

WEEK 2 & 3
NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS, IDENTITY, SYMBOL AND UNITY.

Meaning of national consciousness

National consciousness is the feeling of love for one's country. This is called national consciousness or nationalism. The love for one's country should be paramount in the mind of an individual. People in a nation share the following:

1. Economic life
2. Common territory
3. Political system
4. Constitution

Meaning of National Identity

National identity refers to the characteristic by which a nation can be recognized. Identity is the situation in which things are alike or same. In this wise, people from the same cultural group are different another and can easily be known for some common characteristics they possessed. For instance, the Yoruba are different from the Igbo, greeting, dressing modes, foods, dance, marriage practices, art, festival, custom, traditions and value.

Each tribe in Nigeria has different ways of life that differ from one another.

Ethnic Composition for Nigeria

Ethnic Groups: Nigeria has 250 **ethnic groups**. The most populous and politically influential include: Hausa and Fulani 29%, Yoruba 21%, Igbo (Ibo) 18%, Ijaw 10%, Kanuri 4%, Ibibio 3.5%, Tiv 2.5%.

Languages: English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani, and over 500 additional indigenous languages.

The major tribe is Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SYMBOL?

A national symbol is a symbol of any entity considering itself and manifesting itself to the world as a national entity or community.

National symbols are other events, object or people that represent, identify and quality of a nation.

A symbol can be defined as a picture or shape has a particular meaning or represent as a particular organization or idea.

Nigeria National Symbols

1. Our leader
2. Our constitution
3. National flag
4. The pledge
5. Coat of arm
6. Mace
7. National anthem
8. Currency

Importance of National Symbols

National value has great importance to us. Some of the importance of national value includes:

1. They are the country national sense of pride
2. They represent their country
3. They are used to honor people that have served the country
4. They remind us of the important events in the history of our country
5. They are used for remembrance of people who have served and done great things for the country.
6. They allow their country to stand out by being original and unique.

MEANING OF NATIONAL UNITY

National unity is a government formed by a coalition of parties, especially in times of national emergency. National unity is a type of government formed by a group of parties, generally during times of emergency. These governments are said to be unified by the love of country rather than by political affiliation.

National integration is a positive aspect that reduces socio-cultural and economic differences or inequalities and strengthens national unity and solidarity, which is not imposed by authority.

Ways of Promoting National Unity

The following ways are some of the ways, which national unity can be promoted:

1. Living a life devoid of discrimination against other tribes.
2. Tolerance for each other, irrespective of religious and ethnic affiliations.
3. Encouraging inter-tribal marriage.
4. Living a life devoid of discrimination against other religion.
5. Showing hospitality especially to a stranger.

Importance of National Unity

1. It strengthens a nation
2. It brings about safety in a nation.
3. It helps the government of a nation to understand the people's need and choices.
4. It brings about the development of a nation.
5. It encourages people to share ideas, value and emotional bond.

ASSIGNMENT

- 1 Differentiate between national consciousness, symbol and unity
- Mention five (5) Nigerian National Symbols.