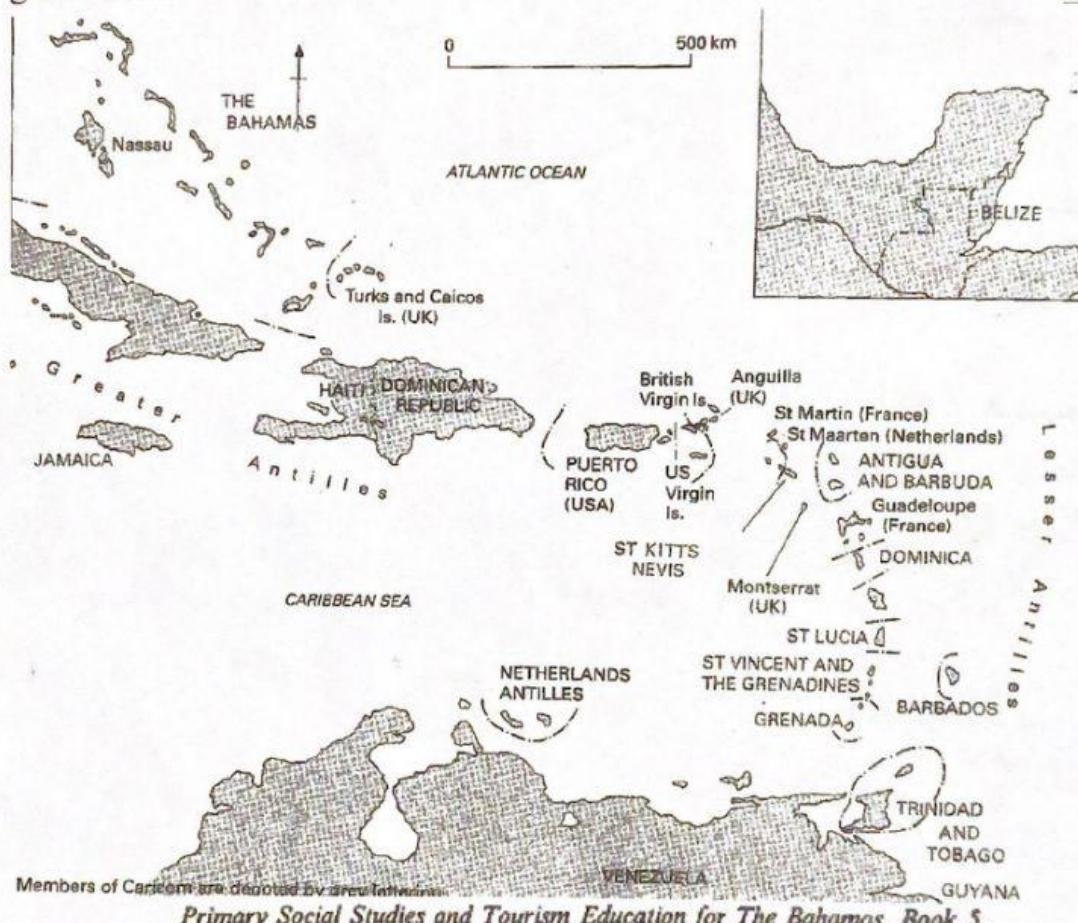


Lesson 14

Membership of Caribbean Organizations

If people live close together in a community whether it is a village, a town, a country, or a group of countries, they can help each other by working together. They often cooperate by forming local, regional, or international organizations.

Countries of the Caribbean have always been closely linked. Today the togetherness is continued with our membership of Caricom and other Caribbean organizations.



Primary Social Studies and Tourism Education for The Bahamas, Book 5.

Caricom

Caricom is a short name for the **Caribbean Community and Common Market**. It came into being on the 4th of July 1973 with the Treaty of Chaguaramas. The Bahamas became a member on 4th July 1983.



Caricom flag

The main aims of Caricom are as follows:

- To encourage free trade between members countries.
- To cooperate in economic development
- To coordinate in foreign policies
- To find a solution to problems facing the members of Caricom.
- To exchange information and work together particularly in areas of health, education, sports, and communication.

Member countries also work together when there is a natural disaster (a hurricane for example). The Bahamas also join with other members of Caricom to promote the export of selected goods. The countries of CARICOM are represented in several conferences and councils:

- **The Conference of Heads of Government**

This conference, which is held once a year, is attended by the prime ministers or presidents of the Caricom countries. All major decisions are made at the conferences. The Caricom flag is flown during the period of the conference.

- **The Common Market of Ministers**

These ministers are responsible for trade between the Caricom countries.

- **Other Councils of Ministers**

These are other groups of ministers who look after activities other than trades, for example, cooperation in agriculture, education, culture or finance.

- **The Secretariat**

The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary-General of Caricom. It is responsible for the daily running of Caricom. It arranges meetings and decides what services are to be given to member states. The offices of the Secretariat are located in **Georgetown, Guyana**.

The Caribbean Tourism Organization

The Caribbean Tourism Organization or **CTO** has more members than Caricom. It helps to promote each member state world-wide, through trade shows and exhibitions. CTO's promotion and encourage tourists to visit and enjoy our islands. The Caribbean Tourism Organization collects information about tourists and hotels throughout the region and trains people in the tourist industry. The head office is situated in Barbados.

1. How can people who live in close communities help each other? [1]

2. What does the acronym ~~Caricom~~ stand for? [2]

3. When did The Bahamas become a member of ~~Caricom~~? [2]

4. Give TWO aims of ~~Caricom~~. [2]

5. Name TWO other conferences and councils the countries of ~~Caricom~~ are part of? [2]

6. Explain what the Caribbean Tourism Organization helps to promote. [2]

7. If you want to visit the head office of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, which country would you have to visit? [1]