Lesson 9

Pride in our Nation



Dr. Hervis Bain

Every country has its own special flag. When The Bahamas became an independent country in **1973**, it designed a new flag. Mr. Hervis Bain designed the flag. The flag was first raised at **midnight on 9th** July 1973. The colours of our flag have a special meaning for Bahamians.

The **black triangle** represents the **majority of people**.

The **gold center** stripe symbolizes the **sun.**

The **aquamarine stripes** represent the **sea**.



The flag is raised for special occasions. One such occasion is our Independence Day celebration on 10th July. We should always stand and sing our national anthem or song if our flag is being flown for special occasions.



Our country also has a **Coat-of-Arms,** which includes a motto, a phrase expression a belief. It is "Forward, Upward, Onward, Together."

On the Coat of Arms, it has a light pink conch shell which symbolizes the marine life of The Bahamas. The top of the crest is composed of wavy green palm fronds, symbolic of the natural vegetation. The Santa Maria, flagship of Christopher Columbus, appears on the shield of the coat of arms. Wavy barrulets of blue symbolize the waters of The Bahamas. The shield is charged with a brilliant or radiant sun to signify the world-famous balmy resort climate, and it also means the bright future of these islands. A flamingo, the national bird, and a silvery Blue Marlin support the shield.

Like many other countries, The Bahamas has also chosen one particular flower as its national flower. We also have a national bird and a national fish. See these symbols below.









The last of the national symbols is the **Lignum vitae**, meaning tree of life. It is the National Tree of The Bahamas.

The Bahamas also has a Pledge of Allegiance that was written by Dr. Rev. **Phillip Rhyming**.

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PRIDE IN OUR NATION

Lift up your head to the rising sun .
Bahamaland;
March on to glory, your bright
banners waving high;
See how the world marks the manner of
your bearing!
Pledge to excel thro' love and unity.
Pressing onward, march together to a
common loftier goal;
Steady sunward, tho' the weather hide
the wide and treach'rous shoal.
Lift up your head to the rising sun,
Bahamaland;
Til the road you've trod lead unto your
God.

March on, Bahamaland!



A. What is the title of the national anthem of The Bahamas? 1]

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B. Give the **complete date** the Bahamas became an independent nation. [1]

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C. When The Bahamas became an independent nation, our flag was raised and the British flag was lowered. What is the name of the British flag? [1]

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D. Name **TWO** national symbols **NOT** included in the Coat of Arms. [2]

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E. The Bahamas' coat of arms is a composition of things indigenous to these islands. What does the light pink conch shell symbolize? [1]

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