THE NIGERIA AREA UP TO 1800

Land and Peoples of the Nigeria Area

☐ Geographical Zones and the People

- **Northern Zone**:
  - Comprising the savanna and semi-arid areas.
  - Inhabited by Hausa, Kanuri, Fulani, and Tiv.

- **Middle Belt Zone**:
  - A mix of savanna and forest regions.
  - Home to Nupe, Jukun, Idoma, and Ebira.

- **Southern Zone**:
  - Forest and coastal areas.
  - Inhabited by Yoruba, Igbo, Edo, Efik, Ijo, Itsekiri, and Urhobo.

☐ The People's Relationship with the Environment

- **Northern Zone**:
  - Adapted to dry climate.
  - Engaged in farming millet, sorghum, and animal husbandry (e.g., cattle rearing).

- **Middle Belt**:
  - Practiced mixed farming and hunting due to the diverse vegetation.

- **Southern Zone**:
  - Relied on fertile soil for yam, cassava, and palm oil production; fishing was common in coastal areas.

❖ **Relations and Integration Among the Peoples**

- Trade routes linked the different zones, promoting cultural exchange.
- Inter-marriages strengthened social ties.
- Conflicts sometimes arose over land, resources, or political dominance but were often resolved through diplomacy or alliances.

Early Centers of Civilization

 Nok Culture (500 BC – 200 AD)

- Known for terracotta sculptures.
- Engaged in iron-smelting and farming.

 Daima (9th Century)

- Located in present-day Borno State.
- Practiced agriculture and animal domestication.

 Ife (11th – 15th Century)

- Yoruba cultural hub famous for bronze and terracotta art.
- Developed advanced governance and religion systems.

 Benin (15th Century)

- Known for its intricate bronze works and strong monarchy.
- Built defensive city walls.

 Igbo Ukwu (9th Century)

- Renowned for bronze artifacts and early trade networks.

- **Iwo Eleru**
  - Prehistoric settlement with evidence of ancient human habitation and stone tools.

❖ **Monuments and Shelter Systems**

- **Kuyambana**: Rock shelters used for protection and rituals.
- **Durbi-ta-Kusheyi**: Burial site for rulers in Hausa land.
- **City Walls and Palaces**: Found in Benin, Kano, and Zaria, showcasing advanced engineering.

Origin and Formation of States in the Nigeria Area

- **Central Sudan (Kanuri and Hausa States)**
  - **Kanuri**:
    - Established the Kanem-Borno Empire.
    - Practiced Islam and trade.
  - **Hausa States**:
    - Included Kano, Zaria, and Katsina.
    - Known for trade and crafts.
- **Niger-Benue Valley**
  - **Nupe**: Skilled in metalwork and bead-making.
  - **Jukun**: Known for military strength and cultural festivals.
  - **Igala, Idoma, Tiv, and Ebira**: Practiced farming and fishing.

Excel Education Initiative - History

- **Eastern Forest Belt**
  - **Igbo**:
    - Lived in decentralized societies.
    - Relying on family and village heads for governance.
  - **Ibibio**: Known for farming and trade.
- **Western Forest Belt**
  - **Yoruba**: Developed city-states like Ife and Oyo, with strong kingship and religious practices.
  - **Edo**: Built the Benin Kingdom, renowned for its artistic heritage.
- **Coastal and Niger–Delta**
  - **Efik, Ijo, Itsekiri, and Urhobo**: Engaged in fishing, trade, and early contact with Europeans.

❖ **Factors Influencing Their Origin and Migration**

- Climate and resource availability.
- Trade opportunities and conflicts.
- Religious or cultural factors.

❖ **Social and Political Organizations**

- Centralized kingdoms (e.g., Benin, Oyo).
- Decentralized societies (e.g., Igbo).

❖ **Inter-state relations included:** trade, alliances, wars, and treaties.

Economic Activities and Growth of States

- **Agriculture**
  - **Farming**: Staple crops like millet, yam, and cassava.
  - Hunting and fishing provided meat and trade goods.
  - **Animal husbandry**: Cattle rearing in the north.
- **Industries**
  - **Pottery**: Used for storage and trade.
  - **Iron-smelting**: Tools and weapons production.
  - **Blacksmithing and leather-working**: Found in Hausa states.
  - **Cloth-making and dyeing**: Practiced in Oyo and Kano.
- **Trade and Trade Routes**
  - **Local**: Markets within communities.
  - **Regional**: Linked different states for trade of goods like salt, kolanut, and cloth.
  - **Long Distance**: Trans-Saharan trade connected Nigeria to North Africa and the Mediterranean.

- **Expansion of States**
    - Economic prosperity led to territorial expansion.
    - Strong military systems ensured growth and protection.

External Influences

- **North Africans/Arabs**
    - Introduction of Islam: Spread through trade and scholarship.
    - Impact: New governance systems, architecture (mosques), and education.
- **Europeans**
    - **Early Trade**: Began in the 15th century with Portuguese traders along the coast.

- **Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade:**
    - **Origin**: Driven by demand for labor in the Americas.
    - **Organization**: Coastal states supplied slaves in exchange for goods like firearms.
    - **Impact**:
        - Devastated populations and disrupted societies.
        - Introduced European goods and altered economies.