

CHAPTER ONE

'Who can tell me what happened on the 1st of CLASS DID YOU HEAR HIM?

None of the students wanted to answer the guestion. Our teacher looked around the class and we hid our faces because we knew what she was going to do next.

October 1960?' asked our class teacher.

'Jay' She said, and he almost jumped out of his chair. 'Please answer the question.'

She always picked a student randomly to answer guestions when no one volunteered.

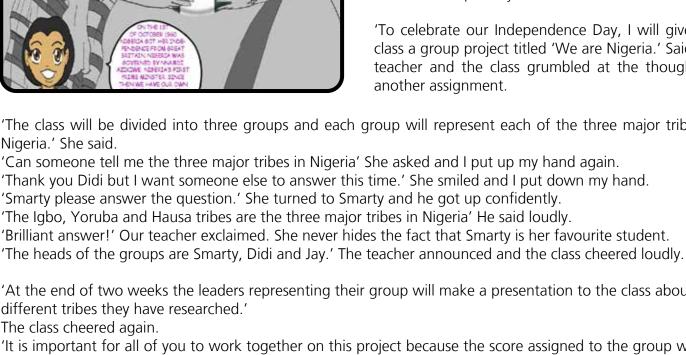
voice was a shaky whisper. Jay was always nervous when he had to answer questions in class. 'Class, did you hear him?' our teacher asked. 'No ma' the class chorused. Their mocking voices

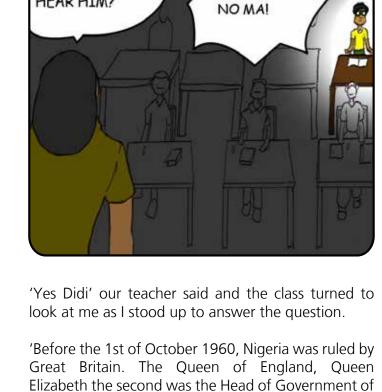
'It was the day Nigeria defeated the Queen of England' Jay got up to answer the question. His

made Jay more nervous. 'It was the day Nigeria defeated the Queen of England' Jay repeated louder and the class erupted in laughter. 'Students, please be quiet' she scolded and the class

went quiet. 'Good effort Jay' she said but we knew she was only trying to encourage him. 'Can someone else try?' I felt sorry for Jay so I put up my hand to answer the question and to turn the students focus away from

him. He looked miserable and in need of urgent rescue.





in Nigeria was pounds and shillings; the British people taught us their language and that is why English language is the primary language in Nigeria.'

I was enjoying all the attention as the class listened to

Nigeria. Before independence, the money we spent

me attentively. 'On the 1st of October 1960, Nigeria got her independence from Great Britain and became a republic in 1963. Then, the Queen stopped being our ruler. Nigeria was governed by Nnamdi Azikiwe, her first President while Tafawa Balewa became first Prime Minister. Since then we have had our own currency called Naira, we wear our own clothes and though we still speak English, we also speak our

different local languages.' I finished speaking but I remained standing waiting for them to clap for me. Good answer Didi' our teacher smiled. 'Clap for Didi'

she said to the class, and the students clapped loudly as I sat down proudly. 'To celebrate our Independence Day, I will give the class a group project titled 'We are Nigeria.' Said our teacher and the class grumbled at the thought of another assignment. 'The class will be divided into three groups and each group will represent each of the three major tribes in

'At the end of two weeks the leaders representing their group will make a presentation to the class about the 'It is important for all of you to work together on this project because the score assigned to the group will be

******************************* The 1st of October is a national holiday in Nigeria. All the schools are closed today so we stayed at home to

watch the Independence Day ceremony on television. Very early in the morning, we listened to the president of Nigeria give a long speech on television before the ceremony started. There was a parade of children from different schools at the Stadium, and I saw some children from my school participating in the march past.

assigned to each member of the group as part of your scores for the term.' The class cheered.

CHAPTER TWO - YORUBA TRIBE

The day after Independence Day we went back to school and it was time to present our projects to our class.

IGBADA AND SOKOTO WITH DIF FERENT CAPS CALLED FILA. HE IS WEARING AGBADA AND SOKOTO WITH A

'Because Oduduwa is from Ile-Ife, the Yorubas believe that Ile-Ife is the source of Yoruba land and that is

'lle-Ife is in Osun State' I answered and our teacher nodded to show that I was right.

where the famous Oranmiyan staff is kept till today. 'What is the Oranmiyan Staff?' asked a student.

'Where is Ile-Ife?' A student asked.

'Didi will present on behalf of her group for 20 minutes.' Our teacher said and the students clapped

'Good morning class. I said confidently. 'Today I am

'What does that mean?' asked one of the students.

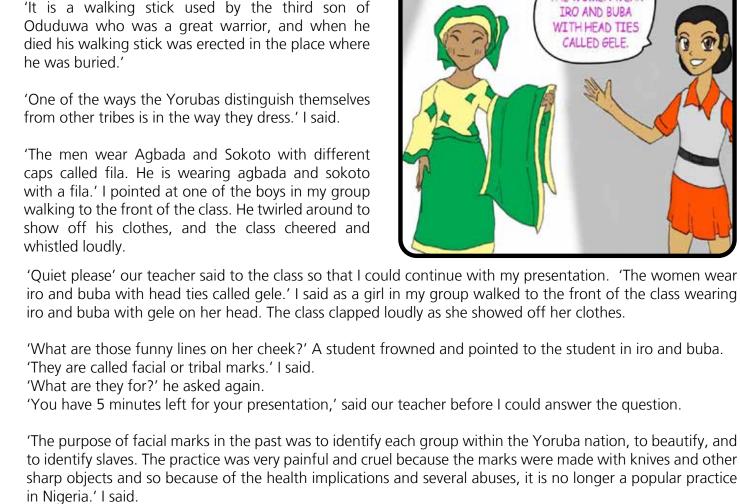
'Eka ro.' I said and knelt down on both knees.

'Why did you kneel? Another student asked.

as I walked to the front of the class.

on the Yoruba tribe of Nigeria.'

language'



Yoruba's.' I continued.

two babies in her arms.

OF TWINS.

IA IS FOUND IN THE YORUBA

SIDERED THE WORLD'S CAPITAL

RIBE. THE YORUBA TOWN OF IGBO-ORA BOASTS OF AN AVER-

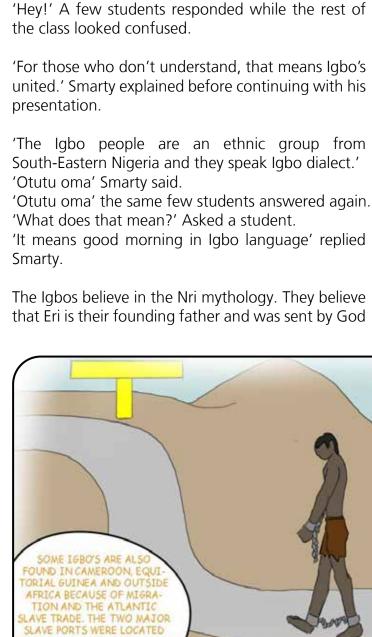
AGE OF 150 TWINS FOR 1000 BIRTHS AND IS THEREFORE CO

'I hope you have found our presentation about the Yoruba tribe interesting' 'Yes!' The class exclaimed excitedly. 'Thank you for listening' I said and returned to my seat as they cheered loudly.

CHAPTER THREE - IGBO TRIBE

wall.

Another student from my group walked to the front of the class with a wooden figurine of a woman carrying Nigeria is found in the Yoruba tribe?' I said and lifted up the wooden carving for the class to see. 150 twins for 1000 births and is therefore considered the world's capital of twins.' 'Well done Didi' Our class teacher said and she wrote something down in her book. 'Now, it is time for group B to present their project' She said.



men and women were sold into slavery.

stick with a colourful handle in one hand. Smarty pointed his blue light to the picture.

'Does he have a bad leg?'

clothes look more beautiful.'

female slaves walking in a long line and tied together at their ankles and wrists with long metal chains.

The picture on the wall changed again to a picture of a tall and thin boy standing beside a short and fat girl both beautifully dressed. The man had a walking

'The Igbo people dress differently from the other tribes in Nigeria. The Igbo traditional attire for men is the Ishi-Agu top that resembles the African Danshiki. The Ishi-Agu is usually patterned with Lions heads on the fabric. It is worn with trousers and with either a

Ofe Akwu or Banga soup can be eaten with rice.'

businesses are owned by Igbo businessmen.'

wearing khaki uniform.

have been possible.'

time' she chuckled.

hand.

up from the paper in his hand.

forgotten his words!

CAUSE OF HIS
AVERY, BAYAJIDDA
ARRIED THE QUEEN AND
HEY GAVE BIRTH TO A SON
AMED BAWO WHO GAVE
IRTH TO SIX SONS WHO

than we did in the beginning.'

students joined her and started clapping for Jay.

Jay walked back to his seat with his head bowed.

are cloths called Alasho or Tagelmust.'

The class cheered and whistled loudly as Smarty

walked to the front of the class holding something

'Smarty! Smarty!' The class continued to

'Quiet please' Our teacher scolded. 'Let us listen to

'My name is Smarty and I am the leader of group B.'

Smarty said. 'Today my group is making a

presentation about the Igbo tribe of Nigeria. Igbo

kwenu!' He yelled and punched his fist into the air.

like a small remote control in his hand.

cheer and whistle.

Smarty' She smiled.

traditional hat named okpu agu or agwu, or with the traditional Igbo stripped hat.' 'Why is he holding a walking stick?' A student asked.

'The Igbos are the best traders in Nigeria and many Igbos have big shops and are successful business men who have contributed to Nigeria's economy. For example, most of Nigeria's private transportation

'Finally, I want to end our presentation with an important event that happened in the history of the Igbos in Nigeria.' The picture on the wall changed to the picture of a man with a bald head and a full beard

The student's eyes were glued to the wall as they listened attentively to Smarty's presentation.

'Some Igbos are also found in Cameroon, Equitorial Guinea and outside Africa because of migration and the Atlantic slave trade. The two major slave ports were located in Bonny and Calabar and a lot of Igbo

The picture on the wall changed to a picture with white men holding whips and walking beside male and

association.' Smarty said 'Thank you for listening to our presentation' Smarty announced and the light from the projector disappeared. The class cheered and applauded loudly. The students really enjoyed Smarty's presentation. 'I will like to thank my group for their team effort because without them, this presentation would not

The students in Smarty's group stood up and cheered loudly.

Smarty took a bow and returned to his seat while the students cheered louder.

'Please be quiet as Group C members make their presentation.' Announced our teacher.

'No he doesn't have a bad leg.' Smarty answered. 'Some Igbo men use walking sticks to make their Smarty pointed the blue light to the picture of the woman on the screen. 'Igbo women wear blouses with puffy sleeves with two wrappers and a headscarf' said Smarty. The picture on the wall changed again to the picture of a man farming. 'In rural areas of Nigeria, Igbo people are mostly farmers. The most important crop is the yam and every year the new yam harvest is held to celebrate the harvest of yams." Smarty explained. 'The yam is a very important crop and celebrations are held every year to celebrate the harvest of new yam. The Igbos also like other crops like cassava and taro.' 'Pounded yam is a popular food in the Igbo tribe and can be eaten with Uha soup and other soups like The pictures on the wall changed as Smarty continued his presentation.

CHAPTER FOUR - HAUSA TRIBE 'Today my group... and I will present on ...the Hausa tribe' Jay said. He stammered.

'Excellent work to Smarty and his group.' Said our teacher. 'It was so interesting that I forgot about the

but Jay just stared blankly back at them. He had One of the students started to clap and all the A girl from his group walked quickly to the front of the class and continued with the presentation. 'The Hausa men wear large flowing gowns known as Babban riga and a robe called a Jalabia and Juanni with colorful embroidered caps known as Fula. During ceremonies, they wear a turban around the Fura to cover their face. These turbans

In the early 60's the Hausas were famous... for their groundnut pyramids and these... pyramids can be found... on the 50 kobo coin.' Jay brought out a coin and passed it around the class. His voice was very low and he continued to speak fast. 'You have to speak slowly and loudly so the class can enjoy your presentation.' Our teacher said. 'Ok ma!!!' said Jay. His eyes twitched nervously as he continued to read from his paper. 'The Hausa people wear.... –'Jay stopped in the middle of his sentence and the class stared at him

The girl spoke confidently and the class listened attentively to her. The women wear colourful wrappers called Abaya with a matching blouse, and a head tie. Most Hausa women cover their heads because of their religion and cultural beliefs.' 'You have two minutes left.' Our teacher said. 'Like every tribe, the Hausas also have their favourite food. The most common food that the Hausa people eat are grains such as sorghum, millet, rice, or maize, which are ground into flour to make different kinds of dishes like the popular Tuwo.'

The students watched in amazement as the new girl

'Finally, I will like to end with the origin of the Hausas. They believe that Bayajidda, the son of the king of Baghdad, arrived in Daura through Bornu. He killed the snake that lived in the well which had

Because of his bravery, Bayajidda married the queen and they gave birth to a son named Bawo who gave birth to six sons who created six states—Daura,

presented without using any notes.

prevented the people from drinking water.

Katsina, Zaria, Gobir, Kano, and Rano. '

'Thank you for listening.' Group C erupted in loud applause and cheering. The new girl had made them proud with her excellent presentation. 'I didn't know she was so smart!' Jay whispered to Smarty. 'You need to watch out for her', he teased. 'Put your hand together for Group C', Our teacher said and the whole class clapped loudly.

presenting on behalf of group A and our project is 'It means "good morning" in Yoruba language' I answered. 'The Yoruba tribe speaks Yoruba 'The women kneel down and the men prostrate to greet their elders in the Yoruba tribe.' The class got excited when I called one of my team members to show the class how men prostrate in the Yoruba tribe. 'Quiet please' our teacher warned the class to be quiet and I carried on with my presentation. 'The Yoruba people come from the South Western

part of Nigeria, that is divided into four major states;

The origin of the Yorubas is traced back to Oduduwa in Ile-ife, who the Yoruba's believe was the favourite son of Eledumare who they call God. They believe Oduduwa was sent by Eledumare from Heaven to

HE WOMEN WEAR

IRO AND BUBA

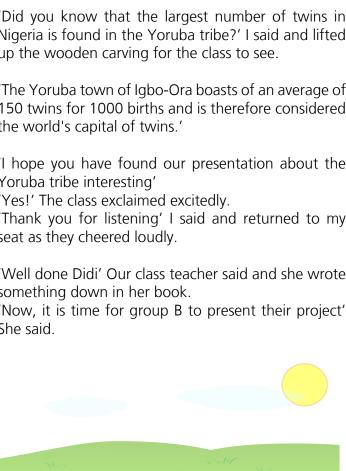
WITH HEAD TIES

CALLED GELE

Ogun, Osun, Oyo, and Ondo.

rule over all the earth.'

Our teacher nodded to show she was enjoying the presentation, and the class clapped to show that they were happy that the practice of tribal marks has been stopped. 'The different groups in the Yoruba nation have their different food but yam is a common food eaten by all 'Some of the famous Yoruba foods are Pounded yam with Okra or Egusi soup that is eaten by the ljesa or Ekiti tribes, Amala and Ewedu and Gbegiri soup eaten by the Oyo tribe, Ifokore or Gari eaten by the Ijebu tribe.' 'A lot of Yoruba people are farmers but most of them are also very well educated.' 'Finally, I would like to end with an interesting fact about Yoruba people. 'Did you know that the largest number of twins in



from the sky to make peace and provide Igbo

of white light coming from the back of the class.

The light appeared on the wall in the front of

the class and a few seconds later a colourful

picture of the map of Nigeria showed on the

'Are we at the cinema?' A student asked

excitedly and the class looked back to see where

A member of Smarty's group was operating a

'The Igbo's are found in Abia, Akwa Ibom,

Anambra, Bayelsa, Cross River, Ebonyi, Enugu,

He pointed the black thing in his hand to the

'Here on the map' Smarty said and a tiny blue speck of light moved around the map and

'Quiet please.' Our teacher said. She smiled at

'Wow!' The students exclaimed.

projector from the back of the class.

the light was coming from.

Imo, Delta and Rivers State.'

stopped in the part coloured red.

The class applauded and cheered loudly.

Smarty and he continued his presentation.

picture on the wall.

people with food like yam and cocoa yam. Smarty moved quickly to the side to avoid a ray



"In 1967-1970 the Igbo-dominant Eastern Nigeria attempted to secede from Nigeria to create the independent state of Biafra. The rest of Nigeria was against this attempt and it led to the Nigerian-Biafran war that lasted from the 6 July 1967 – 15 January 1970. After three years of war the Igbos were defeated and the Republic of Biafra

'What is the meaning of seceded?' Asked one of

'It means to withdraw from a group or

was reabsorbed into Nigeria."

the students.

His hands shook and beads of sweat formed on his forehead as he read from the sheet of paper in his 'The Hausas can mostly... be found in Northern Nigeria... in Kano, Kaduna, Borno, Sokoto. The Hausas that... live in the rural... areas rear cattle... for a living.' Jay spoke very fast and did not look

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The teacher gave each group their different scores. Group A scored an A, Group B scored an A+ and Group C scored a B+ THE END

'Well done to the three groups; your presentations were very educative and I am sure we all know more

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