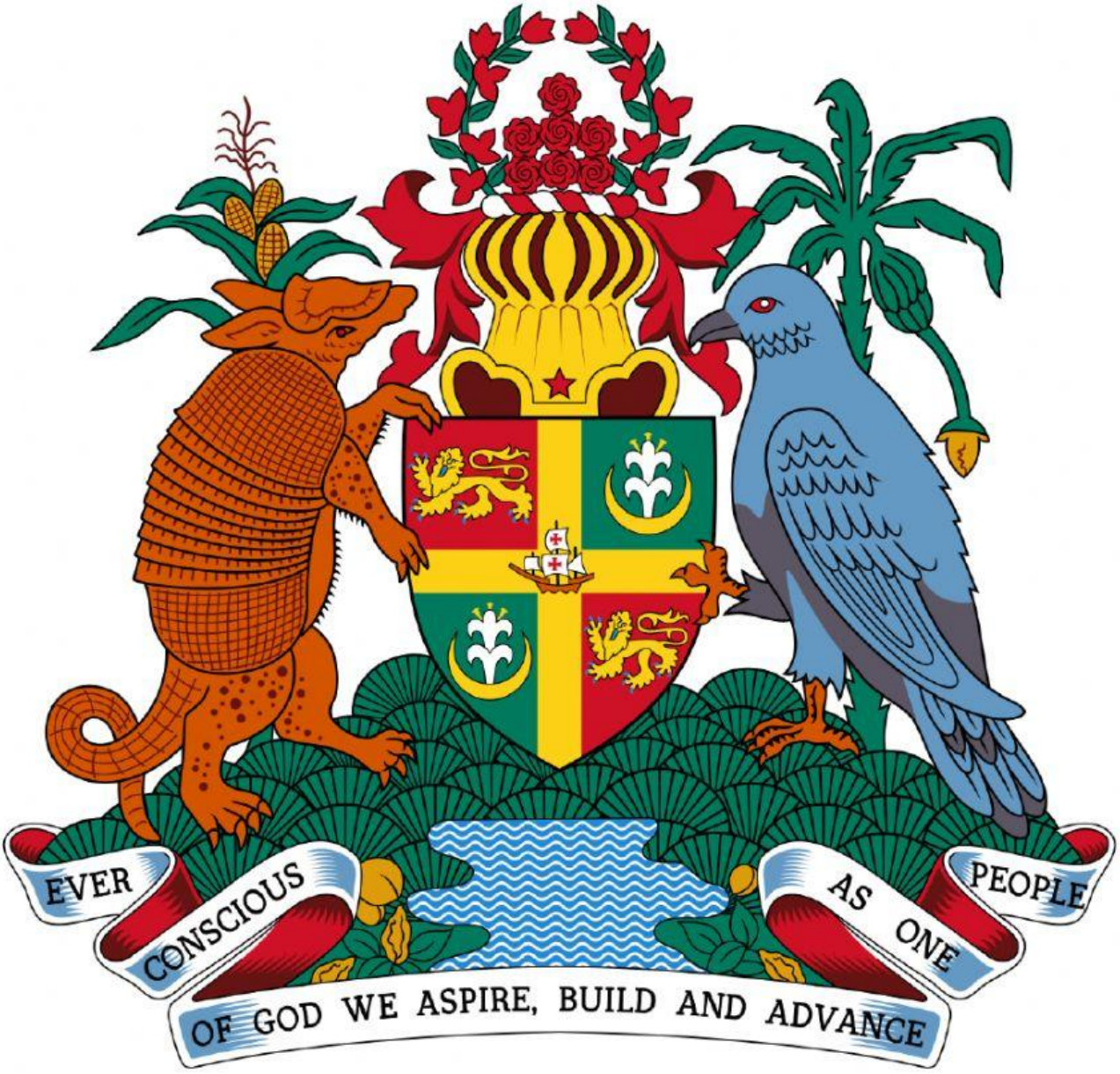
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Social Studies

The official coat of arms of Grenada



The official coat of arms of Grenada is a shield divided into four parts by a golden cross. In the center of this cross is the Santa Maria, Christopher

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Columbus' flagship.

A British lion on a red field is shown in the upper left and lower right sections of the shield, with a golden crescent moon out of which a lily grows in the upper right and lower left sections.

Above the shield there is a golden crown, topped with a garland of Bougainvillea branches. Within the garland are seven red roses, which stand for the seven communities of Grenada.

Holding the sign are an armadillo which stands before a corn stalk; on the other side a Grenada Dove, which stands before a banana plant. The base represents grassland, mountains and Grenada's Grand Etang Lake.

A ribbon displays the national motto: "Ever conscious of God we aspire, build and advance as one people.“ The coat of arms was adopted by the island nation in 1974 following independence.

The National colours of Red, Gold and Green, which comprise the National Flag, are used on the shield with the same symbolism attached to them.

The ship Santa Maria at the centre point of the shield and Gold Cross represent Grenada’s sighting by Christopher Columbus, and our continuing link with yachting and tourism. The Gold Cross itself is significant of God consciousness which underlines the national effort.

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The Lion is the first quarter of the shield, and repeated in the fourth, symbolises strength, and the unswerving determination to face the challenges of nationhood with courage and resourcefulness.

The Madonna Lily resting between the horns of the Crescent, indicates that Grenada has, since its sighting by Columbus, been dedicated to Mary of the Immaculate Conception and in whose honour the island was named Conception Island;

The shield itself rests in a valley between two mountains, representing the spectacularly picturesque topography of the islands or simply the beauty of Grenada.

The Grand Etang Lake is also represented amid luxuriant green vegetation in the foreground of which is placed a sprig of cocoa, with a ripe pod balanced by a sprig of nutmeg also showing the ripe fruit.

Growing from the vegetation on the left side of the shield is a stalk of maize flowering and bearing three ears of ripened cobs and on the right a banana tree bearing a full bunch. The fruits all represent Grenada's traditional link with an agricultural economy; the cradle of their heritage.

The Helm is a royal helm, a gold helmet facing front and having seven gold bars across the visor,

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the interior lined purple. A star symbolic of our hopes, aspirations and ideals is placed to the forefront.

The crest is made up of seven roses, representative of the seven parishes and set between the two sprays of bougainvillea, the national flower.

The supporters are, on the left, a Tattoo or Armadillo and on the right, the Grenada Dove, representative of the fauna on the islands.

Grenada's motto, "Ever conscious of God, we aspire, build and advance as one people", is itself sufficiently eloquent on the subject of those high ideals and principles upon which the nation is founded.

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