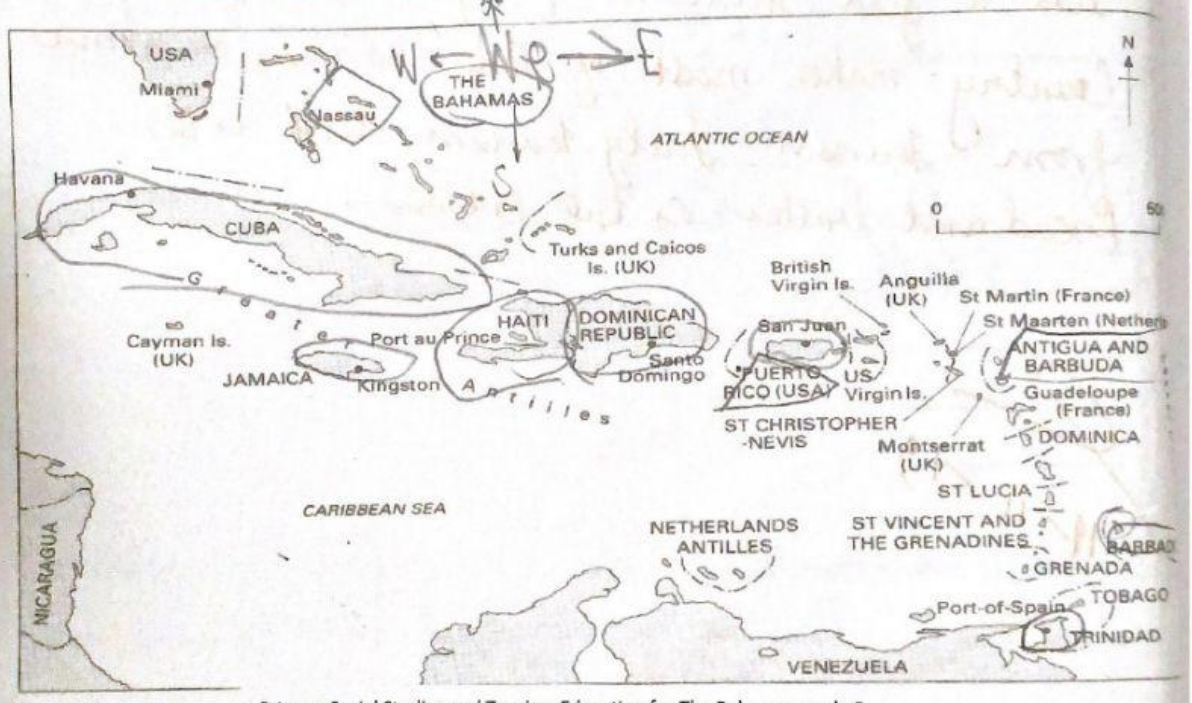
Lesson 6

Links with the Caribbean

Many of the customs of the Caribbean people are linked with Africa, because of our African ancestors. Culture in The Bahamas and the Caribbean has also been influenced by the Europeans, especially the British, who set-up settlements or **colonies** on many islands. For example, many Caribbean countries, including The Bahamas have systems of government that are based on the British parliamentary system.

There are many other signs of the European influence in the Caribbean:

- **Architecture** there are many buildings around the Caribbean built in **British, Dutch, French** and **Spanish** styles.



Primary Social Studies and Tourism Education for The Bahamas grade 5

- **Police forces**-several Caribbean police forces wear uniform of similar designs.
- **Education system-** the way young people are educated in different Caribbean countries is similar to European systems of education.
- **Names**- there are many people, streets and buildings throughout the Caribbean that have names of European origin.

Can you think of any other ways in which The Bahamas has been influenced by the European way of life?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Festivals in the Caribbean

Many of our customs including festivals were started by enslaved people. Although many such festivals are similar, each island celebrates them in its own special way.

The Bahamas and many other Caribbean countries celebrate similar special days. In The Bahamas, we celebrate **Discovery Day** on 12th October, which is the date when Christopher Columbus first landed here. On **Emancipation Day**, people in different islands remember when slavery came to an end. Each Caribbean country has its own **Independence Day** when the people celebrate the day when their country first began to govern itself.

Another link between the islands of the Caribbean is ***Caribbean Festival of Arts*** or **Carifesta**. This is an event that brings together the culture of each Caribbean country in one place. Those who attend can experience the food, craft, music and culture of Caribbean countries.

The festival began in 1972, as a vehicle for developing greater appreciation and knowledge of the culture of the Caribbean region. In the beginning, only **CARICOM** members participated, but later the festival was opened to all countries of the region. It provides a forum for all art forms, and it is held in a different country each year.

Carifta stands for **Caribbean Free Trade Association**. This was formed in 1965 to promote trade among Caribbean countries. It started with two member countries, and by 1972, its membership had increased to twelve. Its main objective is to get member countries trading among themselves. Goods entering one member country from another would be duty-free. In 1974, the members were ready to make a bold step toward the creation of a **common market**. The Treaty of **Chaguaramas** established Caricom.

The Caribbean Development Bank was set up as a regional bank to provide loans to Caribbean countries for special development projects. The Bahamas is a member of this bank and contributes money to it. To qualify for a loan, a project must be designed to improve the way of life of the local people.

Caribbean people are known for their love of exotic food. It is possible to find a favourite dish almost anywhere on our islands.

The Bahamas – Stewed fish,
Boiled fish and Johnny cake,
Crab and Dough,
Peas soup and Dough.

Barbados- Flying fish and Coo Coo

Jamaica-Ackee and salt fish, Jerk pork, Curry goat

Dominica- Pilau

LIVEWORKSHEETS

LINKS WITH OTHER NEIGHBOURS

R.B.P.F

Source: Bahamas Grade Level Assesment Test-6, 2011 Social Studies

1. Many signs of European influences can be seen in Caribbean countries including The Bahamas. Describe the European influence that can be seen in each of the following areas.

(a). Police Force: _____

_____ [1]

(b). Educational System: _____

_____ [1]

(c). Names: _____

_____ [1]

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Many festivals in the Caribbean were started by enslaved people. However, each island celebrates them in its own special way. Describe what is celebrated on these special days:

(a). Emancipation Day: _____

_____

_____ [1]

(b). Independence Day: _____

_____

_____ [1]

3. ***The Caribbean Festival of Arts***, or ***Carifesta***, is an event that brings together the culture of each Caribbean country. If one attends this event, what will he/she experience? [2]

_____

_____

_____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS