

Term 1

Indigenous people of the state

TOPIC

I



Let's learn about ...

Origins and peopling

- 1 Indigenous people: an introduction
- 2 Locations of the indigenous people of the state

Indigenous people of the state

Indigenous people: an introduction

Every country has people who are born in that country and whose **ancestors** were also born there.

In addition, every country also has people who moved there from other countries or localities.

We can divide these people into two groups:

- indigenes/indigenous people
- non-indigenes/non-indigenous people.

Indigenes/indigenous people

Indigenous people are people who are born and raised by parents whose **forefathers** were the original **landowners**. They were known as natives, or **aboriginals**. These groups of people keep the traditions and culture of the region.

Non-indigenes/non-indigenous

Non-indigenous people become members of a locality by moving there from somewhere else. They may move there **temporarily** or **permanently**. Their parents and grandparents did not originally come from that locality.

KEY WORDS

ancestors
forefathers
landowners
aboriginal
temporarily
permanently



The forefathers of indigenous people were born in that country.

There are many indigenous people in Nigeria, including the Angas, the Chamba, the Ijaw, the Hausa, the Yoruba, and the Igbo people. There are many more than this.

- Nigeria has nearly 250 **ethnic groups**.
- Each ethnic group has its own unique **dialect**, religion, and traditions.

KEY WORDS

ethnic group
dialect



Each ethnic group in Nigeria has its own language, culture, religion and traditions.

Indigenous people of the state

The three biggest tribes in Nigeria are:

- the Hausa
- the Yoruba
- the Igbo.

They make up almost 70% of Nigeria's entire population.



An Igbo woman



A Yoruba woman



A Hausa man wearing traditional clothing

Where the indigenous people live

Nigeria has a large number of indigenous people. These people live in communities with their own people. They live in different **locations**.

There are three main locations:

- **ancestral compounds**
- the palaces of traditional rulers
- the compounds of traditional priests.

KEY WORDS

location
ancestral
compounds

Ancestral compounds

Many of the towns and villages in Nigeria have traditional compounds. Compounds are found in open areas. They are enclosed by fences.

The homes of the first group of **settlers** who built the towns and villages are inside the compounds.

The families who live there are now landowners.

Each compound has a large hut that is built into the wall. It serves as an entryway. This hut usually belongs to the head of the compound.

The palaces of traditional rulers

Traditional rulers and their **extended** families represent the indigenous people in many Nigerian communities.

They usually live in the centre of towns.

They control the **resources**, especially land.

Traditional rulers and their palaces are symbols of the people.

KEY WORDS

settlers
extended
resources



A palace of a traditional ruler

Indigenous people of the state

Compounds of traditional priests

Many Nigerian societies worship traditional gods at special places called shrines. The priests and priestesses at these shrines are indigenous people who first brought the gods to the towns.



A priestess

Activity 1.1

- 1 What is the difference between indigenous and non-indigenous people?
- 2 Name your ethnic group.
- 3 Name three more ethnic groups.
- 4 Cut out pictures from magazines and newspapers to make a collage showing the location of your ethnic group.

Term I

The Nigerian people

Topic

2



Let’s learn about ...

Origins and peopling

I The people of Nigeria and their locations:

Angas	Ebira	Ikwere
Anioma	Hausa	Ogoni
Birom	Igbo	Yoruba
Chamba	Ijo/Ijaw	

The Nigerian people

The people of Nigeria and their locations

We use the word ‘Nigerian’ to talk about people who come from Nigeria. Nigeria got its name from the Niger River that runs through the country.

- Nigeria has been home to many ancient kingdoms, tribes and states. It is the African country with the biggest population.
- There are over 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria. These groups all speak different languages and have different cultures, customs, and traditions.
- The ethnic groups include the Angas, the Anioma, the Ebir, the Ijaw, the Kanuri, the Ibiblio, the Tiv, the Igala, the Fulani, the Itsekiri, the Idoma, the Efik and many more.
- The three largest ethnic groups are the Igbo, the Hausa, and the Yoruba. They make up about 70% of Nigeria’s total population.



I speak Anglo. ‘Woé zo’ means ‘Welcome’.

I speak Fante. ‘Maa chi’ means ‘Good morning’.



The Angas

The Angas are a **minority** ethnic group. They speak Ngas or Angas. They **migrated** from Bornu and live on the highlands of the Plateau State. They also live in Amper, Ampang and Kabwir where they formed smaller sub-settlements. The people from these settlements later moved to the highlands, as well as to the lowlands of Jos Plateau. Although the Angas are spread out, the major city of the Angas is Pankshin.

The Angas use granite **boulders** to make the walls and foundations of their homes.

They have a festival called the Tsafi Tar. It marks the end of one season and the beginning of another.

KEY WORDS

minority
migrated
boulders



The lowlands of Jos Plateau