

## Arriving by air

**Airport;** a track of level land where aircraft can take off and land, usually equipped with hard surface landing strips, a control tower, hangars, aircraft maintenance, and refueling facilities, accommodations for passengers and cargo.



An airport is a very busy place! The name of our airport in New Providence is Sir Lynden Pindling International Airport. Passengers hurry here and there.

**Porters** carry heavy boxes and bags. Airplanes take off on land. Most of the 4.6 million visitors who come to the Bahamas every year arrive by plane. The Bahamas is made up of many islands and keys, so there is an airport on almost every island.

With so many planes coming and going, it is important to make sure planes and passengers arrive safely. This is the job of the **air traffic controller**, who tells the pilots where and when to land their planes.



Most of the planes flying between the family islands are painted in the colours of the Bahamas. There are many planes in the Bahamas air fleet. Other small charter planes companies also service the islands such as **Southern Air, Pineapple**

**Air, and Western Air.**

When Bahamians or tourists come to the Bahamas from other countries, they should have a **passport** and an **immigration card**. They must first go to the terminal building here **immigration officers** will chat will carefully check their passports and immigration cards. These officers permit the visitors to enter the country.



The **passport or travel documents** show the person's country and citizenship. The **immigration card** shows where they will stay and for



how long. The officer will not allow persons who are wanted by the police in another country to enter the Bahamas. The officer will not allow restricted people into the country.

The last stop in the terminal building is at the customs officer.

The **customs officer** makes sure that there are no dangerous or illegal items brought into the country. Anyone who tries to smuggle weapons or drugs into the country will be stopped. Sometimes the officers search boxes and bags.

