

# Global Snapshots

Published by Metro International's GLOBAL CLASSROOM for globally minded kids.

## NIGERIA

### Country Facts

Official Name: Federal Republic of Nigeria  
Capital: Abuja  
Official Language: English  
Main Indigenous Languages: Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo (Ibo)  
Currency: Naira (N) and Kobo  
Head of State: Chief Olusegun Obasanjo  
Population: 120 million (estimate)  
Largest City: Lagos  
Area: 923,766 sq km  
Geography: Western Africa, bordering the Gulf of Guinea, between Benin and Cameroon



### Meet Your Global Classroom Tour Guide



**Name:** Lillian Lydia Akuniyayi Agbeyegbe  
**Hometown:** Ekurede, Warri South LGA, Delta State  
**Current Field of Study:** Economics  
**What was the first thing**

*Lillian, the Global Classroom Tour Guide for Nigeria, is in New York City working on an M.A. in Economics at The Graduate Center, CUNY. At a recent Global Classroom presentation, she spoke to middle schoolers and showed the different forms of regional dress worn in Nigeria.*

#### **you learned about the U.S. when you came here?**

That the world is here. Almost every country in the world, if not all countries, seems to be represented here and people freely identify with their native country in language, dress style, cuisine, and culture.

**Siblings:** My dad had 17 children – no, they are not all my mum's children!! The eldest

lives in New Jersey. My brother John lives in Miami and my sister Orume in NYC. My brother Jerry and the rest of the gang live in Nigeria. My adorable daughter, Omolola, lives in England.

**Pets:** None

**Favorite National Food:** Yam and Owu soup (complete with periwinkle, dried fish, dried crayfish, snail and cowleg.)

## Meet Your Global Classroom Tour Guide (continued)



### What advice would you give students from the U.S. who want to visit or study in Nigeria?

It is very important that you go to Nigeria with an open mind. Otherwise, if you are too careful, you confine yourself within a certain circle and miss much of the culture and tradition of the people - which is a beautiful learning and life enriching experience.

NIGERIA – A People United,  
a Future assured

### Favorite Nigerian Saying:

*Ototo l'arin w'aiye, a dele aiye ton l'apade.* This is a Yoruba saying meaning "we came into this world separately and only met in the world." My father used to say this to us each time one wanted to go off on a tangent citing someone else as an excuse. Basically, what he meant was don't let anyone, least of all your sibling, derail you from who you are or what you should be. You met them in this world by chance. You as an individual have come into the world with your own life and destiny to fulfill.

### Favorite Childhood Games:

Ten-ten. It is usually played with two people but can be played with more. It involves clapping your hands and trying to mimic the leader's leg movements. If you match the leg correctly, you progress until you get 10 over 10. If you don't match the leg movements, you are out of the

game in games of more than 2 persons, or you lose a round in a game of 2 persons.

### Favorite thing about living in NY:

Having just come to the U.S. and NY, what I like so far is being able to move with ease. I spend one and a half hours commuting in the morning but it's because of the distance of where I live. To cover the same distance during rush hour as I do back in Nigeria, I would likely spend twice that time in traffic and be very stressed out at the beginning of the day.

### Favorite Nigerian Holiday/Festival:

"Adane Okpe" is an annual festival for the Okpe people of Delta state. It is held on the 30th of December every year. During that time, people come home to the Delta from around the country and the world. There are cultural dances and cuisine.

Some people that have proved themselves are conferred with traditional titles in

a colorful ceremony.

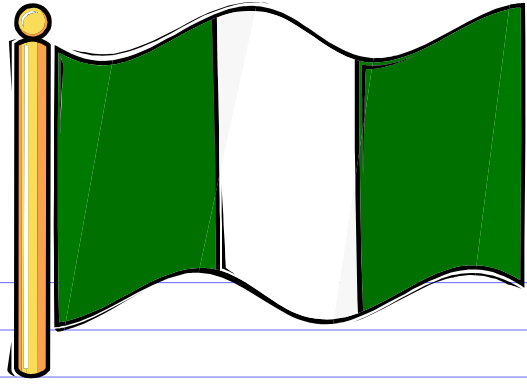
### What would you like kids in NY to know about Nigeria?

That Nigeria is not Africa. We have our culture, tradition and history that are peculiar to us though they may be similar with those of some other African countries.

**What made you want to study in another country?** It was obvious to me that the U.S. was more advanced than we were with regards to health and economic issues and it made sense to want to benefit from their wealth of knowledge.

### What do you want to do when you finish your degree?

There is an adage that says "A healthy nation is a wealthy nation." I plan to return to my country to help improve the health situation knowing that healthy people and a healthy environment are crucial for our much needed and anticipated economic development.



## You Can Learn More About Nigeria by Visiting the Following Websites:

**Nigeria: Brief descriptions of history and culture**  
<http://www.motherlandnigeria.com>

**Nigeria just for kids:**  
<http://www.nycafricana.com>

<http://www.friendsandflags.org>

<http://www.motherlandnigeria.com/kidzone.html>

**Learn the languages of Nigeria:**  
<http://www.motherlandnigeria.com/languages.html#Resources>

[http://www.motherlandnigeria.com/more\\_language.html](http://www.motherlandnigeria.com/more_language.html)

**Lonely Planet: Nigeria**  
**Facts and figures, culture, history, and tourist information**  
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/>

**Nigeria in New York:**  
**Consulate General of Nigeria**  
<http://www.nigeria-consulate-ny.org/index.htm>

**Museum for African Art**  
<http://www.africanart.org>

## LEARN THE LANGUAGES OF NIGERIA!

Below are a few expressions in Yoruba, Ibo and Hausa (Nigeria's main languages) that will come in handy when in Nigeria.

### Thank You

Yoruba	E se
Ibo	Imela
Hausa	N'a gode

### Welcome

Yoruba	E kaabo
Ibo	Nno
Hausa	Sanu de Zuwa

### Goodbye

Yoruba	O dabo
Ibo	Kachifo
Hausa	S'anjuma

*Global Classroom brings trained international speakers into New York City schools to do presentations about their countries/cultures. To learn more about Global Classroom, please contact the Global Classroom staff at [info@metrointl.org](mailto:info@metrointl.org) or 212.431.1195.*