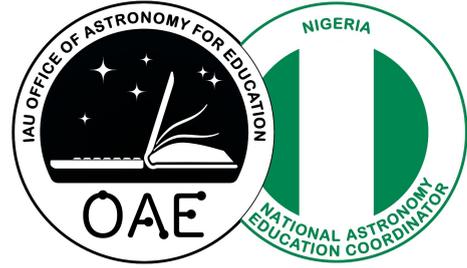


Astronomy Education in Nigeria



This overview is part of the project "Astronomy Education Worldwide" of the International Astronomical Union's Office of Astronomy for Education.

More information: <https://astro4edu.org/worldwide>

Structure of education: The Educational System in Nigeria with the introduction of the 6-3-3-4 system of education in Nigeria, the recipient of the education would spend six years in primary school, three years in junior secondary school, three years in senior secondary school, and four years in a tertiary institution.

Education facilities: Nigeria has private and public schools at every level of education. All subjects are taught in English Language which is the official Language in Nigeria.

Governance and organisation: The public schools are almost free, are mostly poorly funded and hence lacking in basic facilities, such as internet, electricity, and most basic infrastructure. They are also mostly overcrowded as the majority of the population are not able to afford the private schools which are mostly better equipped as parents have to part with huge sums as tuition and other fees. This makes the private schools out of reach of an average Nigerian.

Teacher Training: The central government is responsible for curriculum development in Nigeria. This has made it very difficult to introduce Astronomy as a subject in Elementary and High Schools. The States do not control the curriculum, sadly. Every state has to follow the general curriculum set up by the federal government, which does not get reviewed as often as required.

Astronomy in the curriculum: Nigeria has Colleges of Education, which is the primary training Institution for teachers, although most Universities have departments of Basic and Higher Education where teachers are also trained. Most Elementary school teachers have training programs which they attend periodically in the course of their careers.

Astronomy is not taught at elementary and High (Secondary) school levels in Nigeria. There is no curriculum for Astronomy in Nigeria at these levels. Most Astronomy topics are found in Physics, Mathematics and Geography, Basic Science, etc. Kids encounter topics in Astronomy from as early as Basic 1 (6 years), topics such as Day and Night, Solar System among others. By the first year of Secondary School, they are already learning about ISS, Troposphere, Stratosphere, etc.

Astronomy education outside the classroom: There are Astronomy education outside the classroom. Even though there are limited options available to them in terms of Astronomy contact, kids are able to visit Space Museum, Planetarium, observatory, etc. Unfortunately, these opportunities are only available to kids who live around the places where these are cited. Nigeria, with a population of about 200m people, has only one functional Planetarium! This means most kids do not have access to these places. The most contact that kids have with telescopes and Astronomy activities are programs run by Astronomers Without Borders (AWB)

Nigeria in their projects which are taken to different parts of Nigeria. Some of these can be seen at www.awbnigeria.org

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