The Lucayans

Colony – A place that is ruled by another country
Freedom – The quality or state of being free
Religion – A particular system of faith and worship

Bahamians have adapted some aspects of the Lucayan's way of life.

The **Lucayans** came to the Bahamas from **South America**. They came up the **Orinoco River** migrating north, making the voyage from one island to another in dugout **canoes**. These were sometimes big enough to carry 70 or 80 people. Lucayans were very skillful **sailors** and **fishermen**. The Lucayans had lived in The Bahamas for at least 500 years before Columbus and his crew arrived.

The Lucayans wore little clothing and decorated themselves with pant and with earrings. Their weapons were **simple wooden spears**. They lived in **huts** and thatched with palm leaves and slept in **hammocks**. Columbus like the idea of hammocks so much that he carried some back to Europe to show people there.

We have been able to find out about the Lucayans through the work of archaeologists. **Archaeologists** are people who study prehistoric people and their cultures. One method used to conduct such a study is to remove the soil or debris from places where they think there may have been settlements long ago. What the find are called **artefacts**, which may include bones, pottery, shells, and tools. These items tell us more about ancient people like the Lucayans.

One such Lucayan settlement that archaeologists have studied is located at **Clifton Heritage National Park** in Western New Providence. Lucayan settlements have been located on many of the Bahamian islands such as Long Island and Andros. The archaeologists know from studying bones dug up at various Lucayan sites that the Lucayan mothers bound the heads of their babies so that they were flattened. They believed that a broad forehead was beautiful.

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