

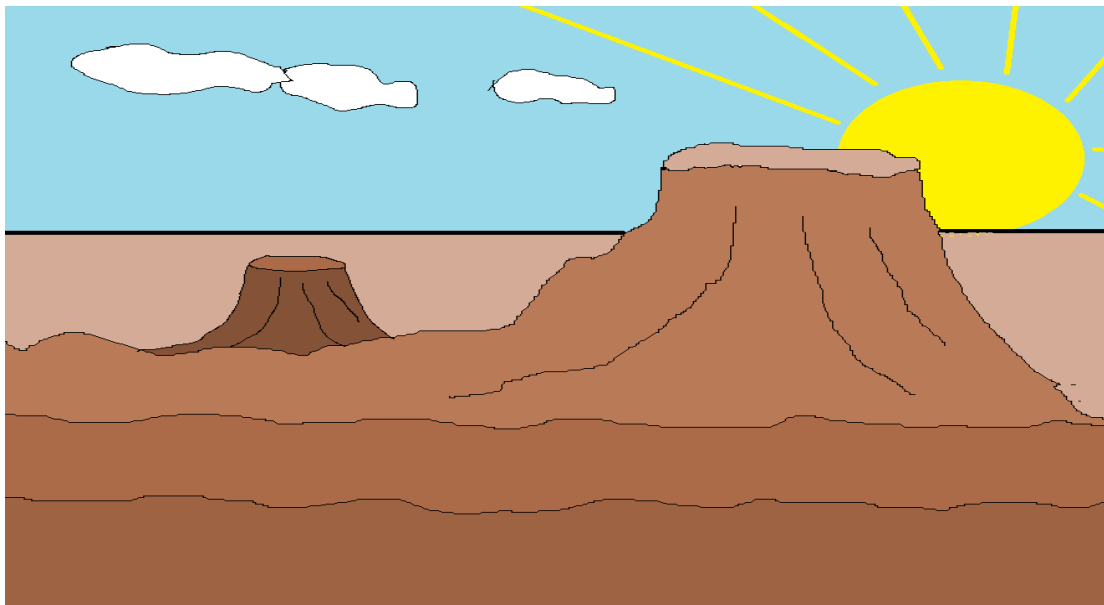
NAME: OGUNSANYA PRAISE. CLASS: SS1 SCIENCE B.

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY. DATE: 2ND/JANUARY/2024.

1. DEFINATION OF PLATEAUX.

The word plateau is of French origin. A plateau is a flat elevated landform that rises sharply above the surrounding area on at least one side.

It is also known as table land, elevated plain. see picture below



PLATEAUX

Picture of plateaux.

FEATURES/CHARACTERISTICS

- **It is an elevated upland.**
- **They have gentle slopes.**
- **They have extensive flat or level surface which usually descends sharply to the surrounding lowland.**
- **They are tabular in shape, steep sided with rough and irregular surfaces.**

- They have narrow valleys and sometimes from hydrological centres.
- Mesas and buttes may be present.
- Most of them are relics of ancient mountain ranges.

USES/IMPORTANCE

- Sources of valuable minerals.
- For favourable settlement.
- Centres of tourism.
- Grazing land for animals.
- Arable farming.
- Sources of rivers.
- Formation of rainfall.
- Sources of Hydro - Electric Power (HEP).
- Sight - seeing.
- Recreation.

DISADVANTAGES OF PLATEAUX.

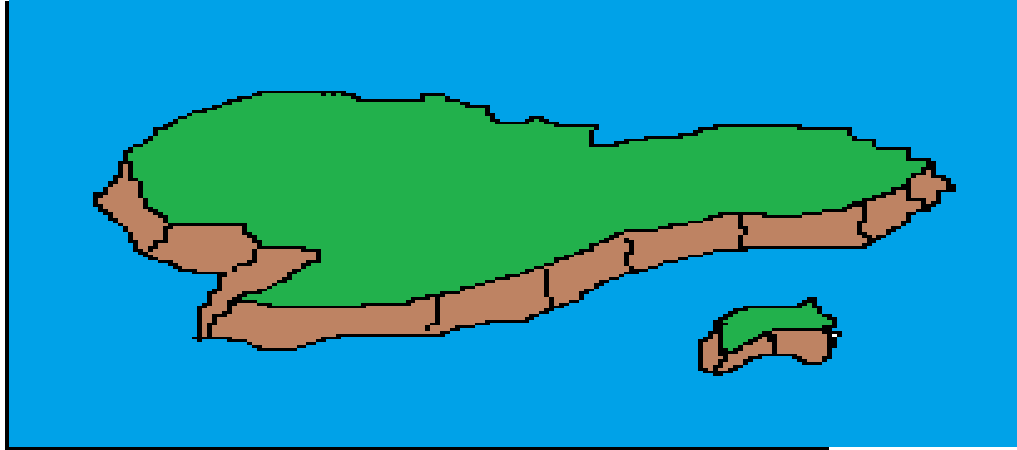
Some plateaux are:

- barriers to communication as they prevent road, railway and airport construction.
- associated with erosion which tend to reduce or prevent serious farming activities.

SOME OTHER FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT PLATEAUX.

- **DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE PLATEAUX ARE?**
 - North Africa.
 - Turkey.
 - Iran.
 - Tibet.
 - Nigeria.

- **India.**
- **DO YOU KNOW THAT AFRICA IS CALLED A PLATEAU CONTINENTS?**
 - **This is because almost the whole continent is raised above the sea level and drops sharply off at the coast.**



- **SOME NOTABLE PLATEAUX IN THE WORLD**

- Qinghai plateau.
- Deccan plateau.
- Antrim plateau.
- Columbia snake plateau.
- Biu plateau.
- Jos plateau.

2. **TYPES OF PLATEAUX.**

Based on mode of formation plateaux are of three types.

They are:

- Tectonic plateaux.
- Volcanic or lava plateaux.
- Dissected plateaux.

MODE OF FORMATION.

- **Tectonic plateaux:** they are formed due to earth's movement which causes the uplift in some areas and depression of others. The uplifted areas form *tectonic plateaux* and the depressed area form the *basins*. It is of two (2) types; they are:

 **Table land.**

 **Intermountain.**

Examples are: Tibetan plateau, Kunlun plateau and Bolivian plateau.

- **Volcanic or lava plateaux:** they are formed due to volcanic activity. When there is a crack or fissure, pressure is released. Molten lava comes out of the earth's crust and spreads out in successive layers. The lava cools and solidifies

**to form volcanic or lava plateau. Examples are:
Antrim, Columbia snake and Biu plateaux.**

- **Dissected plateaux: these originates from either volcanic or tectonic plateaux. They may also be formed from ancient fold mountains which may have been eroded and weathered. Also, they may be formed from highlands along whose edges, rivers have carved out deep narrow valleys {dissected plateaux}. The high and extensive plateaux are gradually worn down. Examples are: Middle Rhine plateau, Kumasi plateau, Jos plateau and Enugu plateau.**