

UNTERRICHTS MATERIALIEN

Englisch Sek. II



Focus on Nigeria –
the country's problems, hopes and aspirations

Aktuelle wirtschaftliche, gesellschaftliche und politische Entwicklungen
in Nigeria nachvollziehen

Impressum

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Bildnachweis Titel: © pixtury / iStock / Getty Images Plus
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Survey of topics and methods

Main focus	Pre-reading activity	Working with the text	Comment/Discussion	Working with the video	Research and presentation	Compositional/Creative writing	Working with the song	Material
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Nigerian army's brutality in protecting the oil pipelines ■ Committing crimes or disobeying orders ■ Friendship 	•	•	•					<p>Topic 1</p> <p>Literary text: <i>Welcome to Lagos</i> by Chibundu Onuzo (an excerpt)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ How Lagos developed ■ The situation of the poor in Lagos ■ What slum dwellers contribute to society ■ The Nigerian government's attitude to displacing poorer residents 			•					<p>Topic 2</p> <p>■ TED Talk:  "Who belongs in a city" by OluTimehin Adebeye</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The decline of the Nigerian clothing industry ■ Possible measures to counteract its decline 	•	•	•	•				<p>Topic 3</p> <p>■ Article: "The role fashion plays in the hopes, possibilities and realities of Nigerians"</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Boko Haram's legacy of destruction ■ The government's policy of making displaced people return to their homes ■ Civilians being used as a defence against Boko Haram 		•			•			<p>Topic 4</p> <p>■ Article: "Nigerians forced out by Boko Haram return to ruins and continuing risk"</p>

Main focus	Pre-reading activity	Working with the text	Comment/Discussion	Working with the video	Research and presentation	Compositional/ Creative writing	Working with the song	Material
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reasons for Nigerians’ negative attitudes towards their country ■ Nigeria’s potential ■ A new national anthem 		• •				•		Topic 5 Article: “What Nigeria means to me” Song: “Green Nation” by Tim Akolo 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nigerian family life ■ The value of education 		• •		•				Topic 6 Literary text: <i>I Do Not Come to You by Chance</i> by Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani (an excerpt)

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VORANSICHT

Nigeria's national identity

What Nigeria means to me

by Reuben Abati

The various reactions on Independence Day yesterday can only compel us to ask one question: what does Nigeria mean to you or me? I had written a piece on Friday, September 30, in which I advised that Nigerians should embrace hope rather than despair and that in the long run, it shall be we with our country. I also recommended as part of the celebration, Umu Dikolo's soul-inspiring and masterly song, "Great Nation", hoping that special attention will be paid to its touching lyrics. But the reactions to my interventions did no more than further reinforce the fact that too many Nigerians are angry with Nigeria as an entity, they are angry with how Nigeria has been run and is being run, they are frustrated with the current situation in the country, and what the future holds for the entire country.

The last time Nigerians found themselves at this kind of crossroads was under the rule of General Sani Abacha. The issue was not just about General Abacha, however, but how military rule had led the country into a ditch, and the people wanted something different. The disappointment today is of a different form of extraction, some people raised the people's hopes beyond the stratosphere: they assured them that the Nirvana that they wanted was at the door; they told them that to run Nigeria is easy, it was just that the wrong people were in charge. And now all promises seem illusionary, the scales are falling off the people's eyes and the people are transferring their anger unto every situation. The change agents who promised a revolution are in disarray, they are caught up in an atomistic war among themselves. The we-are-better-than-them-we-will-save-Nigeria crowd has suddenly discovered that there is a great gulf between election time propaganda and the real assignment of governance. Even the partisan clerics among them no longer know what to tell the congregation. They cannot afford to say that the God they worship speaks with two tongues. (...)

Therefore, Nigerian moving forward must ask the question: what does Nigerian mean to me? Too many compatriots relate to this country as an abstraction.

When they hear Nigeria, the only thing they think of is their ethnic root. They

don't even have any attachment to the Nigerian passport. I bet we would all be shocked the day we take a census of all the Nigerians who have foreign passports and the millions who are still on the queue, begging to get up on this country. Nigeria is thus, regrettably today, a provider of important talents for other countries in all fields of human endeavour in the same manner in which Ireland sold out its talents at the turn of the 19th century.

We have reached a point and that is perhaps one of the gains of democracy since May 2015, whereby every Nigerian, at home and abroad must ask himself or herself, that simple question: what does Nigeria mean to me? Does it mean incumbent government and its politics? Mere identity? A passport? Home? Association with my parents and old friends and some homeland linked by blood? Or is Nigeria nothing, no more than a space for opportunities, or just an option, or at best, mere geography crashing into Europe. I guess no other country has such divided and scattered emotional brains like Nigeria. When the people decide individually and collectively that they want a country, maybe that is when we can begin to talk of Nigeria. What does Nigeria mean to you? (...)

I have children who despite the difficulties are also not willing to throw away their Nigerian passports. Nigeria remains the home of my children and their great-grand children to come. Nigeria is the country that has given me all the opportunities I have had. It is the landscape of my joys and sorrows. It is your landscape too. What Nigeria means to me is a country that needs to be rescued from many years of abuse, from the locusts' that eat things up, and the agents of the devil who turn a good country into a land of regrets. I am consoled by the realization that the people who love this country and who want to see it work and make progress possible are in the majority. Nigeria is a country not only of great potentials but also of great achievements. Let us take certain things seriously beyond satire and parody, and resolve that we all have a duty to make this country great. (...). (751 words)

Robben Adebisi: What Nigeria means to me, in: *The Guardian Nigeria*, 2nd October 2016, found in: <http://guardian.ng/opinion/what-nigeria-means-to-me/>

Annotation

1. locusts, large insects which can fly; swarms of them do great damage to crops and vegetation

Worksheet: Nigeria's national identity

Reading comprehension

I. Read the text "What Nigeria means to me" carefully. Decide if the following sentences are true or false. Tick (✓) the correct box and give proof from the text.

- | | true | false | not in the text |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) 'Great Nation' is a song making Nigerians proud. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | | |
| b) Many Nigerians are unhappy with some minor aspects of their country. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | | |
| c) Nigerians have always lived in a democracy. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | | |
| d) People are realising that they have been deceived and let down. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | | |
| e) Many Nigerians would happily change their nationality. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | | |
| f) Ireland suffers from the same problems that Nigeria faces today. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | | |
| g) The author feels detached from his country. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | | |
| h) Nigeria suffers from insect plagues. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | | |
| i) According to the author, Nigeria is not a hopeless case. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | | | |

Working with the song

Song “Great Nation” by Timi Dakolo

Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2OhlyXx3kE

Lyrics: www.songlyrics.com/timi-dakolo/great-nation-lyrics/

2. Many Nigerians would like to adopt ‘Great Nation’ as the country’s national anthem.
 - a) Listen to the song and take notes on its contents.
 - b) Give your opinion of the song. Explain why you like it or do not like it.
 - c) Reflect on possible reasons why it was proposed as a new national anthem.
 - d) What picture of Nigerian people did you get from the text “What Nigeria means to me” and the song “Great Nation”? Outline your impression.



Comment

3. Write about one of the following topics:
 - a) Discuss the purpose of a national anthem. Is it still relevant today?
 - b) “We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorns have roses.” – Alphonse Karr (French journalist, author and critic, 1800–1890).
Comment on this quote, referring to experiences and information given in the text and the song.