



# Excursion Guide

## Nigeria

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### Read Aloud Folktale, Legend or Myth:

*Zomo the Rabbit: A Trickster Tale from West Africa* by Gerald McDermott (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1992): Although Zomo the Rabbit is very clever, he also wants to be wise. He visits Sky God to ask for wisdom, and Sky God assigns him three impossible tasks. Zomo drums, climbs, runs, and hides in order to complete his tasks and return to the Sky God. Readers will enjoy learning how Zomo outsmarts other creatures; he is clever, but never mean. The story is a balance of narration and dialogue, and the final conversation between Zomo and Sky God provides a humorous punch line for the entire story.

### Remember to:

- Greet each person individually
- Use a globe or large map to show each person the starting point and destination
- Engage people in informal conversation
- Include supplemental materials such as music, souvenirs, coloring pages, or food to enhance the program



# Five Facts About Nigeria

1. The green in Nigeria's flag represents the country's fertile land. The white stands for peace.
2. Over 500 languages are spoken in Nigeria, including English, Ibo, Hausa, Yoruba, Fulfulde, and many pidgin languages.
3. Nigeria is home to chimpanzees, gorillas, buffalo, elephants, and many kinds of butterflies.
4. At the annual Argungu Fishing Festival on the Sokoto River, the man who catches the largest fish wins a car!
5. There are many waterfalls in Nigeria. Gurara Falls has a drop of nearly 100 feet!



# Annotated Bibliography

Unless otherwise specified, the non-fiction books listed here have many color photographs and images (but not cartoon-style illustrations) and they do not have an intimidating or distracting amount of text on the page. Although many of the selections are children's books, they are not obviously juvenile in their layout and illustrations.

## Top Selections

*Discover Nigeria* by Ali Brownlie Bojang (The Rosen Publishing Group Inc., 2012): This large book has a photograph on every page, most of which show contemporary Nigerians at home, at work, or at play. Pie charts and graphs are used to demonstrate economic and employment facts about the country. The short sentences and large font may encourage participants to read. There are thirteen two-page chapters, including "Discovering Nigeria," "Landscape and Climate," "Family Life," "Religion and Beliefs," and "Transportation and Communications."

*Focus on Nigeria* by Ali Brownlie Bojang and Rob Bowden (World Almanac Library, 2006): This selection is more advanced than Brownlie Bojang's other book on this list, *Discover Nigeria*. It does have a photograph on every page, but the text is smaller and there is more text on the pages. The images of art and masks, Nigerians in traditional dress, and dense cityscapes will likely captivate readers and browsers. The fourteen chapters include "Landscape and Climate," "Population and Settlements," "Culture and Religion," and "Environment and Conservation." *A photograph of contemporary Nigerians reenacting the slave trade (page 10) and one of a starving child during the Biafran war (page 13) could potentially upset participants. Facilitators should use their judgment about whether or not this selection is appropriate for their participants.*

*Ikenna Goes to Nigeria* by Ifeoma Onyefulu (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2007): This book is a recipient of the African Studies Association Children's Africana Book Award, which is given to "outstanding K-12 books on Africa published in the U.S. The awards are designed to encourage the publication of



accurate, balanced children’s materials on Africa” (<http://africaaccessreview.org/africana-awards/>). The book is designed as a scrapbook or photo album, documenting Ikenna’s travels throughout Nigeria. Ikenna is the author’s young son, and this book is an account of a trip they took together. Through Ikenna’s eyes, readers are introduced to Nigerian life in the city and the country, food, sports, and traditional religious practices. The selection of photographs also clearly demonstrates the importance of friends and family in Nigerian culture.

*Meet Our New Student from Nigeria* by Anna M. Ogunnaike (Mitchell Lane Publishers, 2009): Although the premise of meeting a new third-grade student might feel too juvenile for some readers, the many unique photographs make this book a worthwhile addition to the program. In addition to four maps, there are photographs of traditional Nigerian homes, local food products, ancient art and masks, wildlife, and the daily activities of Nigerian people – going to school, visiting families, and celebrating. There are five chapters. The “Further Reading” section includes a list of suggested Nigerian folktales, in case facilitators are unable to find *Zomo the Rabbit*.

*Nigeria* by Ann Heinrichs (Children’s Press, 2010): This book offers an excellent array of photographs, and a good deal of fascinating information. Like others in the “Enchantment of the World” series, the layout is very elegant and includes at least one photograph on each page. There are beautiful images of Nigerian landscapes and wildlife, cultural and religious objects and ceremonies; and informative pictures of Nigerian agriculture, industry, and cities. The ten chapters include “Ancient Roots, Modern Challenges,” “From Swamp to Savannah” and “Scenes of Daily Life.”

## Alternate Selections

*Nigeria* by Jon Burbank and Josie Elias (Cavendish Square Publishing, LLC, 2014): This is listed as an alternate selection because the images are relatively small and the text is denser than in other books. Each chapter begins with a full-page photograph; subjects include Nigerian soldiers, women in traditional dress, the Emir’s Palace in Kano, and a market in Lagos. The thirteen chapters include “Geography,” “History,” “Nigerians” “Lifestyle,” and “Festivals.”

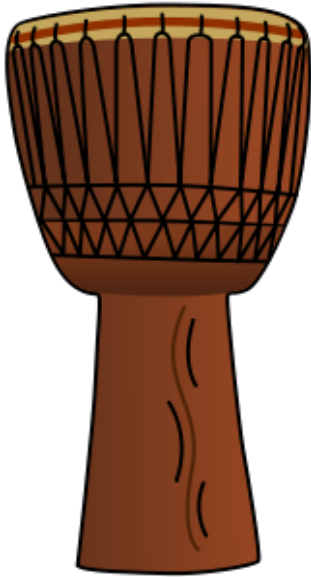


*Nigeria* by Ida Walker (Mason Crest, 2013): Like the Burbank/Elias book (above), this is an alternate selection because of the large amount of text. Each chapter begins with a full-page photograph, and even the smaller photographs will likely be very interesting to readers. Subjects include Nigerian wildlife, a school classroom, and the Constitution of Nigeria written in Arabic. The seven chapters include “From Desert to Rainforest,” “Nigeria’s Culture and People,” and “The Cities.”

*The Yoruba of West Africa* by Jamie Hetfield (The Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 1996): This book is listed as an alternate selection because the text takes up most of the white space on the pages and the photographs might be difficult to understand without reading the accompanying text. However, the photographs are large and their unfamiliar subject matter, such as a traditional Nigerian shaman, may interest readers.



# Supplemental Materials



Souvenirs: Large bright-colored beads, squares of batik or ankara fabric, popular in West Africa. (Please see page 17 of *Meet Our New Student from Nigeria* by Anna M. Ogunnaike for an example.)

Food: Fufu (mashed yams or cassava), peanuts, plantain chips (banana chips could be used as a substitute), local fruit (bananas, mangoes, or oranges), jollof rice (recipe on page 34 of *Ikenna Goes to Nigeria* by Ifeoma Onyefulu, and on page 130 of *Nigeria* by Jon Burbank and Josie Elias).

Music Suggestions (to search on <http://www.youtube.com> or in your own library's collection): Yoruba dandun (talking drum) and/or agidigbo (thumb piano) music. Searching "Yoruba music" or "Igbo music" on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) brings up many selections. Because this traditional music predates current geographical borders, you may find it associated with other countries such as Benin, or described as "West African" music.

Free coloring pages are available on the Internet from helpful resources such as <http://www.coloring.ws> and <http://www.supercoloring.com>. All coloring pages are subject to their own terms of use, separate from the Tales & Travel Creative Commons License. The following links are suggested for this Excursion: "Common Chimpanzee" [http://www.supercoloring.com/wp-content/uploads/original/2013\\_09/common-chimpanzee-coloring-page.jpg](http://www.supercoloring.com/wp-content/uploads/original/2013_09/common-chimpanzee-coloring-page.jpg) or "Rabbit 18" [http://www.supercoloring.com/wp-content/original/2009\\_01/rabbit-18-coloring-page.gif](http://www.supercoloring.com/wp-content/original/2009_01/rabbit-18-coloring-page.gif)