

## A Climate



Travelling from north to south in Nigeria, you pass through a fascinating series of landscapes. **Rainfall**<sup>1</sup> in the south-east can be extremely high in the wet season, whereas the northern part of the country is **arid**<sup>2</sup> and **prone to**<sup>3</sup> **drought**<sup>4</sup> during the dry season.

<sup>1</sup> the amount of rain that falls, for example in a month or in a year    <sup>2</sup> dry    <sup>3</sup> tending to have a particular negative characteristic    <sup>4</sup> long period without rain

## B Vegetation



More than 30% of the landscape of Canada lies inside the Arctic Circle, where the land can stay frozen for up to nine months of the year. In these regions, known as the **tundra**<sup>1</sup>, **vegetation**<sup>2</sup> is limited. Further south, dense, **coniferous**<sup>3</sup> forests known as taiga cover large areas of land. Towards the border with the United States are the grasslands of the **prairies**<sup>4</sup> and the mixed, temperate forests.

<sup>1</sup> area in the north with no trees and permanently frozen ground    <sup>2</sup> plant life    <sup>3</sup> trees that are **evergreen** [in leaf all year round] and produce cones, unlike **deciduous** trees, which lose their leaves in winter    <sup>4</sup> flat grasslands in Canada and northern USA (similar to steppes in Asia or pampas in South America)

## C Agriculture



Rice is the main crop grown in the south of China, along with tea, cotton, fruit and vegetables. The rice is planted in flooded **paddy fields**<sup>1</sup>. A good year can see two crops of rice and one of vegetables harvested. In the drier, hillier north and west, farmers generally harvest a single crop of **cereals**<sup>2</sup> and, in addition, **tend**<sup>3</sup> sheep and cattle.

<sup>1</sup> fields planted with rice growing in water    <sup>2</sup> type of grass cultivated to produce a grain, e.g. a food plant like rice, wheat or maize    <sup>3</sup> take care of

## D Industry



France is one of the world's leading **developed**<sup>1</sup> nations. It is home to large **manufacturing**<sup>2</sup>, steel and chemical industries. The country is an important and major producer of aircraft and cars and is **at the forefront**<sup>3</sup> of technology and engineering. Its sizeable nuclear industry **generates**<sup>4</sup> a significant proportion of the nation's electrical power. Like many developed countries, France provides a lot of help and aid to **developing**<sup>5</sup> countries.

<sup>1</sup> with a modern, industrial economy    <sup>2</sup> producing goods in large numbers    <sup>3</sup> in an important position  
<sup>4</sup> produces/creates    <sup>5</sup> describes a country that is poor and does not have a modern, industrial economy

## E Population



Brazil is a vibrant mixture of peoples. Some are **descended from**<sup>1</sup> **indigenous**<sup>2</sup> tribes, others from the Portuguese, who were the colonial power in Brazil for 300 years. Many Brazilians have African **ancestors**<sup>3</sup> brought over in the 17th century as slaves to work on sugar plantations. During the 20th century, large numbers of European **migrants**<sup>4</sup> **settled**<sup>5</sup> in the south.

<sup>1</sup> are related to someone who lived in the past    <sup>2</sup> existing naturally in that place    <sup>3</sup> relatives from earlier times: we are our ancestors' **descendants**    <sup>4</sup> people who move to live in another country or another part of their own country (often for reasons of economic need; an **emigrant** is someone who leaves a country, an **immigrant** is someone who moves to live in a country)    <sup>5</sup> made their homes

- 1 Recently, the country's economy has suffered a decline in industry concerned with making things.
- 2 The university has long been in a very important position in agricultural science.
- 3 The river delta tends to suffer catastrophic flooding on a regular basis.
- 4 One can often see local shepherds looking after large flocks of sheep on the hillsides.
- 5 In the late 18th century, migrants made their home in the uncultivated lands towards the north of the country.
- 6 In the extremely dry southern provinces, plant life is sparse.
- 7 In the cold northern regions, the landscape consists mostly of permanently frozen ground with no trees.
- 8 The tribes that have always existed naturally in the eastern jungles are now facing threats to their way of life.
- 9 The farmlands are dotted with woods that lose their leaves in winter, while the large forests of trees that are always in leaf provide the country with much-needed timber.
- 10 The flat grasslands of the northern USA experienced a severe long period with no rain last year.