A Climate



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

[1] the amount of rain that falls, for example in a month or in a year [2] dry [3] tending to have a particular negative characteristic [4] 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**[1], **vegetation**[2] is limited. Further south, dense, **coniferous**[3] forests known as taiga cover large areas of land. Towards the border with the United States are the grasslands of the **prairies**[4] and the mixed, temperate forests.

[1] area in the north with no trees and permanently frozen ground [2] plant life [3] trees that are **evergreen** [in leaf all year round] and produce cones, unlike **deciduous** trees, which lose their leaves in winter [4] 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**[1]. 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**[2] and, in addition, **tend**[3] sheep and cattle.

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

D Industry



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

[1] with a modern, industrial economy [2] producing goods in large numbers [3] in an important position [4] produces/creates [5] 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**[1] **indigenous**[2] tribes, others from the Portuguese, who were the colonial power in Brazil for 300 years. Many Brazilians have African **ancestors**[3] brought over in the 17th century as slaves to work on sugar plantations. During the 20th century, large numbers of European **migrants**[4] **settled**[5] in the south.

[1] are related to someone who lived in the past [2] existing naturally in that place [3] relatives from earlier times: we are our ancestors' **descendants** [4] 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) [5] made their homes

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- 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.

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