Name:_____

SOCIAL STUDIES
CITIZENS OF THE BAHAMAS
LESSON NOTES

Who is a citizen of The Bahamas?

The list below set out all those people who can be Bahamian citizens, as well as how people can apply to become a citizen of The Bahamas.

1. Every person born in the former Colony of The Bahamas before July 9th, 1973.
2. Every person who is born in The Commonwealth after 9 July 1973 whose parents are Bahamians.
3. Every person born abroad legitimately before or after 9 July 1973 whose father is a citizen of The Bahamas.
4. Every person born abroad illegitimately to a Bahamian mother after 9 July 1973.
5. Every person who has been registered under the British Nationality Act of 1948 and became a citizen of the Bahamas on 1973.
6. Every person adopted by Bahamian parents after 9 July 1973.
7. Every person granted Bahamian citizenship.

Application for Bahamian citizenship

You can apply for citizenship at the age of 18:

If you were born in The Bahamas after 9th, July 1973 but, neither of your parents are Bahamians.

You may apply for citizenship at the age of 18.

If you were born outside of The Bahamas after 9th, July to a Bahamian mother.

If you are a woman/man married to a Bahamian citizen after 9th July 1973, provided you are still married to a citizen of The Bahamas at the time of application.

When someone applies for citizenship of The Bahamas, his or her application is published in the local **newspapers**. This is to make sure that no one has any reason to object to the person becoming a Bahamian citizen. Sometimes a person's citizenship is taken away or **revoked**. If the Governor-General has proof that a citizen of The Bahamas has at any time after 9th July 1973 become a citizen of another country, that person's Bahamian citizenship is taken away.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Joseph Johnson of Guilford Crescent, Mayfield Park Sub., Freeport Grand Bahama, is applying to the Minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, for registration/naturalization as a citizen of The Bahamas, and that any person who knows any reason why registration/naturalization should not be granted, should send a written and signed statement of the facts within twenty-eight days from the 27th Day of March 2012 to the minister responsible for Nationality and Citizenship, P.O. Box N-3002, Nassau, Bahamas.

What does it mean to be a citizen?

A good citizen is loyal and shows respect for his country. He or she acts as an ambassador of good will, showing courtesy and kindness to visitors who come to our shores.

Responsibilities

Every citizen of The Bahamas has the responsibility to **defend the country,** for example during wartime, or against intruders such as poachers who fish illegally in Bahamian waters. It is important for us to do this in order to protect the livelihoods of our fellow citizens.

Drug smugglers bring drugs into the country, and drugs destroy people's lives. People who use drugs **spread disease** and illness, and use up the resources of our health services. Any responsible citizen who knows about drug smuggling should report it to the police.

Rights

The new constitution that was drawn up at independence dealt with the rights and freedom of the individual. By the law of the land, these rights cannot be taken away from a citizen. These are some of our constitutional rights:

- We are free to join any religion
- We are free to vote for any political party
- We can say what we like (**freedom of speech**)
- Our privacy is protected by law