SOCIAL STUDIES – LINKS WITH OTHER NEIGHBOURS

Vocabulary

- **Colonies** – of a university or college settlement that is far away from the home country
- **Common Market** - trading between member states
- **CARICOM** – the Caribbean Community and Common Market

Many of the customs of the Caribbean people are linked with Africa, because of our African ancestors. Culture in The Bahamas and the Caribbean has also been influenced by the Europeans, especially the British, who set up settlements or colonies on many islands. For example, many Caribbean countries, including The Bahamas, have systems of government that are based on the British parliamentary system.

There are many other signs of the European influence in the Caribbean:

- **Architecture** – there are many buildings around the Caribbean built in British, Dutch, French and Spanish styles.
- **Police Forces** – several Caribbean police forces wear uniforms of similar design.
- **Education system** – the way young people are educated in different Caribbean countries is similar to European systems of education.
- **Names** – there are many people, streets and buildings throughout the Caribbean that have names of European origin.

Can you think of any other ways in which the Bahamas has been influenced by the European way of life?

Many of the festivals celebrated today in the Caribbean were started by slaves. Although many such festivals are similar, each island celebrates in its own special way.

The Bahamas and many other Caribbean countries celebrate similar special days. In The Bahamas we celebrate Discovery Day on 12th October, which is the date when Christopher Columbus first landed here. On Emancipation Day, people in different islands remember when slavery came to an end. Each country also has its own Independence Day, when the people celebrate the day when their country first began to govern itself.

Another link between the islands of the Caribbean is *Carifesta*. This is an event that brings together the cultures of each Caribbean country in one place. Those who attend can experience the food, crafts, music and culture of Caribbean countries.

Carifta stands for Caribbean Free Trade Association. This was formed in 1965 to promote trade among Caribbean countries. It started with two member countries and by 1972 its membership had increased to twelve. Its main objective was to get member countries trading among themselves. Goods entering one member country from another would be duty free. In 1974 the members were ready to make a bold step toward the creation of a **common market**. The treaty of Chaguaramas established *Caricom* (see Chapter 14).

The Caribbean Development Bank was set up as a regional bank to provide loans to Caribbean countries for special development projects. The Bahamas is a member of this bank, and contributes money to it. To qualify for a loan, a project must be designed to improve the way of life of the local people.

Caribbean people are known for their love of exotic food. It is possible to find a favorite dish almost anywhere on our islands.

The Bahamas	Stewed fish		
	Boiled fish and Johnny Cake	Crab and dough	Peas soup and dough
Barbados	Flying fish an' coo coo		
Jamaica	Ackee and salt fish, Jerk pork, Curry goat		
Dominica	Pilau		

LIVEWORKSHEETS