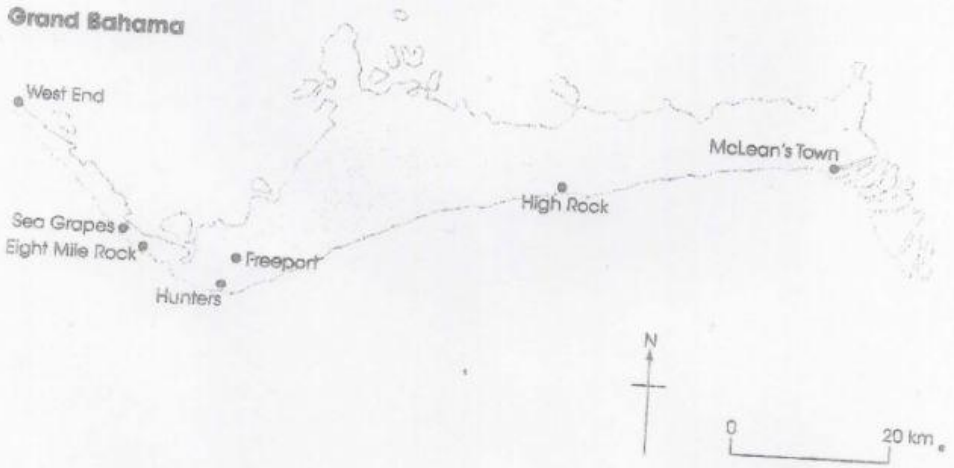
# Let's find out about Grand Bahama

Grand Bahama is located in the **northern** part of The Bahamas. It is the **second** largest populated island. The island is 17 wide long and 92 miles long. The island has **seven** main settlements. The capital is **Freeport,** and it is the largest settlement in Grand Bahama. It is the Bahamas' **second city**. Many people from New Providence and the Family Islands have moved to Freeport since it was founded in the 1950s. Freeport became the second largest city in The Bahamas for the following reasons:

- It has lots of land and plenty of fresh water.
- It has a large international airport.
- It has many large hotels and thousands of visitors each week.
- It has casinos where tourists go to gamble.
- There are deepwater harbours where cruise ships come in.
- There are banks and factories.
- An oil refinery was started here many years ago.




**What is an Oil Refinery?**

Grand Bahama has an oil refinery. A refinery is a place where crude oil, brought by ships from other countries and is made into gasoline, cooking gas and other products. **Bahamas Oil Refining Company (BORCO)** in Freeport and **Statoil,** South Riding Point are two places where oil is stored.

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## WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF SOME OTHER SETTLEMENTS?

**West End** historically is the capital, is one of the oldest settlements on Grand Bahamas. Eight Mile Rock, High Rock, McLeans' Town, Hunters, and Sea Grape are some of the other settlements. A lot of land and plenty of fresh water are on the land.

**Recent events in Grand Bahama**

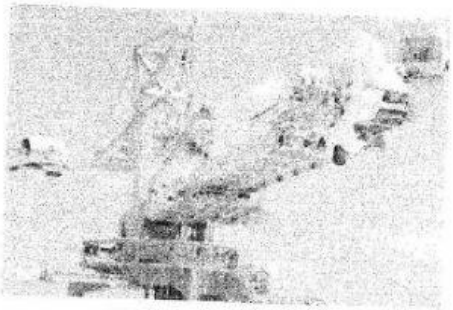
Since the late 1990s, the island of Grand Bahamas has been badly affected by a number of major hurricanes. These have resulted in many businesses closing down and people losing their jobs.

Some people have had to leave Grand Bahama to seek employment on other islands like Exuma and New Providence.

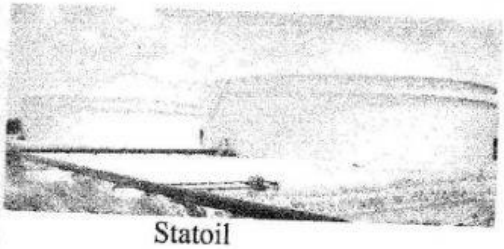
However, new businesses have also opened on the island in the last decades.

This include:

- Bahama Rock
- The Grand Bahama Container Port
- Grand Bahamas Ship Yard
- Pharmachem Technologist Ltd.

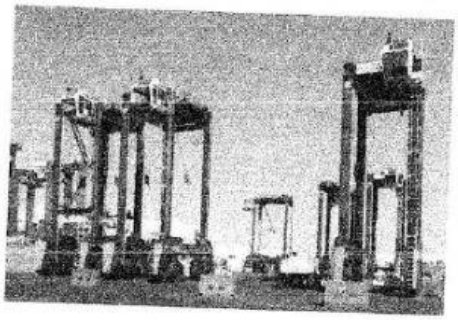


Bahama Rock



Statoil

Grand Bahama Container port



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