

### Section 3: The Government of Nigeria

- The government is a federal republic where all citizens over eighteen can vote.
- The executive branch includes the president and the cabinet called the Federal Executive Council.
- The legislative branch is made up of the bicameral National Assembly.
- The judicial branch is the Supreme Court with justices appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

### Section 4: The Economy of Nigeria

- Nigeria has Africa's largest economy. Its main export is oil.
- The country is working to diversify the economy with investments in telecommunications, financial services, and cement.
- Due to government corruption and lack of investment in human capital, the Nigerian economy has not reached its potential, and many Nigerians live in poverty.

### Section 5: US-Nigeria Relations

- Once Nigeria inaugurated a civilian president in 1999, the United States began providing aid to Nigeria.
- The United States is the largest foreign investor in the country and works to combat government corruption.

## Activities for Learning

### Reviewing People, Places, and Things



Imagine you are a journalist in Nigeria focusing on the economy. Write a realistic article using the words and names below. Underline each word as you use it.

Abuja  
Niger River  
diversified economy  
infrastructure  
transparency  
OPEC  
entrepreneurship  
literacy

### Understanding the Facts



1. Why is the Niger River important?
2. What is the capital of Nigeria?
3. Why did the British stay in Nigeria after the abolition of the slave trade?
4. What is the Independent State of Biafra?
5. How do advisors get on the Federal Executive Council?
6. What happened to the government in 1999?
7. What percentage of Nigerians lives in poverty?
8. Why is Nollywood important for the economy?
9. Why is government transparency important?
10. Name three international organizations that Nigeria is a member of.

### Developing Critical Thinking



1. Although Nigeria is a rich country, this wealth has not improved the lives of many poor Nigerians. How do you think this poverty affects decisions made by individuals, thereby promoting tensions between various religious and ethnic groups? Provide specific examples.
2. Nigeria had a marked improvement in 1999 after a civilian leader took control. How are military and civilian leaders different? Why do you think a civilian president has created a

more peaceful transition of power?

3. Twelve of Nigeria's states follow Islamic law and the others follow a system similar to the United States. Why do you think there are different systems across the country? What do you think this indicates about the multiculturalism of Nigeria?

### Writing across the Curriculum



1. Write a short report on the struggles Nigeria faced after independence. Include specific examples and what led to these problems.
2. Nigeria is working to diversify its economy. Write a short report on why this is a good idea, and identify the natural resources in Nigeria that have been ignored.

### Applying Your Skills



1. Compare and contrast the Nigerian and American branches of government. Create whichever graph or chart you think best displays this information, and summarize in one or two sentences what you have illustrated.
2. What interested you in Section 5? Formulate a thesis question that you would like to research. What sources do you think would help you answer this question?

### Exploring Technology



1. Nollywood is important for the economy of Nigeria and also provides cultural benefits. Read the article from *The New York Times* in <http://tiny.cc/nolly>. What does the author say about how Nollywood movies help viewers understand Nigerian culture?
2. Use the Internet to research Nigeria's currency, the naira. How strong is the naira compared to the US dollar and the currency of Nigeria's other trading partners? How does this affect imports and exports?