Early Connections with America



Attorney General Sir. Robert Heath

- King Charles I of England gave the lands of the American Carolinas and The Bahamas to Sir. Robert Heath in 1629.
- By this grant, these lands became British territories.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Two Historical Groups of Individuals: Adventurers and The Lord Proprietors of Carolina

Adventurers

- In those early years, settlers in The Bahamas looked to settlers in North America for advice, help and trade. Settlers in America sent help to the Adventurers.
- Help was sent, and in return the Adventurers later gave money towards the building of the famous Harvard College in Massachusetts.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Lord Proprietors

- In 1670, Charles II of England had given The Bahamas to the Lord Proprietors of Carolina.
- The Proprietors took over The Bahamas to make money, but had little interest in the islands.
- The people who lived in The Bahamas were expected to pay some of their wages to the Proprietors in America, but refused to do so.
- The rule of the Lord Proprietors ended in 1718, when Woodes Rodgers was appointed as the first Royal Governor of The Bahamas.



Woodes Rogers

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Invasion of New Providence: American War of Independence and the Spaniards Invasion

- Occurred in 1775.
- Ships of the American navy were sent to Nassau to take the powder and ammunition stored at Fort Nassau for two weeks, but found only 24 barrels of gunpowder and a little ammunition.
- When the war ended, trade between America and The Bahamas increased.

Spaniards Invasion

- Occurred in 1782
- The Governor was forced to surrender to the Spanish troops who took over the island. They remained there for nine months, until a Loyalist officer, Colonel Andrew Deveaux, attacked with forces from Harbour Island and Eleuthera recaptured the fort.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Wrecking Industry



- Wrecking had been big business in The Bahamas since the first settlers arrived.
- Many ships were caught by the tricky currents around these islands, and swept ashore, or were deliberately attracted on to the cays and reefs by false lights.
- The goods on board were then carried away by the wreckers, and later sold.
- Major increase of wrecks occurred after the American War of Independence.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Important Dates and Events



- 1821- First American Consul or representative arrived in Nassau.
- 1859 - Consulate was known as the Consulate General.
- Bahamas gained Independence during this century on July 10th, 1973.
- 1973 - US Embassy was established in Nassau.
- 1859 - First steamships began a regular service between New York and Nassau. This was the start of our number one industry today, tourism.
- 1929 - Airline Flights between Miami and Nassau began.





LIVEWORKSHEETS

Blockade

- During the American Civil War, all ships were prevented from using the ports in the southern states of America.
- This was referred to as a Blockade.
- Nassau became very important at that time, supplying guns and ammunition to the troops of the Southern States, which were called The Confederacy. Nassau also exported cotton from the plantations in these states to Britain.



Cotton

Nassau



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Prohibition



- **1919** - American government passed an act, which banned liquor anywhere in the United States.

- **1920-1933**- Referred to as the period of Prohibition.
- Since The United States is so close in distance to The Bahamas, this became a great money making opportunity for people in The Bahamas as they smuggled liquor into America.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The Project or The Contract



- During the Second World War (1939-1945), many American men went to Europe to join the troops there.
- As a result, there was a lack of farm workers, however people from The Bahamas went to America to work on the farms and in the food production factories.
- This was the result of an agreement called The Project or The Contract arranged between the governments of the United States and The Bahamas.

LIVEWORKSHEETS