

## LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK 8 (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL)

**SUBJECT:** RELIGION AND NATIONAL VALUES EDUCATION (RVE)

**CLASS:** JSS2

**TOPIC:** NIGERIA AS A FEDERATION

### Meaning of Federation

A federation is a country made up of independent states with the power to make their own decisions but with a central government responsible for coordination. It is a political entity made up of a union of partially self-governing provinces, states, or other regions under a central federal government.

### Nigeria as a federation

In a federation, governmental powers are shared between the member states and the central government. Nigeria as a country is a federation and the history of Nigerian federalism can be traced back to 1946 when the Richards Constitution introduced regionalism. Subsequently, federalism was formally introduced by the Lyttleton Constitution of 1954. In Nigeria today, we have one central government, 36 states and 774 local government areas.

Other countries practising federalism include the United States of America, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Germany and Russia.



**Map of Nigeria showing the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory**

### Characteristics of a federation:

A federation has peculiar characteristics and these include:

1. A federal constitution which is usually written and rigid.
2. Supremacy of the constitution
3. Autonomy of the states
4. An independent judiciary
5. Division of power between the central government and the states or regions.

**Need for a Federation:** Nigeria and many other countries adopt a federal system of government for various reasons which include:

1. To foster national integration and unity among diverse ethnic and socio-cultural groups.
2. To enhance even development and equitable distribution of resources.
3. A large geographical size and population which can only be properly managed by dividing them into units.
4. To foster economic prosperity.
5. To represent the interest of the minorities

### **HOMEWORK**

1. What is federalism?
2. State four characteristics of a federation.