

S.S.1 GEOGRAPHY

LOCATION, POSITION AND SIZE OF NIGERIA.

LOCATION: The location of any country including Nigeria is described mainly in terms of latitude and longitude. In terms of latitude Nigeria is located between 4°N and 14°N of the equator (the central or reference line of latitude) is between 3°E and 15°E of the Greenwich meridian (the central or reference line of longitude). Hence, the latitudinal stretch or extent (14°N - 4°N) of Nigeria is 10° while the longitudinal stretch or extent (15°E - 3°E) is 12°. The above location points Nigeria in a fairly central position in Africa close to the equator.

POSITION: The position is described in terms of national features or countries sharing common boundary with Nigeria. Except for the Atlantic Ocean to the south Nigeria is surrounded by four French-speaking countries in West Africa. In the west: Benin Republic, in the north: Niger Republic, in the east: Republic of Cameroon and in the North east by Chad Republic.

SIZE: The size of Nigeria is described in two terms (a) Land Area (b) Population

- (a) The total land area of Nigeria is approximately 923,768sqKm about 1/7th of the total land area of West Africa. This land area makes Nigeria the fourth largest country in West Africa, after Niger, Mali and Mauritania. And 14th largest country in Africa. The longest distance from north to south is about 1100km while from east to west is about 1300km.
- (b) In terms of population, the 2006 census put the population of Nigeria at 140,003,542 people, approximately 140million people. This figure makes Nigeria the largest country in Africa. Hence the name is "Giant of Africa".

S.S.2 GEOGRAPHY

CLASSIFICATION OF WORLD CLIMATE

Climatic classification is a method whereby all areas of the earth with similar climatic condition or characteristics are grouped into the same climatic type called **Climatic zone or Region**. The two common systems of classification of world climate are:

- ❖ The Greeks classification
- ❖ Koppen's classification

1. GREEK'S CLASSIFICATION

The Greek's classification of climate is based on temperature and latitude. They classified world climate into 3 zones.

- i. The torrid zone
- ii. The frigid zone
- iii. The temperate zone

TORRID ZONE

- a. This zone lies between the tropics of cancer ($23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{N}$) and Capricorn ($23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{S}$)
- b. Within this zone, the sun is directly overhead twice a year.
- c. The zone experiences high temperature throughout the year.
- d. The sun's rays are vertical through the year thereby making it a hot zone.

FRIGID ZONE

- a. This zone is found between the Arctic Circle and North Pole in the northern hemisphere and between Antarctic Circle and South Pole.
- b. The sun rays are oblique throughout the year.
- c. The zone is generally cold with low temperature throughout the year.
- d. It has lots of ice-caps in the greater part of the year.

TEMPERATE ZONE

- a. This is the zone between the torrid (tropic of cancer) and the frigid (Arctic Circle)
- b. The zone is also called Middle Latitudes.
- c. The sun is never overhead in the zone.
- d. The temperature is mild (neither really hot or cold)

ADVANTAGES OF GREEKS CLASSIFICATION

1. It is very simple to understand
2. It is fundamental classification which is still in use till today with some modification where necessary.

DISADVANTAGES OF GREEKS CLASSIFICATION

1. It is based on temperature only as an element of climate.
2. It is too simple.
3. It fails to take into account other factors like altitude, vegetation, wind and rainfall.
4. It did not recognize highland climate or the desert climate.