

Difference Between Niger and Nigeria

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Key Difference - Niger vs Nigeria

Niger and Nigeria are two separate countries in the African continent. Since they are neighboring countries with similar names, most people get confused about the difference between Niger and Nigeria. **Nigeria is a coastal country whereas Niger is a landlocked country. Moreover, Nigeria is an Anglophone (official language is English) country whereas Niger is a francophone (official language is French) country.** This is the **key difference** between Niger and Nigeria.

What is Niger?

Niger, officially known as the [Republic](#) of Niger, is a country in Western Africa, which has been named after the Niger River. It is a landlocked country surrounded by Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, [Mali](#), and Algeria. Niger is the biggest country in the West Africa with a land area of almost 1,270,000 km². However, about 80% of its land area lies in the Sahara [desert](#).

The [official language](#) of Niger is [French](#), which is an inheritance from the French colonial period. At the same time, there are also eight national languages, which are associated with different [tribes](#). The religion of the majority of the population in Niger is [Islam](#). Nevertheless, Niger is a [secular state](#).

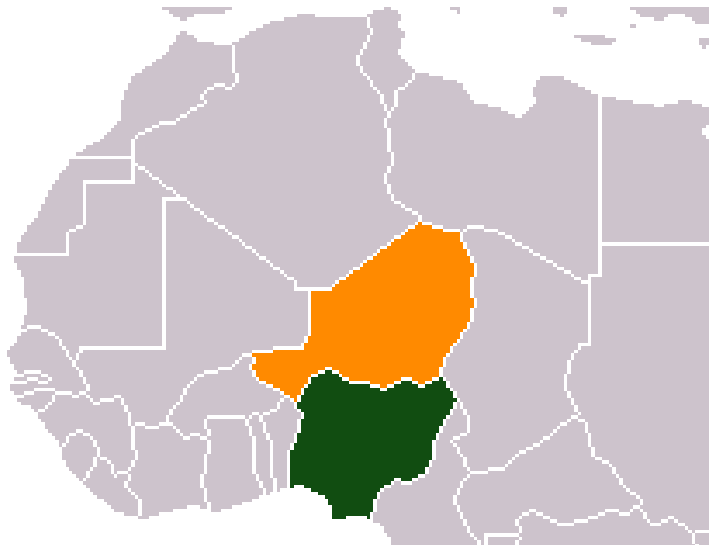


Figure 01: Niger (orange) and Nigeria (green)

Niger is a [developing country](#), which often ranks bottom in the United Nation’s Human Development Index. This country faces many challenges such as desert terrain, inefficient agriculture, overpopulation, poor educational level, poverty of people, poor [health care](#), and environmental degradation. The main agricultural exports in Niger are peanuts and [cotton](#). It’s also a big mineral exporter of [Uranium](#).

What is Nigeria?

Nigeria or the Federal Republic of Nigeria is a West African country bordering Chad, Benin, Cameroon, and Niger. It’s a coastal country and borders the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean on the south. Nigeria has 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory, the capital Abuja is located on this Federal Capital Territory.

Although Nigeria has been home to a number of [kingdoms](#) and tribal states, it underwent a British colonial rule in the 19th century. It gained independence from the British and became an independent state in 1960. The official language of Nigeria is [English](#). However, there are about 500 different languages used in this country, Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba being the major three languages.

Nigeria has a large population. This is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Roughly half the population is [Christians](#) while the other half is Muslims. There is also a minority of people of who practice tribal religions. Nigeria also has Africa’s largest economy. The World Bank considers Nigeria to be an emerging market. Nigeria is referred to as the “Giant of Africa” due to this large economy and population.

What are the Similarities Between Niger and Nigeria?

- Niger and Nigeria are two neighboring countries in the West Africa.
- Both countries were colonized by European nations.
- Both countries have faced political unrest after gaining independence.

What is the Difference Between Niger and Nigeria?

Niger vs Nigeria	
Niger is a landlocked country surrounded by Libya, Chad, Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Algeria.	Nigeria is a coastal country neighboring Chad, Benin, Cameroon and Niger.
Economy	

Niger has a poor economy.	Nigeria has a large economy.
Official Language	
The official language is French.	The official language is English.
Population	
Niger has a comparatively lower population than Nigeria.	Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa.
Religion	
Islam is the dominant religion in Niger.	Christianity and Islam are the major religions.
Political System	
Niger is a republic.	Nigeria is a federal republic having 36 states.

Summary - Niger vs Nigeria

Niger and Nigeria are neighboring countries in West Africa. Both countries have been home to historical kingdoms and tribal states before being colonized by European nations. Today, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and has the largest economy. Niger, on the other hand, is a developing country with a poor economy. This is the main difference between Niger and Nigeria.

Reference:

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- 2.“Niger Facts: 50 Important Facts About Niger.” The Fact File, 13 Nov. 2017. [Available here](#)

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- 1.'Niger Nigeria Locator'By T L Miles - Own work (Public Domain) via [Commons Wikimedia](#)

How to Cite this Article?

APA: Difference Between Niger and Nigeria.(2017 December 08). Retrieved (date), from <http://differencebetween.com/difference-between-niger-and-vs-nigeria/>

MLA: "Difference Between Niger and Nigeria" Difference Between.Com. 08 December 2017. Web.

Chicago: "Difference Between Niger and Nigeria". Difference Between.Com.

<http://differencebetween.com/difference-between-niger-and-vs-nigeria/>accessed (accessed [date]).



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