

Arriving by air

Airport: A tract of leveled land where aircraft can take off and land, usually equipped with hard-surfaced landing strips, a control tower, hangars, aircraft maintenance and refueling facilities, and accommodations for passengers and cargo.

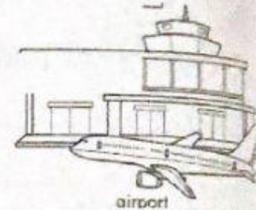
An airport is a very busy place! Passengers hurry here and there. Porters carry heavy boxes and bags. Airplanes take off and land. Most of the 4.6 million visitors who come to The Bahamas every year arrive by plane. The Bahamas is made up of many islands and cays, so there is an airport on almost every island.

With so many planes coming and going, it's important to make sure planes and passengers arrive safely. This is the job of the **air traffic controller**, who tells the pilots where and when to land their planes.

Most of the planes flying between the Family islands are painted in the colours of **Bahamas**. There are many planes in the **Bahamasair** fleet. Other small charter plane companies also service the islands such as Southern Air, Pineapple air, Western Air, and Sky Bahamas.

When Bahamians or tourists come to the Bahamas from other countries, they should have a **passport** and an **immigration card**. They must first go into the terminal building here **immigration officers** will carefully check their passports and immigration cards. These officers give permission for the visitor to enter the country. The **passport or travel documents** show the person's country and citizenship. The **immigration card** shows where they will stay and for how long. The officer will not allow persons who are wanted by the police in another country to enter The Bahamas. The officer will not allow restricted persons into the country.

The last stop in the terminal building is to the **customs officer**. The customer officer must make sure that no dangerous or illegal items are brought into the country. Anyone who tries to smuggle weapons or drugs into the country will be stopped. Sometimes the officers search boxes and bags.



Date: _____

1. Name TWO places you will find in an airport. (2)

2. What is the job of an air traffic controller? (2)

3. What documents are needed to enter The Bahamas? (2)

4. Name TWO of the first people you will meet at our airport. (2)

5. About how many people visit the Bahamas each year? (1)

6. Explain what an immigration card is. (2)

7. Explain what a passport is. (2)

8. What is the job of the customs officer? (2)
