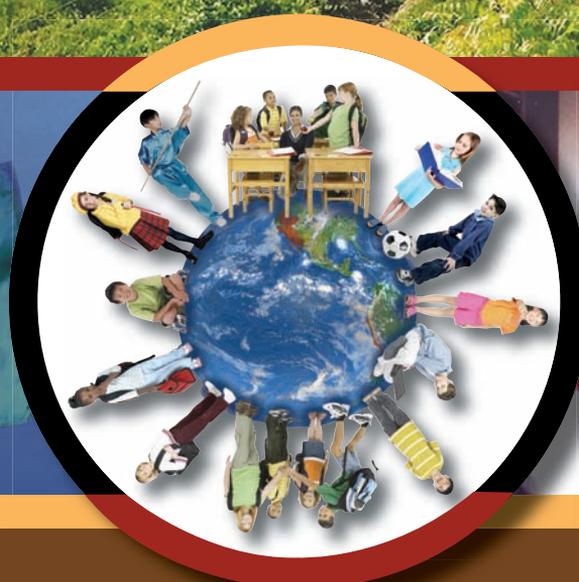
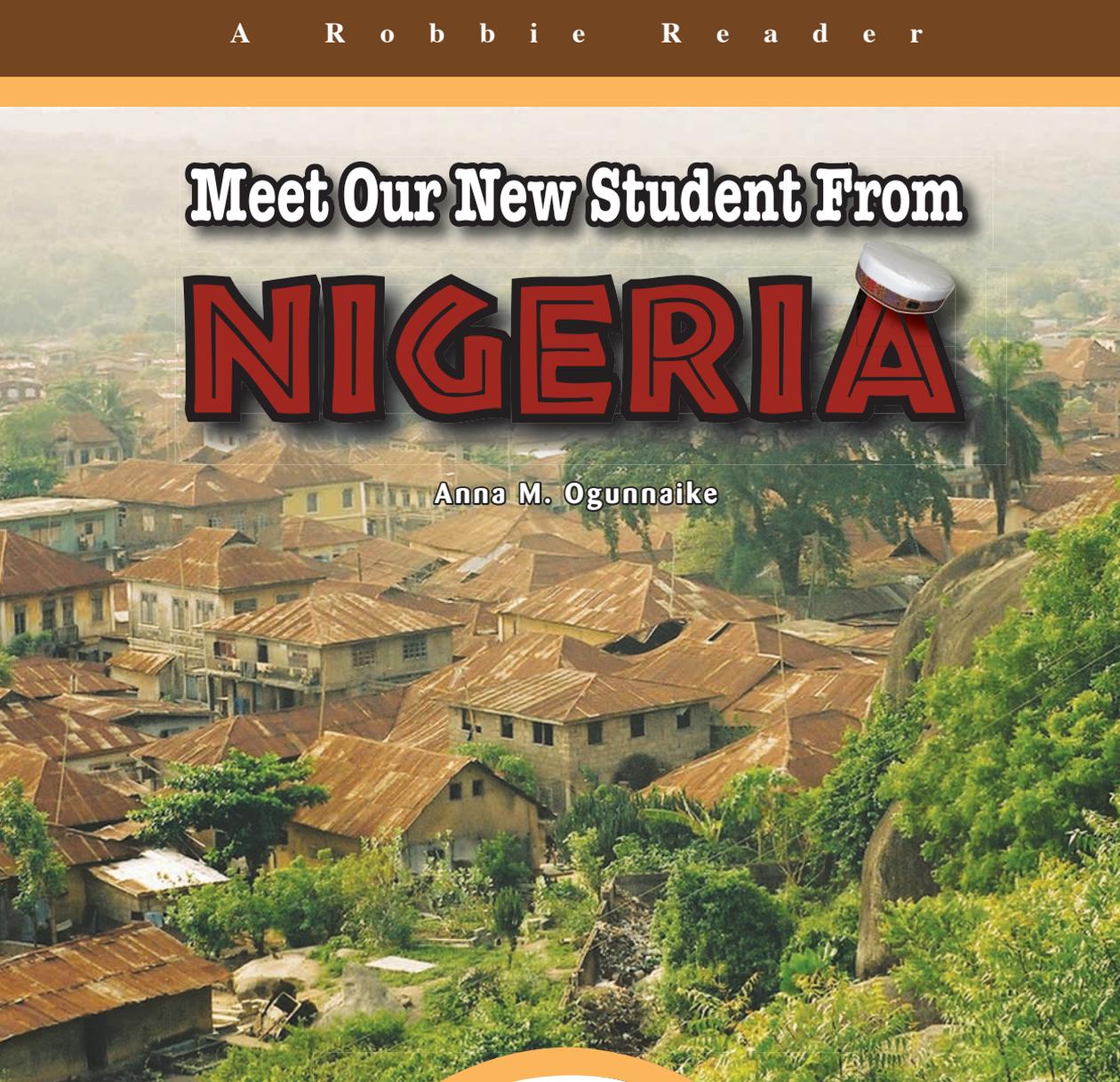


# Meet Our New Student From

# NIGERIA

Anna M. Ogunnaike





## Meet Our New Student From

- Australia • China • Colombia • Great Britain
- Haiti • Israel • Korea • Malaysia • Mexico
- New Zealand • **Nigeria** • Tanzania



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**ABOUT THE COVER:** Abeokuta is a city of 200,000 people in Ogun State. Abeokuta is the birthplace of many famous Nigerians, including past president of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo, and Nobel Prize-winning author Wole Soyinka.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** The facts on which the story in this book is based have been thoroughly researched. Documentation of such research can be found on page 44. While every possible effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the publisher will not assume liability for damages caused by inaccuracies in the data, and makes no warranty on the accuracy of the information contained herein.

To reflect current usage, we have chosen to use the secular era designations BCE ("before the common era") and CE ("of the common era") instead of the traditional designations BC ("before Christ") and AD (*anno Domini*, "in the year of the Lord").

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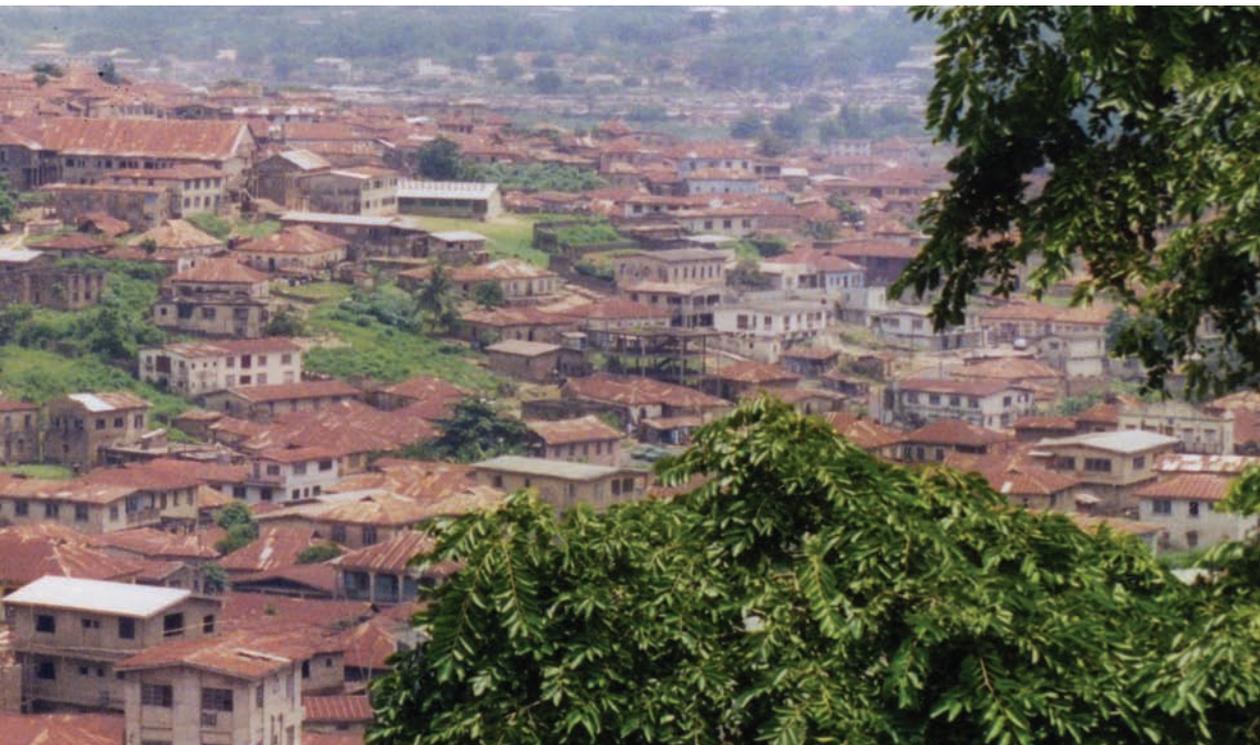
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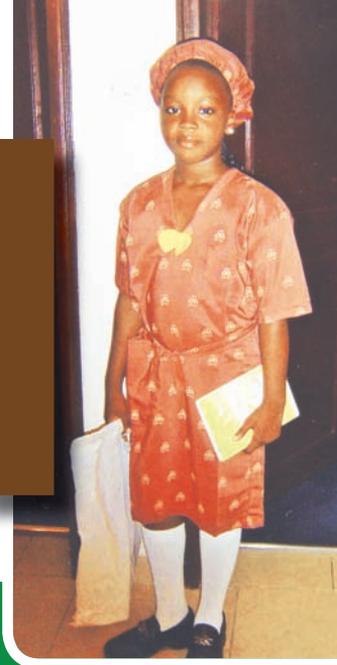
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# A New Classmate

## Chapter

# 1

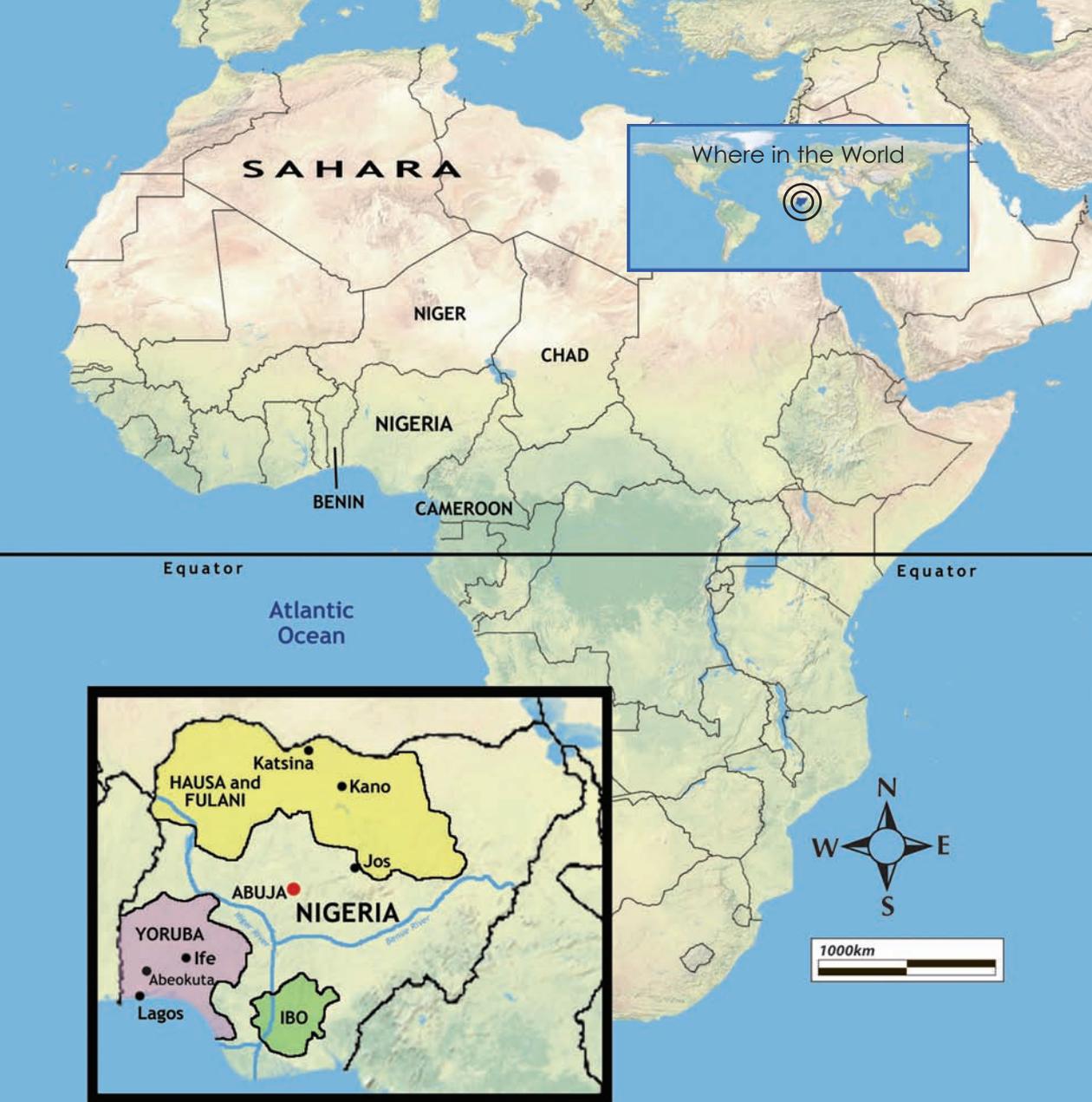


Julie was so excited! Mrs. Harkins had just announced that a new student from Nigeria would be joining their third-grade class. Julie had never met anyone from the continent of Africa. She had so many questions she wanted to ask about the new student and about Nigeria.

Julie raised her hand. “Mrs. Harkins, what’s the new student’s name?” she asked.

“Our new student’s name is Mayowa Adewale, Julie,” Mrs. Harkins answered. She said her name MAH-yoh-wah ah-DAY-wah-lay. “She’s eight years old and is moving here from the city of Lagos. She will join our class next week. I would like us to learn all we can about Nigeria before Mayowa’s arrival so that we can make her feel welcome. Let’s begin by finding Nigeria on the world map.”





## FACTS ABOUT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**Nigeria Total Area:**  
356,670 square miles  
(923,768 square kilometers)

**Population:**  
135,031,000 (2007 estimate)

**Capital City:**  
Abuja

**Monetary Unit:**  
Naira

**Religions:**  
Islam, Christianity,  
and local religions

**Languages:**  
English (official); Hausa; Yoruba;  
Ibo (Igbo); Fulani

**Chief Exports:**  
Petroleum and petroleum  
products (oil), cocoa, rubber



Mrs. Harkins helped Julie and her classmates find the continent of Africa on the world map, and then pointed to the large bulge of West Africa. “Follow the coast of West Africa until it turns sharply to the south, just above the **equator**. There you will see the country of Nigeria.”

“If Nigeria is near the equator, then it must be very hot there,” said Julie.

“Do elephants and giraffes live in Nigeria?” Eric asked.

“Yes, Eric, but not many large animals live in the wild in Nigeria any longer. Most of these animals now live in game reserves,” answered Mrs. Harkins.



The city of Lagos has skyscrapers and a lively business district. It is also known for its popular music and film industries.





*The Yankari National Park in Bauchi State is home to elephants, lions, hyenas, hippopotamuses, baboons, monkeys, and antelope. Over 350 different species of birds also live in the park.*



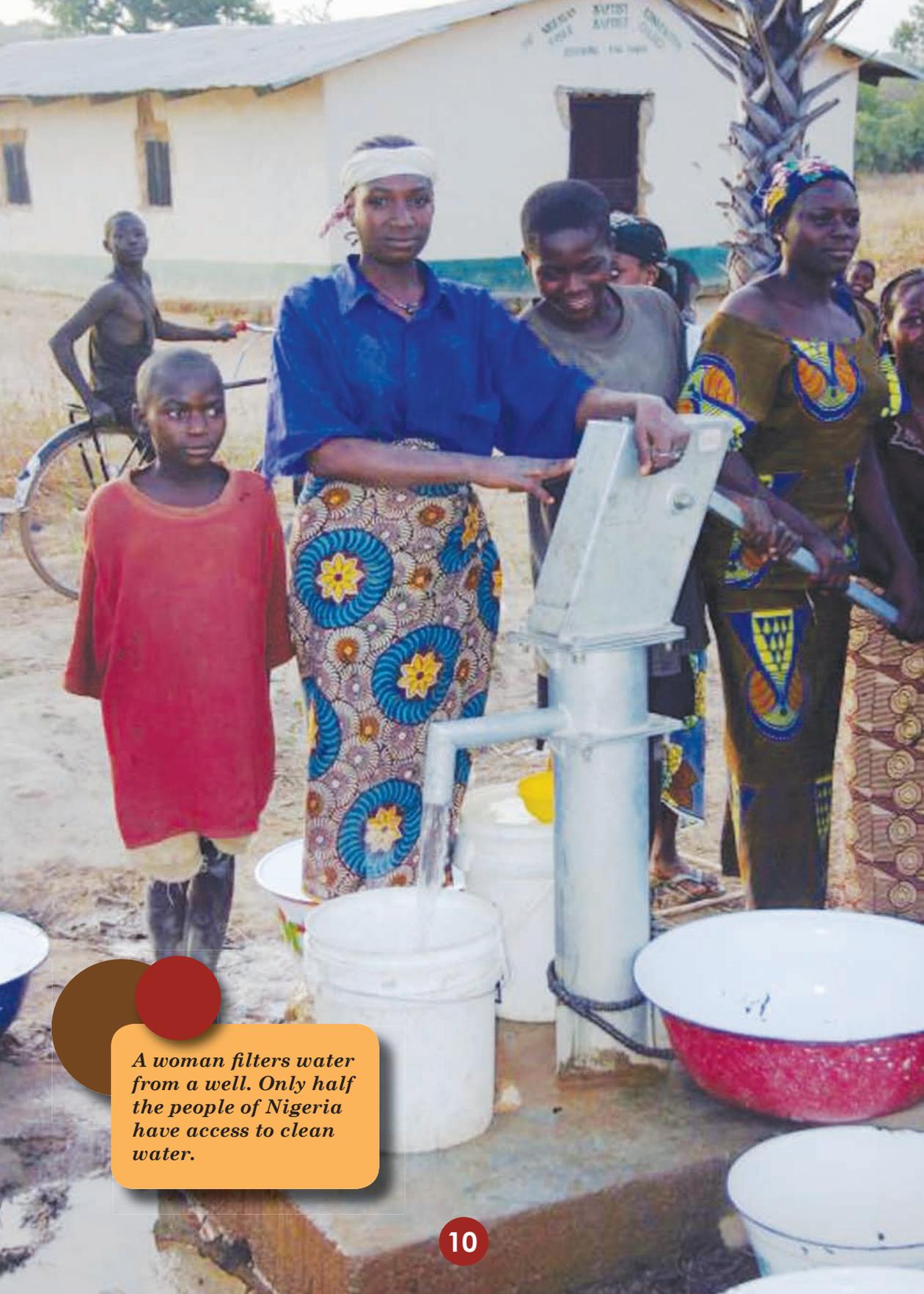
Julie wondered what Mayowa's house in Lagos looked like. Then she thought of another important question. "Mrs. Harkins, does Mayowa speak English?"

"Yes, Julie," said Mrs. Harkins. "Nigeria was once a **colony** of Great Britain, and the official language of Nigeria is English. However, most Nigerians speak a local Nigerian language in addition to English. Good questions, class! Your homework for this evening will



Giraffes are the tallest land mammals on earth. Their long necks make it possible for them to eat the leaves from the top of the thorny acacia tree. A type of giraffe called the Nigerian giraffe has become quite rare.





*A woman filters water from a well. Only half the people of Nigeria have access to clean water.*



The flag of the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria, which was formed in 1914. Under British rule, Nigerians were not allowed to vote, but were forced to pay taxes to the British government.



Great Britain colonized Nigeria and many other parts of Africa in the late 1800s. Most African nations gained independence in the 1960s.

be to learn at least three facts about Nigeria and be prepared to share what you have learned with the class tomorrow. Then we will plan a special party to welcome Mayowa.”

The class buzzed with excitement. Before she left for home, Julie stopped in the school library to look for a book about Nigeria. She wondered what questions Mayowa had about the United States, and if Mayowa was nervous about moving to a new country.

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