

Name: _____

Date: _____

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



In times past, all of the Family Islands were managed by justices who lived on each island. Later, they were replaced with District Commissioners who are now called Administrators. Each Administrator is the chief representative of the government in a Family Island district. Some islands have multiple districts. Their job is to serve as a bridge between the government and the people.

On the larger islands, District Councils would be formed for each area in the island. These areas would then form town committees made up of their own local people who are elected. The Administrator, along with the councils and committees meet and make decisions related to the needs of the island. An example of an issue they may have to meet to discuss is the cleaning and maintaining of public buildings, parks and cemeteries.

The Administrators are appointed on the advice of the Governor General and the Director of Local Government. Here are some of their other duties:

- Work as a magistrate and Justice of the Peace
- Preside over some criminal cases and impose sentences of up to six months if needed.
- Decide on cases that should go to the Supreme Court
- Act as a coroner to decide the cause of death when there are suspicious circumstances.
- Collect taxes or revenues on the island.
- Distribute funds on behalf of some government ministries and departments.

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Assignment 1: Find the highlighted word in the text that matches the clues given below:

1. selected or chosen for a task _____
2. taxes or income made _____
3. supervised or controlled by someone _____
4. the guidance and suggestion from others _____
5. keeping and preserving something _____
6. doubtful and filled with mistrust _____

managed
suspicious
appointed
chief
maintaining
advice
revenues
discuss

Assignment 2: Read the following scenarios and decide who in the local government chain would be the right person to contact in each case.

7. Mr. Mackey who lives in Pirate's Well, Mayaguana wants the main road in his neighborhood to be paved so that the cars don't have to keep dodging the many holes.

8. One of the islands is growing quickly and is in need of another island Administrator to work directly with the people living in the northern part of the island.

9. The permanent secretary would like to see some changes in the laws or policies that govern how local government operates.

10. Tanya and Leroy live in Matthew Town, Inagua and would like to get married in a few months.
