

Lesson 5

Links with the USA today

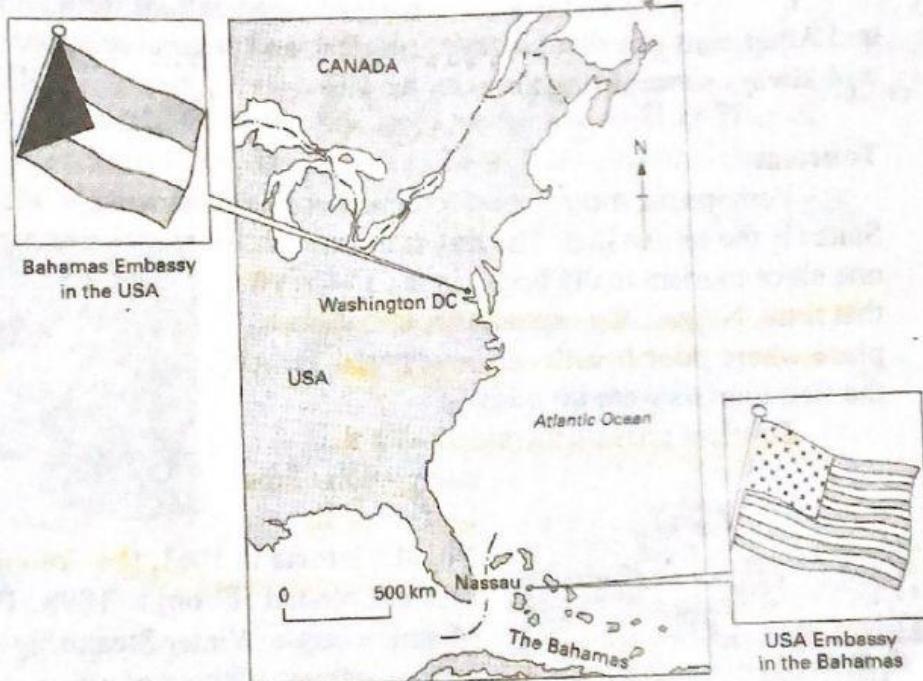
It is good to have friends. All of us like to do things with our friends. Friends share secrets and help each other. Sometimes they join together to fight an enemy. They become **allies**.

The Bahamas has many allies. One of these is the United States of America, the USA. **We do things together, we share secrets, we help each other, and sometimes we fight together.**

As friends, each country has a special place, called an **embassy**, in the other country. **The United States Embassy in Nassau issues visas to Bahamians so that they can travel freely to the USA, and to other American territories.** The Embassy provides help in other ways too. **For example, helping young Bahamians to study at American colleges and universities, and providing special help to our Government**

for drugs detection. We learn more about such help later in this book in lessons 9 and 10.

4 The embassy also helps Americans who live in the Bahamas, or who visit our islands as tourists.



Social Studies grade 5

The Bahamian **embassy in the United States** is in **Washington DC**. It is a small piece of Bahamian territory inside the USA. The Bahamian ambassador to the USA keeps our government informed of political events in that country. The ambassador helps to keep a good relationship between our two nations.

Most of the **money** that we spend in the Bahamas comes from **tourism**, and most of the tourists who come here are from the USA. The money that the tourists spend helps develop our country. The Bahamian government uses the money from tourism to **build roads, schools and hospitals**, and to **pay people who work in**

government. It also buys things that the country needs from other countries. Most of these goods – food, clothing, cars, for example – are imported from the USA.

Many United States companies and bank do business in our country, adding more money to our economy. They pay a special fee to the Bahamian government, and they also train and employ Bahamian people to work in their businesses.

The USA has developed a plan so that it can provide more help to Caribbean countries by offering special trade agreements on some goods. This is called the **Caribbean Basin Initiative**. The Bahamas exports a few things to the USA- **fish and fish products, agricultural products and rum**.

Many Bahamian people travel to the USA for vacations and to shop, especially in Florida, which is the closest US state to our islands. Many people who live in Florida enjoy our Bahamian culture. Some of the festivals in Florida celebrate the **music, food, craft, and dance** of The Bahamas. In turn, The Bahamas has aspects of the US lifestyles, such as **fast food**.

Exports in ~~from~~ There are a number of organizations through which Bahamians and Americans can share social, historical, and cultural relationships. The Bahamas will always share strong ties with the USA.

Tourism

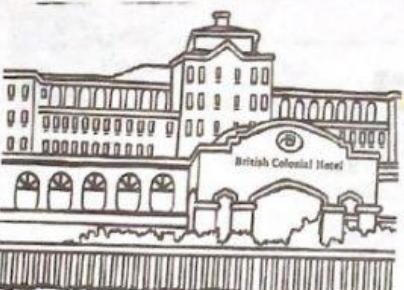
Perhaps the most important link that The Bahamas has with the United States is the tourist link. The link is not a new one since tourism really began in the **1740s**. At that time, Nassau, the capital, was known as a place where **poor health** can be restored. Hence, the first tourists were **invalids**.

Tourism arrivals increased with the

completion of the first hotel, the



Royal Victoria in 1861, the **Colonial Hotel** (now British Colonial Hilton) in 1898. By 1900, the Miami –Nassau Winter Steamship service started. Visitors of a different kind began to visit Nassau, mainly during the winter. These were mostly the rich and famous.



Tourism grew at a slow pace, but it first began to be looked at as a business in the **1950s** when the late **Sir Stafford Sands** was put in charge of the **Development Board**. His aim was to increase the number of visitors that came and also make tourism a year-round business.

To achieve this, he encouraged hotels to install **air-conditioning**. Gambling was made legal, and casinos were built in Nassau and Freeport. These were added

attractions for the tourists. Another important step to increase visitor arrivals was the massive advertising campaign that was carried out in the USA, Canada, and Europe to encourage visitors to come.

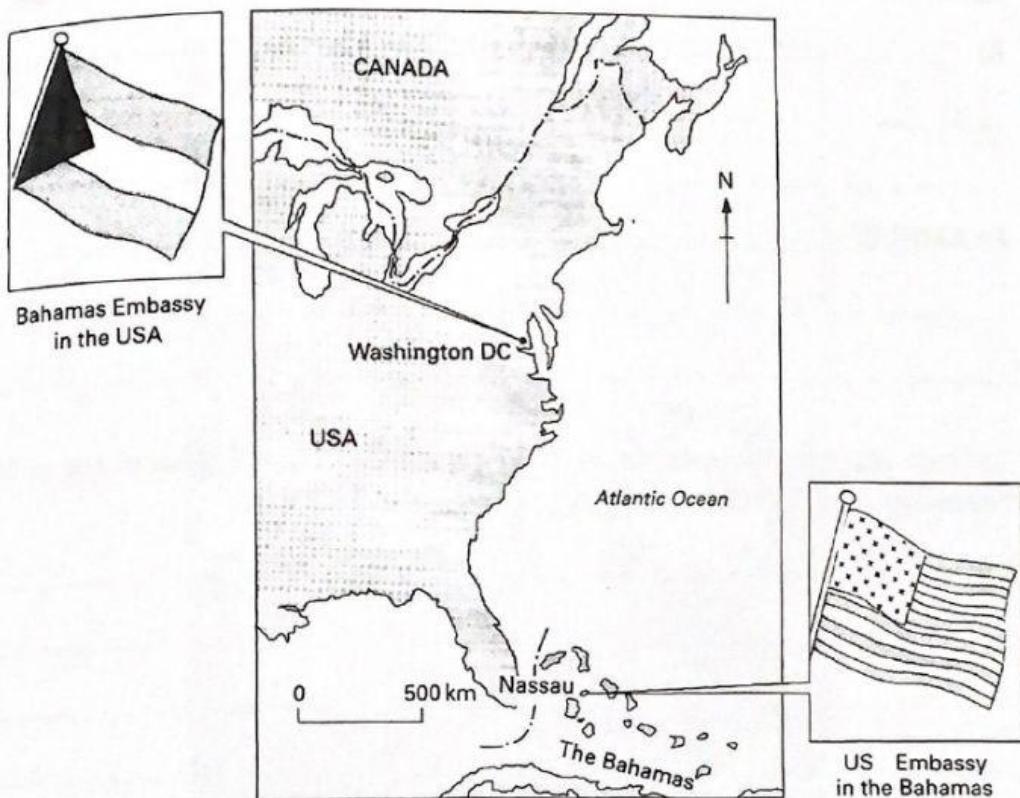
Tourism took an added importance after 1964, the year which saw the introduction of internal self-government. The Development Board was replaced by the **Ministry of Tourism**.

In 1967, the new **Progressive Liberal Party** Government recognized the importance of tourism to the economy of the Bahamas. From 1969 to 1979, under Minister **Clement Maynard**, spectacular progress in tourism, based on **market research**, was implemented. Tremendous efforts were made to improve tourism through staff training, courtesy campaigns and in helping hotels and hoteliers in planning new programmes.

The majority of tourists that visit The Bahamas are from the **United States**. The largest market being in the **north-east region** from cities like New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. The next largest market is found in the southern states of Atlanta, North Carolina and Florida. The least number of visitors come from the mid- western states such as Ohio, Nebraska and Missouri. This tourism link is the **bread and butter** of The Bahamian economy.



LINKS WITH THE USA TODAY



Source Bahamas Grade Level Assessment Test-6, 2013 Social Studies

a. Where in the United States of America is The Bahamian Embassy located? [1]

b. The Embassy of the United States of America assists everyone living in The Bahamas. What is the name of the travel document that the United States Embassy issues to Bahamians? [1]

c. **"There are many links between the Bahamas and the USA."** Identify **ONE** way in which these countries help each other and give an example. [2]

(i): _____

EXAMPLE: _____

d. Tourism plays an important role in the development of the economy of The Bahamas. List **TWO** facts to support this statement. [2]

FACT 1: _____

FACT 2: _____
