

LITTLE ENGLAND, BARBADOS

Barbados, which is just 166 square miles in size, is sometimes called “Little England”. Although it is no longer a colony of Britain it seems still very British.

It is the most easterly island of that chain of islands known as the Antilles and is mostly flat. The highest point of the island (Mt. Hillaby) is just about 336 m (1100 ft) above sea level. But the soil is rich and produces colourful vegetation and good crops. The climate is very pleasant, with temperature of 25-28 C (77-82 F), and rainfall of 127-190 cm (50-75 in.) a year.

The economy- that is, the way money is earned and spent—has always depended mostly on sugar and its by-products, rum and molasses. However, tourism has become a major industry and the island now earns about US \$120 million a year from visitors who return year after year because of its beautiful beaches and comfortable hotels. Still, so as not to rely too much on tourists and crops, the people have set up industries to manufacture things like clothing, soaps, cement, chemicals, and electronics, to name only a few.

Although the total population is about 300,000 the island is ***densely populated*** because it is so small. For each square mile there are 1205 people. More than 70 every 100 (70%) are of African descent, their forefathers being the slaves brought from Africa by English settlers who came to develop Barbados in 1625. About 8% (8 in every 100) are descendants of those settlers. The other Barbadians are said to be mixed.

Barbados became an independent country in 1966, no longer a colony or possession of Britain. It has continued to do well. Only two other independent Caribbean countries earn more money per person than Barbados—Trinidad and Tobago and The Bahamas.

Instructions: Answer the following questions based on the passage "Little England".

1. Where is Barbados located?

2. How much money does Barbados get from having visitors?

3. Why are there people of African descent in Barbados?

4. How long has Barbados been a country entirely in charge of itself?

5. Try to explain what ***densely populated*** means?

6. Write **five (5)** facts from the passage.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____