Immigration... 5

from other parts of the World

Mosko; Papa George; Wong; Chea; Pierre

Where did these names come from? How do they fit into our society? People have come to live in our islands from all over the world. Most came because they were looking for a better way of life.

Many **Greek** people came to our islands to work in the **sponge industry**. The sponge industry was started in 1841. Sponge was gathered with iron hooks attached to a pole in a kraal. They were allowed to soak in the kraal for a few days then taken out and beaten with sticks to remove the outer covering and then scraped to clean. After cleaning they were weighed and prepared for export to Paris in France. This was a **lucrative** (well-paid) business until disease attacked the sponge beds in 1938. When the industry failed, the workers found other work – some of them set up restaurants. Their descendants have names like Maillis, Psilinakis and Mosko.

Chinese people started arriving in The Bahamas during the early 1940s, when there was a change of government in China. People were not as free as before and so some Chinese people came to The Bahamas to find freedom.

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The Chinese in our community own and operate restaurants, furniture stores, food stores and laundries. Some Chinese names are Chea, Wong, Tai, Lee, Ching and Lim.

Workers from other parts of the Caribbean came to The Bahamas seeking better opportunities. They came from Jamaica, Grenada, Trinidad, Barbados and Guyana. Police and prison offices, nurses and teachers have been recruited from other Caribbean countries to assist us in The Bahamas. Other large groups of people who left their country and settled in The Bahamas were from the Turks and Caicos Islands. They came because they were not able to earn much money in their country.

The latest and largest group to come to The Bahamas are the Haitians. They left their country because they felt they were treated unfairly, and there were few jobs for them. They first arrived here in the early 1960s and have been coming ever since. So many have come here that The Bahamas has not been able to take all of them. Many are returned (repatriated) to Haiti, but they would still prefer to be here, or to go to America. The Haitians are hard-working people. Newcomers work as tailors, gardeners and laborers (workers). Early Haitian settlers are now lawyers and business people in our community.

QUESTIONS

1. Which group of people came to live in The Bahamas in 1841?

2. During the years of the sponging industry the Greeks made a lot of money exporting sponge.

   Using the numbers 1 – 4, show the steps in the processing of sponges in correct sequence.

   _____ Sponges were cleaned, were weighed, and prepared for export.

   _____ Sponges were taken out and beaten with sticks.

   _____ Sponges were gathered with iron hooks.

   _____ Sponges were soaked in the kraal for a few days.

3. What contributed to the sponging industries failure in The Bahamas?

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4. Complete the chart below to put the order of the immigrants in correct sequence. Then, correctly state the year that they arrived.

ORDER	NATIONALITY	YEAR ARRIVED
	Chinese	
	Haitians	
	Greeks	
	Other Caribbean Nationals	

5. Explain why Chinese nationals made the trek across the Atlantic Ocean to live in The Bahamas?

6. Name **THREE** types of business that the Chinese people own.

7. According to the text, what motivated the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands to migrate to The Bahamas?

8. Haitians are the largest group of immigrants that have made The Bahamas their new home.

   a. Why did this group of people leave their home?

   b. Choose the type of job that the ***early settlers*** from Haiti now undertake.

tailor | gardener | doctor | lawyer

businessman | laborer | yardman

9. **"Over the years so many Haitians have come here that The Bahamas has not been able to take all of them. Many are repatriated."**

   What does it mean to repatriate?

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