**VEGETATION OF NIGERIA**

**MAIN OBJECTIVES:** At the end of this lesson, students should be able to;

a. Describe the major vegetation zones of Nigeria

b. Highlight the importance of each vegetation zone.

**MAJOR ZONES OF VEGETATION IN NIGERIA ARE:**

1. Mangrove swamp forest
2. Rainforest
3. Guinea Savannah
4. Sudan Savannah
5. Sahel Savannah
6. Montana Savannah

**CHARACTERISTICS AND IMPORTANCE OF EACH VEGETATION ZONE**

1. **MANGROVE SWAMP FOREST:** This is found mainly in delta and costal areas like Port Harcourt, Warri

**CHARACTERISTICS OF MANGROVE:**

1. It has tall Woody trees
2. It has aerial roots.
3. It had evergreen trees with board leaves.
4. Trees found include: white mango, red mango, raffia palms, etc.

**IMPORTANCE OF MANGROVE**

1. Raffia palm is used for making basket bags, brooms, cane chairs and the production of palm wine
2. Mango trees are used for both building and firewood
3. Rice cultivation is mostly in swampy areas

2. **RAINFOREST:** This is found in Southern part of Nigeria e.g. Benin, Akure, Ibadan, Adeokuta, Abia, Sapelle

**CHARACTERISTICS OF RAINFOREST**

1. It has tall trees, but the trees roots and evergreen boards leaves.
2. Trees are in different heights, storey’s or layers that is; bottoms, middle and layer
3. There is Little undergrowth due to canopy's of the forest
4. Presence of climbers, creepers, epiphytes and parasitic plants
5. They have numerous species of trees like Obeche, mahogany, Iroko, African-aula, etc

**IMPORTANCE OF RAINFOREST**

1. It provides timbers for constructional purposes
2. Limbering of these trees provide employment
3. Cultivation of trees crops like cocoa rubber and oil palm common.
4. Forest provides wood ad sources of fuel

3. **GUINEA SAVANNAH:** This is found in Enugu, Lokoja, Ilorin, Makurdi, Osogbo e.t.c

**CHARACTERISTICS OF GUINEA SAVANNAH**

1. It has the largest vegetation belt in Nigeria.
2. It had tall grasses with few scattered trees.
3. The trees are deciduous.
4. Trees have thick barks.
5. Trees have long trap roots.
6. Trees have tiny leaves to reduce transpiration
7. Grasses are green during rainy season and brown during dry season.

4. **SUDAN SAVANNAH:** This is found in Sokoto, kastina, kano, Bauchi, Dotse etc

**CHARACTERISTICS OF SUDAN SAVANNAH**

1. It had short numerous grasses.
2. Presence of scattered and shot deciduous trees
3. Some trees have thorns while others have thick barks
4. Popular plants include acacias, silk Cotton's, late palm and baobab

5. **SAHEL SAVANNAH:** This Savannah is found on Maiduguri and Damaturu

**CHARACTERISTICS OF SAHEL SAVANNAH**

1. It has short scanty grasses.
2. Grasses are fewer poorer and in patches.
3. Presence of short and tough shorts/trees plants
4. Plants include : acacia, gum Arabic, late palm and baobab

6. **MONTANA SAVANNAH:** this vegetation is found in Jos and Adamawa area

**CHARACTERISTICS OF MONTANA VEGETATION**

1. It is associated with highland areas.
2. It has varied trees at it's windward side.
3. It has grasses at it's leeward side
4. Presence of short, scattered and deciduous trees

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLIMATE (RAINFALL) AND VEGETATION**

**IN NIGERIA**

1. High rainfall of over 2000mm gives rise to mangrove Swampy Forest in the South
2. Heavy rainfall supports the growth of tall trees like; Obeche, Mahogaray, Iroko, etc in the South
3. Heavy rainfall in the forest zone does not support the growth of grasses
4. High rainfall supports the growth of climber creepers and epiphy besertic
5. Low rainfall gives rise to Savannah Vegetation
6. Low rainfall supports the growth of drought resistant trees with tiny leaves
7. Annual of rainfall marks the beginning of the growth of grasses in the savannah