

Teacher's Guide for FACES

Nigeria: Land of Extremes

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Getting Started

The tagline for this issue describes Nigeria as a "Land of Extremes." What does the word *extreme* mean? Some definitions include intense, beyond the norm, drastic, or opposite ends of range. As you make your way through the issue, jot down items that might be considered extreme.

High Five

(RI1) How does a mix of geography lead to a mix of languages, cultures, and economies? How does the geography of Nigeria affect the animal life? How do Nigerians communicate even with such a large mix of languages?

At a Glance

Use this fact sheet to find possible extremes for your list mentioned above.

Use the facts mentioned to change the political map into a topography map. Also try to figure out where major industries are located based on climate and terrain.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

(RI9) Animals often differ by continent. What similarities/differences to North American species do you see?

(SL1) Work in partners or groups to discuss: Should indigenous people be allowed to kill animals for bushmeat? What should governments do to protect these animals?

(W7) Visit the African Wildlife Foundation to find out how endangered the duiker is and to find out what is being done to protect it from extinction.

www.awf.org/wildlife-conservation/duiker

(SL2) Watch a video of the pangolin. Summarize what you learn.

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/animals/mammals-animals/other-mammals/weirdest-pangolin/>

Land of Contrasts

(RL7) How do the article's photos demonstrate extremes in Nigeria?

(RL1/RI1)

- Use the opening paragraph to find what distinctions Nigeria holds.
- What obstacles faced an independent Nigeria?
- Americans tend to associate oil with money. Is this the case in Nigeria? Why/why not?
- Why is deforestation a problem?
- How many "seasons" does Nigeria have? What are they?

(SL1) Work with a partner to discuss:

Why is there a lack of schooling in Nigeria? How could the government fix this issue? How would Nigeria benefit from increasing the education of the children?

(W1) The closing paragraph states:

Nigerians are proud of their country and its diversity. They continue to look to the future while honoring the past.

How do Nigerians do this? What do they need to retain from the past? What, in your opinion, will need to be done to secure a bright future? Write an opinion piece on this and offer support for your stance.

What is the People's Language?

(RL4) Define: ethnic group

Take a class poll. How many students are bilingual? Are there any students who know 4 or 5 languages as some Nigerians do?

(SL1) Did you know the U.S. has no official language? Should the U.S. have an official language? What would be the pros and cons?

(SL1) The article mentions educational problems because some students don't know English. Brainstorm possible solutions. Is this issue limited to Nigeria or does it happen in other countries around the world?

Spices for the Soul

(RI1) Nigerian cuisine is described as spicy and super hot. What ingredients make it that way? In what region of the U.S. do we also have spicy and super hot cuisine? (Remember last month's issue?)

(L5) How does food feed the soul? What is the meaning of this phrase?

Watch a video clip of the Lagos outdoor market to get a sense of the sights and sounds.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=16dBg_vDxKs

*Be advised there may be unsuitable videos advertised next to this video.

It's All in the Name

(SL4) Interview your parents and write the story of how your name was chosen. Do you think your name is fitting? Would you change it? Why/why not?

(RL7) Which ethnic group traditions are represented by the illustrations?

(RL8) Find evidence in the article that suggests:

- Religion is important in Nigerian society.
- Respect for the elderly is important.
- Each child is considered a special gift.

(W3) Write a family panegyric. Compose a poem telling your family's story...it's history and characteristics.

Fela the Fearless

Watch a video clip of Fela!

<http://www.arshtcenter.org/fela/>

The show is described as revealing his "controversial life as an artist and political activist and celebrates his pioneering music."

(RL8) What words would you use to describe Fela? Find evidence from the article and/or video clip to support your description.

(RL2) What was Fela's message? How is it being spread today? Why do you think he continues to be a popular figure many years after his death?

(RI1) Why do you think Fela was so unpopular with the Nigerian government? What might have been their worries and concerns?

Growing Up in Nigeria

(RL3) What are wedding traditions in your family? Compare/contrast them with Rahab's family traditions.

(RI1) Why might weddings be at the forefront of Rahab's mind? Why do you think she finds them particularly interesting?

(RI1) Create a timeline of Rahab's day. Is she a morning person or a night owl? How do you know? How would her daily schedule look different if she were more of a night owl?

Escape to Nollywood

(RL4) Vocabulary: Nollywood, movie piracy, virtue, documentary

(RI1) Why is it important for Nigerians to have their own movies/cartoons/etc.?
How do movies provide an "escape" for people?

(SL1) Discuss in groups: The article states 40% of Nigeria's population is 14 or younger. Yet, there is very little programming suitable for them. What should/could be done about this? Why?

Nharo

(RL8) Find evidence in the article that suggests Fela influenced Yemi.

(RL3) Compare and contrast Yemi and Fela.

(RI1) How does Yemi still help her country even though she no longer lives there?

(RL7) Based on the photos, describe Nharo's store inventory. Why might a store like this be successful in Toronto? Do you have similar stores where you live? If Nharo were a chain, would it be successful in your town?

Make Your Own Talking Drum

(RI1)

- Talking drums were used to send messages from village to village. It was communication without the use of words. Think of other examples of wordless communication in other cultures.
- Who keeps this form of communication from dying out?
- Is there importance in it with all of today's technological advancement?

Eshu the Yoruba Trickster God

(RL3) How would you describe Eshu? Compare/contrast Eshu with your religious beliefs.

(RL7) What characteristics of Eshu are being depicted in the illustrations?

(RL1) Eshu is an example of extremes. Make a list of Eshu's traits. Which ones seem to be at "opposite ends of range?"

Wrap Up

Since English is the official language of Nigeria, it is easy to access and read Nigerian newspapers online. Find today's headlines for nation, politics, sports, entertainment, etc. How does your knowledge gained from this issue help you better understand the Nigerian nation?

If you chose to do the Getting Started activity, review the list you have created. How many extreme examples did you find? Is the tagline Land of Extremes fitting? Why/why not?