Social Studies Notes

NATIONAL SYMBOLS-AN INDEPENDENT NATION

- Pride is one's ability to respect self, others and country. It is an awareness of the events of history that forms the country we know and love. Each Bahamian must see himself/herself as an ambassador for and of his/her country. Each ambassador promotes his or her culture whether at home or abroad. Prior to 1973, The Bahamas was one of many British colonies, therefore, the flag and national symbols of that time reflected a British heritage. Songs like 'God Save Our Gracious Queen' was sung to show pride and commitment to the colonial the monarch.
- 1973, ushered a new era in Bahamian history. The Bahamas was an independent nation and for the first time displayed to the world its own national flag and symbols. March on Bahamaland an anthem by the late Timothy Gibson, became the National Anthem of an independent Bahamas. Today, our Coat of Arms stands as the official seal of our country. It displays on the left and right sides respectively the nation bird and national fish of The Bahamas. The center displays a crest which symbolizes the historical Columbus land fall to The Bahamas and a blazing sun to represent the climate of the islands.
- The crown above the crest of the coat of arms depicts our monarch link - with the palm and conch shell symbolic of the natural vegetation and marine resources respectively. The crest is set on a base which spells the national motto of The Bahamas written by

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Hervis Bain. National Symbols represent their countries. Sometimes they are similar in color in their region. They are also different in many ways they represent each country's uniqueness. The Bahamas, although independent, remained a part of the Commonwealth of Nations as did many other British colonies.

- The Bahamas is a member of The United Nations. Member states around the world are linked together under this umbrella to ensure that all nations receive equal rights for citizens, and world peace. The organization's aims to reduce ignorance, disease and poverty in its members. The United Nations are the maintenance of international peace and security, the promotion of the well-being of the people of the world.

EARLY CONNECTIONS - PAST AND PRESENT

- The Loyalists, or Tories who settled on these islands from the United States. They wanted to remain loyal to Britain. They built Christ Church Cathedral, established the first newspaper, the Gazette, and organized law and order in the community. In the 1600s pirates took over these islands. They attacked ships carrying merchandise, stealing the goods and selling them. The group was said to have destroyed the island's reputation until Woodes Rodgers, the first Royal Governor, rid the islands of this menace. Under his leadership, the islands organized its first parliament in 1729.

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- The first Speaker of the House of Assembly was John Colebrook and twenty-four (24) members made up the House of Assembly The world issues entered our colony. Bootlegging or Rum Running is the business of smuggling or transporting alcoholic beverages illegally, usually to avoid taxation or prohibition. After prohibition laws affected the flow of transporting liquor, bootlegging became an economic benefit to the growing colony.

THE CONTRACT

- During the second World War (1939-1945) many Americans went to Europe to join the troop. It was a difficult time for farms and factories in the United States, as farms and factories lacked the workers to be productive. The result was called 'The Contract' or 'The Project'. This was the arrangement between the governments of the United States and The Bahamas to trade workers. Bahamian men and women left their homes and families to travel and work on the farms and in factories in the United States. Bahamian workers would send the money they earned home to their families.

MAJORITY RULE-INDEPENDENCE

- Prior to 1942, labour pays varied according to sex and race. Unskilled workers, at that time, earned four shilling or 31 cents for men and 2 shilling or sixteen cents for women. In 1942, The Bahamas Federation of Labour was established to represent general workers in The Bahamas. The Bay Street merchants controlled the payment of labour at that time. American workers were paid more

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than Bahamian workers who were doing the same job. Although, the American company was willing to adjust to equal pay, the Bay Street merchants forced the American company to conform.

- This action led to the Burma Road Riot of 1942. The working people of The Bahamas withdrew their labour and demonstrated by marching from the area known as Oakes Field between the airport site of that day to Bay Street. The Riot Act was read. Five days later, workers reported back to work and an increase in wages was established.
- The makeup of the Bahamian colony prior to 1973 comprised of the white political class, the white social elite, loyal admirers of the above-mentioned groups and the vast 'coloured' population. The Progressive Liberal Party was established in 1953, and their slogan was PLP all the way! This would be the first political group to represent the black populous which was the majority. A group of women formed an organization call the Woman's Suffrage Movement to fight for women's rights. The Burma Road Riot, the General Strike, labour movement, majority rights were all contributors to the formation of the Women's Suffrage Movement in The Bahamas. Mary Ingraham was the first president, and Georgianna Symonette was the vice president.

- A group of women formed a movement for women's rights in The Bahamas. Ruby Ann Cooper Darling, Mrs. Marguerite Pindling (Dame Marguerite Pindling), Mrs. Janet Bostwick (Dame Janet Bostwick), and others were successful in 1962. Women were allowed to vote

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for the first time. Ruby Ann Cooper Darling was the first woman to register to vote.

BLACK TUESDAY

- Tuesday April 27th, 1965 was a demonstration of the power of the people, political heroes such as Sir Cecil Wallace Whitfield, Sir Lynden Pindling and Sir Milo Butler. The proceedings of the house were stopped when Sir Lynden threw the mace out of a window into the crowd of Bahamians gathered below, followed by Sir Milo who threw out the hour glass. Black Tuesday, as it was called, symbolized that the power of the House of Assembly. In 1967, the PLP won the election, bringing majority rule to The Bahamas for the first time. Sir Lynden Pindling then became the first black Premier of The Bahamas.
- In 1969, the road to independence was established as the title, Premier, was changed to Prime Minister and The Bahamas became The Commonwealth of The Bahamas. In 1973, The Bahamas officially became an independent nation with Sir Milo Butler as the Governor General of The Bahamas and Sir Lynden Pindling the elected Prime Minister. The Progressive Liberal Party became the governing party of The Bahamas.

OCEANS AND CONTINENTS OF THE WORLD

- Continents are the bodies of land that makes up the earth. There are seven continents that make up the World Map. These are South

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America, North America, Africa, Australia, Europe and Asia (Eurasia.) The continents are surrounded by Oceans: Arctic Ocean, Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Ocean and Southern Ocean. The globe which is a model of the world is divide into two parts: the northern and southern hemisphere. An imaginary line called the equator separates these hemispheres. North and south on the compass rose helps us name and locate the hemispheres.

- A country may find itself a part of a continent, near a continent or the country itself may be a continent. Japan and Great Britain, like The Bahamas, is a chain of islands. Switzerland is a landlocked country found on the continent of Europe. Bolivia, Botswana and Paraguay are also landlocked countries. Australia is a country and a continent. It is the only island continent.

POLITICAL/PHYSICAL MAPS

- Maps are displayed in various ways to give different information. A political map simply outlines the boundaries of various continents and countries. Clear thick lines show where one country begins and ends. Major bodies of water are identified. A physical map highlights the physical change in the land. It will show the location of mountains, rivers and other bodies of water. Using colours, shades and lines, the height of land can be displayed or the length of rivers traced within the land.
- Very little emphasis is placed on territorial boundaries. Continents are the focus. The sea levels are also distinguished on a physical map as water levels are displayed with different shades of blue.

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Most important to understanding a physical map is the map key which guides how information is depicted and should be read.

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