

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK SIX (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: HISTORY

CLASS: JSS3

TOPIC: EARLY EUROPEANS THAT CAME TO NIGERIA (1)

EARLY EUROPEAN EXPLORERS

Among the earliest Europeans who came to Nigeria were the explorers who came on a voyage of discovery (in search of new lands). These early European explorers included :

1. **Mungo Park:** Born in 1771, Mungo Park was a Scottish doctor who was employed by the African Association to explore the African interior and discover the course and possibly the source of the river Niger. He explored the upper Niger River around 1796 but died in 1806 during a second expedition, having successfully travelled about two-thirds of the way down the Niger. He is credited with discovering the source of the Niger.
2. **Hugh Clapperton:** Hugh Clapperton (18 May 1788 – 13 April 1827) was a Scottish naval officer and explorer of West and Central Africa. He was sent by the British government to find an alternative route to the Niger as a result of the numerous deaths experienced during Mungo Park's 2nd expedition.
3. **The Lander Brothers:** The Lander brothers, Richard and John were two brother who continued Clapperton's exploration, which had ended tragically. They arrived the Niger at Bussa on May 22, 1830 and got to the confluence of the rivers Niger and Benue on October 25, 1830. Their exploration had a more successful outcome than that of their predecessors.
4. **Heinrich Barth:** He was a German scholar and explorer who is considered to be one of the greatest European explorers of Africa. In the early 1850s, he explored the area south and southeast of Lake Chad and mapped out the upper reaches of the River Benue. He also returned to Europe with the first account of the middle section of the River Niger.

EARLY EUROPEAN TRADERS AND MERCHANTS

Besides exploration, the Europeans also came to Africa to trade and among the early European traders and merchants were:

1. **Mac Gregor Laird:** He was a Scottish pioneer merchant who formed the African Inland Company in 1831 with the aim of utilizing the Niger as a trade medium with West Africa. However, Laird's commercial expedition between 1832 and 1834 to navigate the Niger and initiate trade between Europeans and Africans northwards of the coast was considered a failure, as majority of the passengers died and the volume of trade realized was minimal.
2. **George Taubman Goldie:** He was one of the major British pioneer merchants who had trade relations with Niger especially around the Niger basin area. Through the establishment of the Royal Niger Company (first known as the United African Company) in 1877, he was able to achieve his life-long dream of securing British territory in Nigeria

HOMEWORK

1. Write short notes on the following early European merchants and traders:
 - A. Mungo Park
 - B. George Taubman Goldie
 - C. The Lander Brothers

2. Do you think the early European explorers and traders set the pace for the colonization of West Africa? Briefly explain the reason for your answer.