

Subject: Social Studies:

Topic: Caring for our architectural heritage Notes



Cities, towns and villages are also a part of the environment. In The Bahamas we have many old buildings which are an important part of our history. Bahamians and visitors alike learn more of our history by visiting these buildings.

As you have already learned, The Bahamas over the centuries was attacked and invaded by the Spaniards, the French, the English and the Americans. The Bahamian citizens needed protection, and so several military forts were built on New Providence in the 17th and 18th centuries. At various times parts of these forts have been destroyed and rebuilt, so what we see today is like a jigsaw or pieces from different times.

Many of the older buildings in The Bahamas are private homes. Some are churches and other places of worship. These were built during the era of the Loyalists. They are now viewed as historic buildings. There are a number of these buildings that need special care. Several in Nassau are more than 200 years old – the Deanery on Cumberland Street, for example.

Many of these historic buildings have been restored. Restoration is carried out by the owner. Private and public institutions also help. The Bahamas national Trust makes the public aware of the importance of preserving our historic buildings. They encourage the owners of these buildings to preserve them for future generations.

What can I do to help?

Never make marks on the walls or damage buildings – old ones or new ones. Find out as much as you can about the historic buildings on your island so that you can tell visitors about them.

'The Bahamas – Our Pride and Joy'

This is our Ministry of Tourism's slogan, created to encourage visitors to share our beautiful islands. But are we doing our best to keep our islands clean?

- In spite of many 'clean-up campaigns' and pleas not to drop litter, people still drop litter everywhere. Our beaches are spread with cans, bottles, plastic and paper.
- New laws have been passed to stop the dumping of litter and garbage, and offenders can be taken to court for not keeping their premises clean. The best way to keep our islands clean, though, is for us all to do our part.