

COUNTRY FOCUS

THE
MEMORY
BOX





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BACKGROUND FACTS

Some useful facts about Nigeria:

Country name: The Federal Republic of Nigeria
Population: 130.2 million (UN, 2005)
Capital: Abuja
Largest city: Lagos
Area: 923,768 sq km (356,669 sq miles)
Major languages: English (official), Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa
Major religions: Islam, Christianity, indigenous beliefs
Life expectancy: 43 years (men), 43 years (women) (UN)
Monetary unit: 1 Nigerian naira = 100 kobo
(1 euro = 175 naira)
Main exports: petroleum, petroleum products,
cocoa, rubber
GNI per capita: US \$560 (World Bank, 2006)
Internet domain: .ng
International dialling code: +234
President: Umaru Yar'Adua (People's Democratic
Party PDP)

Compare with the Republic of Ireland:

Population: 4,148,000 (WHO, 2007)
Capital: Dublin
Largest city: Dublin
Area: 70,280 sq km (27,135 sq miles)
Major languages: Irish, English
Major religion: Christianity
Life expectancy: 77 years (men), 81 years (women) (UN)
Monetary unit: Euro (EUR)
Main exports: chemicals, computer equipment, dairy
produce, instruments, livestock, machinery, meat
GNI per capita: US \$40,140 (2005)
Internet domain: .ie
International dialling code: +353
President: Mary McAleese

Flag of Nigeria



IDEAS TO EXPLORE WITH YOUR CLASS

CLASS PROJECT

Brainstorm what children know, if anything, about Nigeria. What would they like to find out if they were going to visit the country?

Topics might include: politics, history, imports and exports, customs and traditions, natural world (eg flowers and fauna). The project could be completed individually or by groups.

Using some or all of the above topics, present a class project on Nigeria and display in the assembly area or front hall of the school.

EXPLORING LITERATURE

An interesting and useful book, illustrated with full-colour photographs:

Ikenna Goes to Nigeria, by Ifeoma Onyefulu,
Children Return to Their Roots Series,
Frances Lincoln
ISBN 9781845075859

Ikenna leaves his London home to visit Nigeria, homeland of his extended family, in the company of his mother, an award-winning author and photographer. He describes the many interesting and unusual things he notices on the long journey from Lagos to Onitsha to meet cousins, uncles, aunts and grandparents and we experience them too, through his mother's exciting and informative photographs. He celebrates his birthday, receiving homemade gifts and sharing a meal of Jellof Rice.

CULTURE

Teach the children in your class some interesting aspects that reflect Nigerian culture; www.motherlandnigeria.com/kidzone.html has a section where you can find: stories (especially for children), games, proverbs, pictures, music, Nigerian-related humour, education, languages.

