

LESSON NOTE FOR WEEK FOUR (FAMVAR INTERNATIONAL SEC. SCHOOL)

SUBJECT: HISTORY

CLASS: JSS3

TOPIC: EARLY EUROPEAN CONTACT WITH NIGERIA (1)

NATURE OF EARLY EUROPEAN CONTACTS WITH NIGERIA The Need for The Coming Of The Europeans

Europeans began exploration, trade, and missionary endeavors along the West Coast of Africa in the 15th century. The Portuguese were the first to do so, reaching Benin in 1482 and establishing trade with the Benin Kingdom, Lagos, and other regions along the coast. Like other southern European nations, Portugal under the inspiration of Prince Henry the navigator was searching for a route to Asia(the Orient) which was the source of many highly demanded trade items in Europe at the time.

The Portuguese came to Africa for the following reasons:

- I. They needed rugs, porcelain and gloves to warm their cold, damp castles and to make their manor houses more conducive for living.
- II. They needed spices, especially pepper which they called black gold, to preserve their food especially meat.
- III. Prince Henry also sent voyages to Africa because he wanted to form an alliance with the non-Muslim rulers of Africa against the Muslims of North Africa with whom Portugal had fought several wars.
- IV. The prince also wanted to gain access to the source of gold, ivory and slaves which were the major articles of the Trans-Saharan trade with the Western Sudan
- V. He also wanted to get into contact with Prester John- an assumed Christian king who was believed to live in the heart of Africa, probably in Ethiopia, through whom Africans could be easily christianized.
- VI. Commercial interest also motivated Portuguese exploration as they wanted to seize control of the trans-Saharan trade in gold, ivory and slaves from the Moors.
- VII. Portugal was also interested the colonization of foreign lands in order to boost her own power and prestige in Europe

HOMEWORK

State four reasons for the coming of the Portuguese to Africa