

SECTION
2

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Colonizers traveled to West Africa, dividing up land once held by great trading empires.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Nigeria and Ghana have struggled to maintain stable governments and productive economies.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Hausa (HOW•suh) a people of northern Nigeria and southern Niger

Yoruba (YAWR•uh•buh) a people of southwestern Nigeria, parts of Benin, and Togo

Igbo (IHG•bo) a people of southeastern Nigeria

coup (koo) military takeover

Biafra (bee•AF•ruh) a largely Igbo region of Nigeria that declared its independence in 1967, but surrendered after losing a civil war in 1970

Kwame Nkrumah (KWAHM•eh uhn•KROO•muh) modern Ghana's first president

Kente cloth a brightly colored, woven cloth made by the Ashanti and Ewe peoples

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

stability durability; resistance to change

subsistence farming farming that produces just enough to feed the farmer's family

Ashanti (uh•SHAN•tee) a people of Ghana



Visual Vocabulary kente cloth

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to summarize information about Nigeria and Ghana.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R5

SUMMARIZE

NIGERIA	GHANA
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com



Nigeria and Ghana

Connecting to Your World

How does your family make important decisions, such as where to take a vacation or whether to move to a new apartment? In some families, a parent or both parents make the decisions. Some families seek out the advice of an older relative. However your family makes decisions, you're probably used to your own system. Like your family, West African societies had their own familiar ways of ruling themselves and solving conflicts. But when a familiar system disappears, things get confusing.



Nigeria

KEY QUESTION How have Nigeria's main ethnic groups gotten along since independence?

When European powers colonized Africa, they didn't recognize the systems of governing the Africans used. Instead, they imposed European-style centralized governments to replace African stateless systems. Most ruling officials were Europeans. When African nations gained freedom in the mid-1900s, few Africans knew how to run a European-style government. As a result, many African governments lacked **stability**.

River Port The Niger River remains an important West African transportation route. **Why might the Niger River be important to international trade?**



History Since Independence In Section 1, you learned that colonial powers drew Africa's borders without considering the culture or history of African peoples. Nigeria is just one of the African countries where conflict has grown from cultural divisions.

The three largest groups in Nigeria are the **Hausa**, who live in the north; the **Yoruba**, who live in the southwest; and the **Igbo** (IHG•bo), who live in the east. After independence in 1960, Nigeria's major ethnic groups clashed. The Igbo and other southern groups resented the Hausa's greater political power.

Ethnic conflict between the groups fueled an Igbo-led **coup**, or military takeover, in 1966. In 1967, the Igbo broke away from Nigeria to create their own state, called **Biafra**. A three-year civil war followed, causing many deaths from fighting and starvation. Biafra surrendered and rejoined Nigeria in 1970. Military leaders ruled Nigeria from 1966 to 1979, and again from 1983 until 1999. A new constitution and democratic elections restored a civilian government in 1999. But ethnic and religious tensions still simmer.

Nigerian Culture and Daily Life More than 250 ethnic groups, who speak many different languages, live in Nigeria, whose official language is English. Nigeria's 132 million people make it Africa's most populous nation, and one of the world's largest. About half of Nigerians are Muslim, while 40 percent are Christian. Many people also practice traditional animist religions or mix them with Islam or Christianity.

At least two-thirds of Nigerians survive on less than one dollar a day. Most are poor farmers who live in grass, mud, or wood homes in clusters called compounds. In rural areas, people wear long, loose robes. Wealthy city dwellers live in modern houses or apartments and often wear Western clothes. Poor Nigerians, who have flooded the cities since the 1960s, often crowd into slums.

Nigerian authors Chinua Achebe (CHIHN•wah ah•CHAY•bay) and Wole Soyinka (WOH•lay shaw•YING•kuh) wrote their most famous works in English. In 1986, Soyinka became the first African to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. Nigerian music pulses with drums, xylophones, and string and wind instruments. The Yoruba are famous for their wood carvings. Nigerian art, especially sculptures, have inspired Western artists.

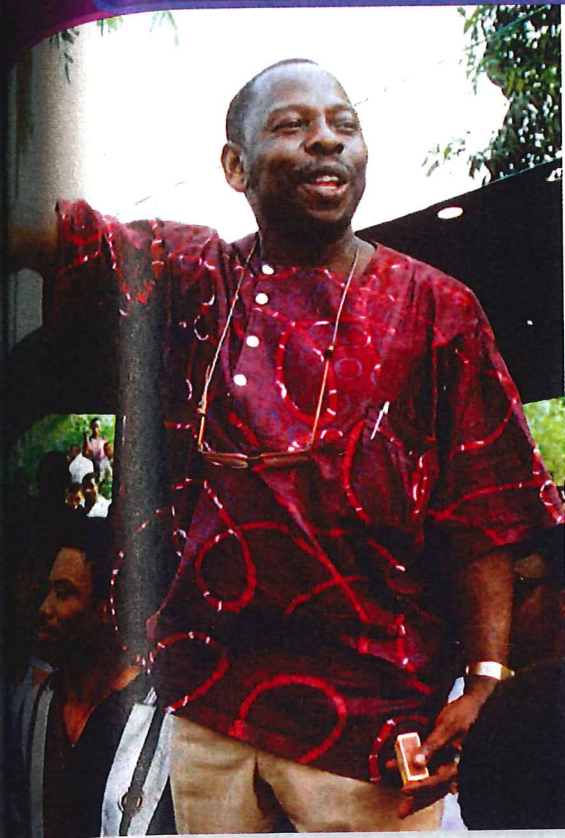
Ethnic Groups of Nigeria



CONNECT Geography & History

Place Abuja, Nigeria's capital, was a planned city. Why might Nigeria want its capital in the center of the country?

ANALYZING Primary Sources



Ken Saro-Wiwa was a Nigerian activist fighting for the rights of his Ogoni people. He and eight others were arrested and hanged in 1995 by Nigeria's military government. Many around the world believed Saro-Wiwa was convicted on false charges. Shortly before his death, Saro-Wiwa smuggled writings out of prison.

It is also very important that we have chosen the path of non-violent struggle. Our opponents are given to violence and we cannot meet them on their turf, even if we wanted to. Non-violent struggle offers weak people the strength which they otherwise would not have. The spirit becomes important, and no gun can silence that.

Source: Ken Saro-Wiwa, *A Month and a Day: A Detention Diary*

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What does "we cannot meet them on their turf" mean?

Government and Economics An elected president and vice president head Nigeria's government. They're assisted by an appointed cabinet and a two-house National Assembly.

Nigerians depend largely on agriculture for their livelihood. Two out of three Nigerian workers are farmers, who produce much of the world's cocoa, peanuts, and rubber. But most of Nigeria's farmers practice **subsistence farming**. Their food crops include maize, beans, and other vegetables and fruits. While manufacturing industries are developing, mining and petroleum produce the majority of the nation's wealth. In addition to producing coal, gold, iron ore, and natural gas, Nigeria is also one of the world's biggest oil exporters. Oil has contributed to Nigeria's wealth—and to its problems. In the 1970s, oil profits funded government programs to improve the standard of living. But relying too heavily on oil exports slowed development of Nigeria's other industries. Oil spills have also polluted certain areas, ruining farmland and poisoning fish.

SUMMARIZE Summarize Nigeria's ethnic conflicts since independence.

ONLINE PRIMARY SOURCE To read more of Saro-Wiwa's works, go to the **Research & Writing Center @ClassZone.com**

Elections A new Nigerian constitution and free elections in 1999 ended nearly 30 years of military rule.





Ghana

KEY QUESTION What are the key points of Ghana's art and culture?

When Portuguese sailors landed on the west coast of Africa in 1471, they named this gold-rich coastal territory the Gold Coast. In 1957, the Gold Coast was the first African state to win independence. The new republic's leaders chose the name Ghana to recall the greatness of the ancient empire, even though no part of ancient Ghana was located within the modern country.

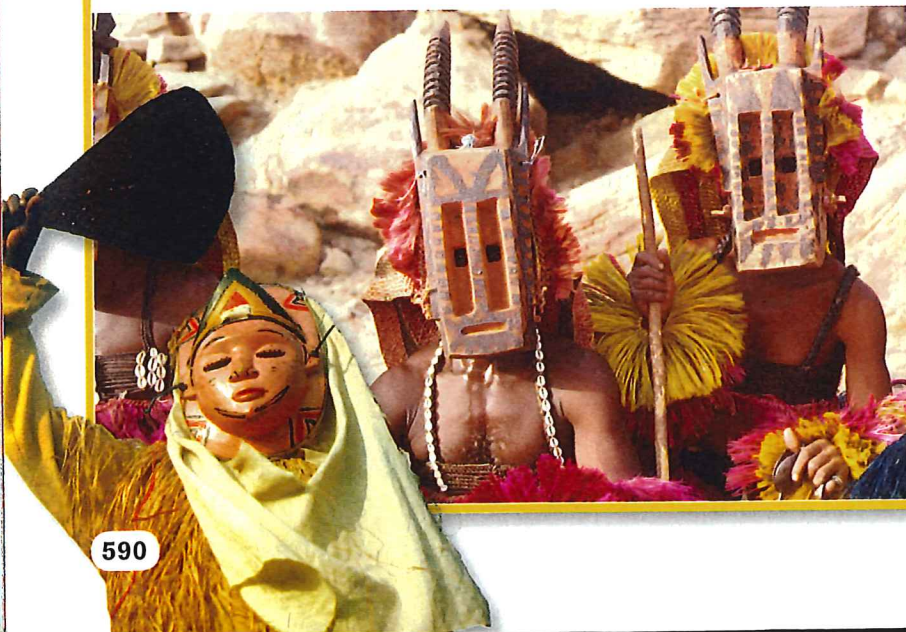
History Since Independence During the late 1940s and early 1950s, the British who controlled Ghana began to encourage educated Africans to participate in governing. **Kwame Nkrumah** (KWAHM•eh uhn•KROO•muh), a Ghanaian who had served as prime minister under British rule, became Ghana's first president in 1960. Nkrumah tried to boost living conditions, build factories, and expand education. Corruption and a failing economy triggered a coup in 1966.

A series of military leaders revolved through Ghana's capital, Accra. One of these soldiers, Jerry Rawlings, headed Ghana's government between 1979 and 2001. Ghana's new constitution, accepted in 1992, turned Ghana into a multiparty democracy.

Ghana's Culture and Daily Life Like Nigerians, most Ghanaians speak African languages and study Ghana's official language, English, in school. **Ashanti**, or Akan, members outnumber Ghana's 100 other groups, such as the Ewe, Ga, and Moshi-Dagomba. Many Ghanaians

CONNECT to Art

Many African cultures use masks like these for religious ceremonies, celebrations, funerals, and theatrical performances. They often depict spirits and ancestors.



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Activity

Make a Mask

Materials

- cardboard
- paint, colored paper, and other decorations
- scissors
- ruler and glue

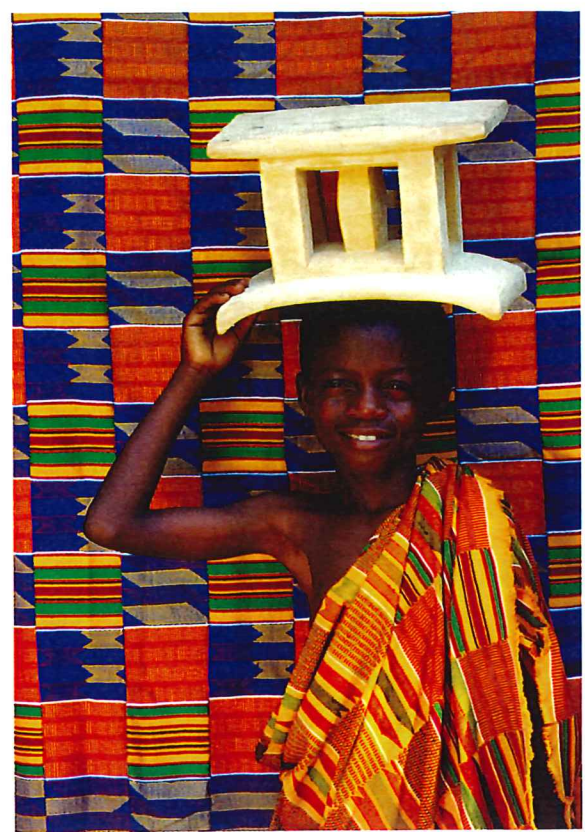
1. Cut the cardboard into an oval slightly larger than your face.
2. Have a classmate measure the distance between your eyes. Use the measurement to create eye holes on your mask.
3. Make holes for your nose and mouth, and decorate the mask in any way you like.
4. Punch holes on each side of the mask and attach elastic.



wear Western-style clothing. For special social and religious occasions, Ashanti and Ewe craftspeople weave **Kente cloth**, a brightly colored ceremonial cloth made into wraps, skirts, and blouses. More than six out of ten Ghanaians are Christian, just over 20 percent follow traditional African religions, and 16 percent are Muslim.

Marketplaces are central meeting places in Ghana. At a market, you might find carvings and copies of Ashanti stools. In Ashanti culture, the head of each lineage group has a stool to symbolize his power.

Government and Economics Ghana's democratic government includes a president, cabinet, and an elected parliament. Compared to Nigeria, whose economy rises or falls with the price of oil, Ghana boasts several exports. In addition to its biggest export, cocoa, Ghana also supplies the world with diamonds, gold, manganese, and timber. But as in Nigeria, most Ghanaians work as subsistence farmers.



Ghana's Arts Wearing Kente cloth, a Ghanaian boy holds an Ashanti stool.

FIND MAIN IDEAS Describe major points of Ghana's art.

ONLINE QUIZ
For test practice, go to
Interactive Review
@ ClassZone.com

Section 2 Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- Igbo
- subsistence
- Kwame Nkrumah
- Kente cloth

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Summarize

Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

What are some of Nigeria and Ghana's main products?

NIGERIA	GHANA
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.

KEY IDEAS

3. How do most Nigerians and Ghanaians support themselves?
4. What religions predominate in Nigeria and Ghana?
5. What does an Ashanti stool symbolize?

CRITICAL THINKING

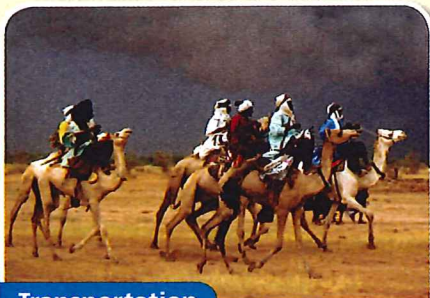
6. **Categorize** What kind of governments do Nigeria and Ghana have today?
7. **Draw Conclusions** Why do you think Nigeria has struggled for so long to keep a stable government?
8. **CONNECT to Today** Nigeria is the fifth-largest supplier of oil to the United States. What problems could an unstable Nigerian government pose to the United States?
9. **SCIENCE Draw a Flow Chart** Research cocoa production in Ghana. Construct a flow chart to show how cocoa beans are harvested, processed, and turned into chocolate for cocoa and candy.

COMPARING West African Regions

While most West African countries have some sort of coastline, the Sahara still dominates countries such as Mauritania, Mali, and Niger.

Desert Life

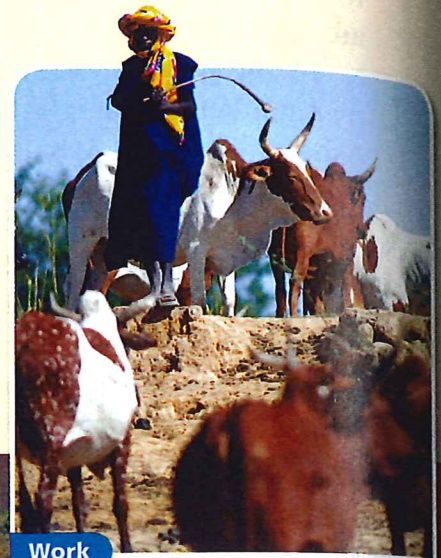
Desert settlements, like this one in Mali, form near water sources. Mud-brick structures can provide insulation from the desert heat. Still, many African desert-dwellers live nomadically, moving from place to place.



Transportation

For centuries, camels have been the traditional means of crossing the Sahara.

Desert village near Mopti, Mali ▼

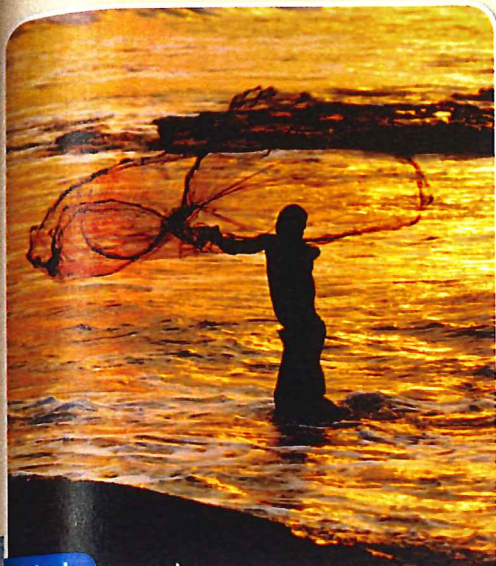


Work

Cattle herders move their livestock from one place to another.



Traditional mud-brick houses ►



Work

A fisherman casts a net in Ghana.

Coastal Life

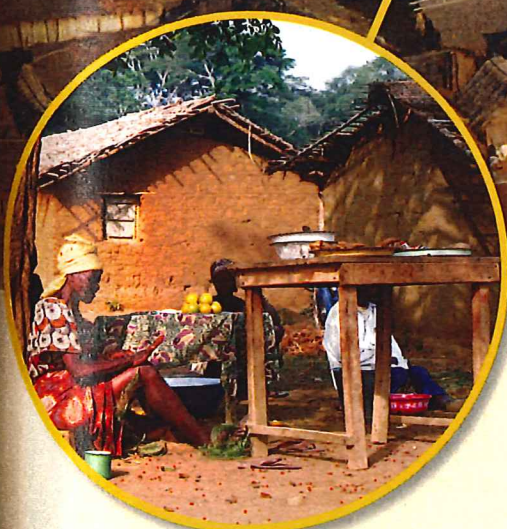
West African coastal villages, like this one in Côte d'Ivoire, rely heavily on fishing for food. Commercial fishing further out to sea can jeopardize fish stocks. Countries such as Mauritania are banning some foreign fishing boats from fishing off their coasts.

Fishing village near Fresco, Côte d'Ivoire ▼



Transportation

Fishing boat in Ghana



◀ Coastal housing

CRITICAL THINKING

1. Compare and Contrast

How do people in these regions adapt their living arrangements to their surroundings?

2. Make Inferences

Why would cattle herders need to move from place to place?