

Lesson 7

Immigration 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**. The 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 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**.

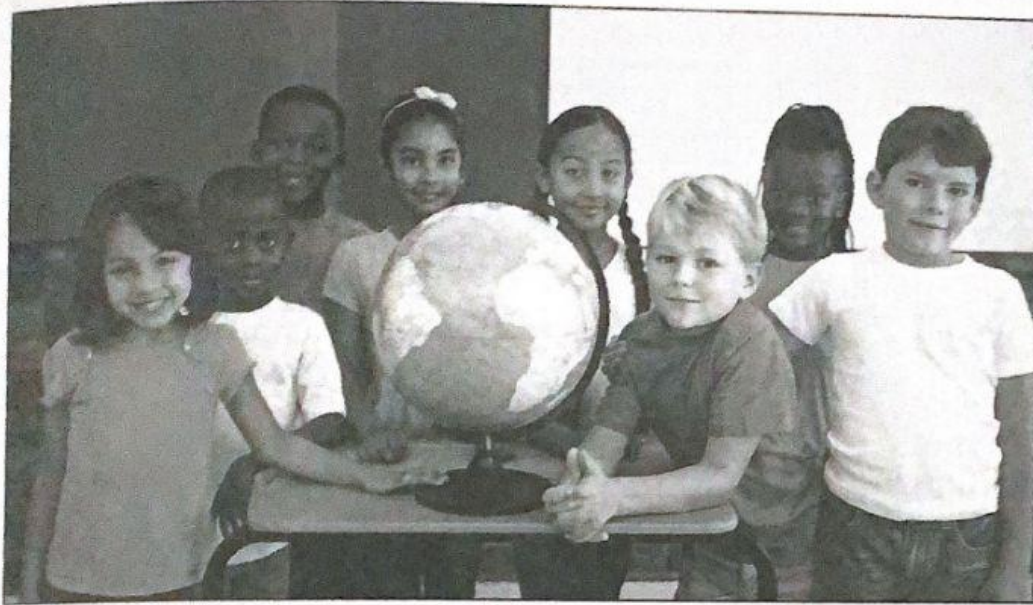
Chinese people started arriving in the Bahamas during the early 1940's, when there was a change of government in China. People were not as free as before, and some Chinese people came to The Bahamas to find freedom. The Chinese in our community own and operate restaurants, furniture stores, food stores, and laundries. Some Chinese names are **Wong**, **Chea**, **Tai**, **Lee**, **Ching** and **Lim**.

In the early 1950s, 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 officers, 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 unable to earn enough money in their country.

The latest and greatest groups 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 1960's and had been coming ever since. So many have come here that The Bahamas has not been able to take all of them. Many are returned to Haiti, but they would still prefer to be here or to go to America. The Haitians are hardworking people. Newcomers work as tailors, gardeners and labourers. Early Haitian settlers are now lawyers and business people in the community.

IMMIGRATION FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD



People in The Bahamas are multi-cultural

- a. Why do immigrants come to The Bahamas? [1]
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- b. Many countries around the world are burdened with the problem of tolerating illegal immigrants. What does the term 'illegal immigrant' mean? [2]
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- c. ***"The problem of illegal immigration in The Bahamas has placed a strain on the country's resources."*** Give **TWO** reasons with explanations to support this statement. [2]
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- d. Officials in The Ministry of Immigration work hard every day to keep the illegal immigration population in The Bahamas under control. State **TWO** ways that local citizens can assist officers in the Ministry of Immigration with their efforts. [2]
