

Social Studies For Our Children

Book 5



Easy Path Series

A GOG/EFA - FTI Project

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The Ministry of Education wishes to acknowledge the work done by the following persons who were involved in the production of the first edition:

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SOCIAL STUDIES FOR OUR CHILDREN

BOOK 5

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Easy Path Series

NOT FOR SALE
PRINTED FOR THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA.

FOREWORD

One welcomes the publication of this series of textbooks as part of the Primary Education Improvement Project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Guyana.

This series of texts has been long in planning, writing and producing. In the process however, many Guyanese have developed skills in textbook writing and publication. This will serve Education well in the future.

We congratulate all those responsible for the production of these texts. They have done a good job. Guyanese children at the Primary level, and, indeed, the society as a whole, will be the beneficiaries of their labour.

Thanks to the Inter-American Development Bank for its financial support. Primary Education in Guyana will benefit considerably with the availability of relevant reading material.

Dale A. Bisnauth
Senior Minister of Education
and Cultural Development

CONTENTS

		Page
Chapter 1	Guyanese People	1
	The Amerindians	1
	The Europeans	7
	The Story of the Africans	10
	The Coming of the Portuguese	
	East Indians and Chinese	12
Chapter 2	Guyana has Neighbours	14
	Our Continental Neighbours	14
	Guyana and her Caribbean Neighbours	20
Chapter 3	Leaders in our Community	27
	City and Town Leaders	27
	Community Leaders	28
	Leaders of our Region	29
	Trade Union or Labour Leaders	30
Chapter 4	Resources of Guyana	34
	Our Water Resources	35
	Our Forest Resources	37
	Our Gold Industry	39
	Our Animal Resources	42
Chapter 5	Natural Regions in Guyana	45
	The Low Coastal Plain	48
	The Hilly, Sand and Clay Region	51
	Interior Savannahs	57
	The Forested Highland Region	60
Chapter 6	A Glimpse of our History	65
	Guyana as a Colony	65
	The Struggle for Independence	67
	The Story of Independence	70
	Symbols of Historical Events	78
	Co-operation among early Guyanese	82
Chapter 7	Our Health and Safety	86
	Keeping our Environment Healthy	86
	Drugs and You	89

1 Guyanese People

In Book IV you had learnt about the foods and craft of our Guyanese people. In this book, you will learn more about our Guyanese people who are the descendants of Asians, Africans and Europeans. Those who came from the continent of Asia are the Amerindians, the Chinese, and the East Indians. The Europeans including the Portuguese came from the continent of Europe, while the Africans came from the continent of Africa.

Below is a map of the world showing these continents.



The Amerindians

The Amerindians were the first people who lived in British Guiana now called Guyana. They came thousands of years ago, during the Ice Age.

The Ice Age was a period of time long ago, when the earth's climate became very cold. Large parts of the earth were covered with ice and much of the water of oceans, seas, lakes and rivers was frozen.

You learnt in Book IV that the Amerindians crossed the Bering Strait which was frozen at that time. You were also told that these people were fleeing from the cold. In addition, they were a moving people, because they depended solely on animals for food. As the animals moved, they moved with them. In this way, they eventually walked and reached North America.

To reach North America they had to cross the Bering Strait. That was possible because the Bering Strait is a very narrow body of water. During the Ice Age, parts of it had been frozen hard enough to form a bridge. The Amerindians were thus able to cross on the ice from Asia to North America.

Being hunters, they followed the herds of animals without knowing that they were in a new land. Different groups of Amerindians walked in many directions. Eventually, some of them wandered southwards until they reached Mexico and the West Indian Islands. Others continued even further through Central America and into South America. They again spread out in all directions. This is how they eventually arrived in Guyana. The journey took them a long time.

Amerindian Tribes

The first groups of Amerindians to arrive in Guyana were the Arawak - speaking people, followed closely by the Carib - speaking people. Other tribes, like the Warraus and the Wapisianas came later. Amerindians lived a good life in British Guiana. They lived a life of togetherness and practised co-operativism. They worked together clearing fields for farming, building benabs or hunting. In this way, the entire tribe benefitted. Even now, Amerindians still work together.

Their Settlements

When the Amerindians first came to British Guiana, they settled along the coastlands and near river banks. After the Europeans came to British Guiana, the Amerindians were forced to move further away into the interior parts of British Guiana. They did this, because of their fear of the Europeans. They were also afraid of being enslaved. This is how the Amerindians came to be called the 'children of the forest'.

At present, some areas where the Amerindians live are called **reservations**. There are many Amerindians reservations or settlements in Guyana.

Reservations are areas of land reserved or set aside specially for Amerindian settlements.

Each settlement has a leader who is directly responsible for the affairs of the people. These leaders are called Touchaus or Captains. Settlements are of any size and may vary in population - some settlements may be large, while others may be small. The settlements of today are somewhat different from those that existed many years ago. Read the chart below and see what changes you can point out.

Early Houses

- Single large houses for many family units.
- Shape rectangular or conical
- Materials used - shingle, troolie/eta palm, wood-bark.

Present day Houses

- Individual houses built with traditional patterns, more enclosed.
- Sometimes the same. May have compartments.
- Materials used - boards, zinc sheets, shingle, mud-blocks, troolie/eta palm.

Here are pictures showing Amerindian homes.



In Guyana today, some Amerindians are still moving from one place to another. They are also pursuing their tribal way of life, while at the same time assisting in the development of our interior. Many of their settlements are near to airstrips, trails and rivers. They use these to reach the coast.

Contributions - *How they work*

The Amerindians who live in the interior are at various stages of development. Some of them still exist mainly by hunting, fishing and selling the produce of their farms. Others do this on a part-time basis. However, many of them are taking up jobs to earn ready cash. In many villages, the men would leave home to work on timber grants, mining camps, as vaqueros, balata bleeders and even as traders.

Others work in community services as councillors, miners, teachers, boat captains, soldiers, policemen and in many other jobs that would make a community and country run smoothly.

They have also increased their production of craft work and sell to craftshops in the city and other towns.

In some cases, while men are out working, the women and children stay at home to tend their farms.

Their culture

Amerindians have their culture. After they have completed a co-operative project they would meet for merriment. This meeting is called 'Mashramani'. They tell tales of Makonaima, Bush Dia Dia, Massacuraman and evil Kanaimas.

They also dance the Mari-Mari, Baboon and Carrion Crow dances. What do you know about these Amerindian tales? You can try to find out more about them.



Food

The staple diet of the Amerindians is the cassava. From the cassava the Amerindians prepare many kinds of foods. These include cassava bread and farine. Casareep which is obtained from cassava is used to make pepperpot. Pepperpot is one of the most popular and favourite dishes of Guyanese. Cassava is also used to make alcoholic beverages such as piwari and casiri.

Place names

The Amerindians loved this beautiful land - Guyana - The land of many waters. In their language they named many of our lakes, mountains, rivers, waterfalls and other places. These were given names because of many reasons.

Let us look at some places that were named by the Amerindians.

Kaieteur Falls - named after Old Kaie

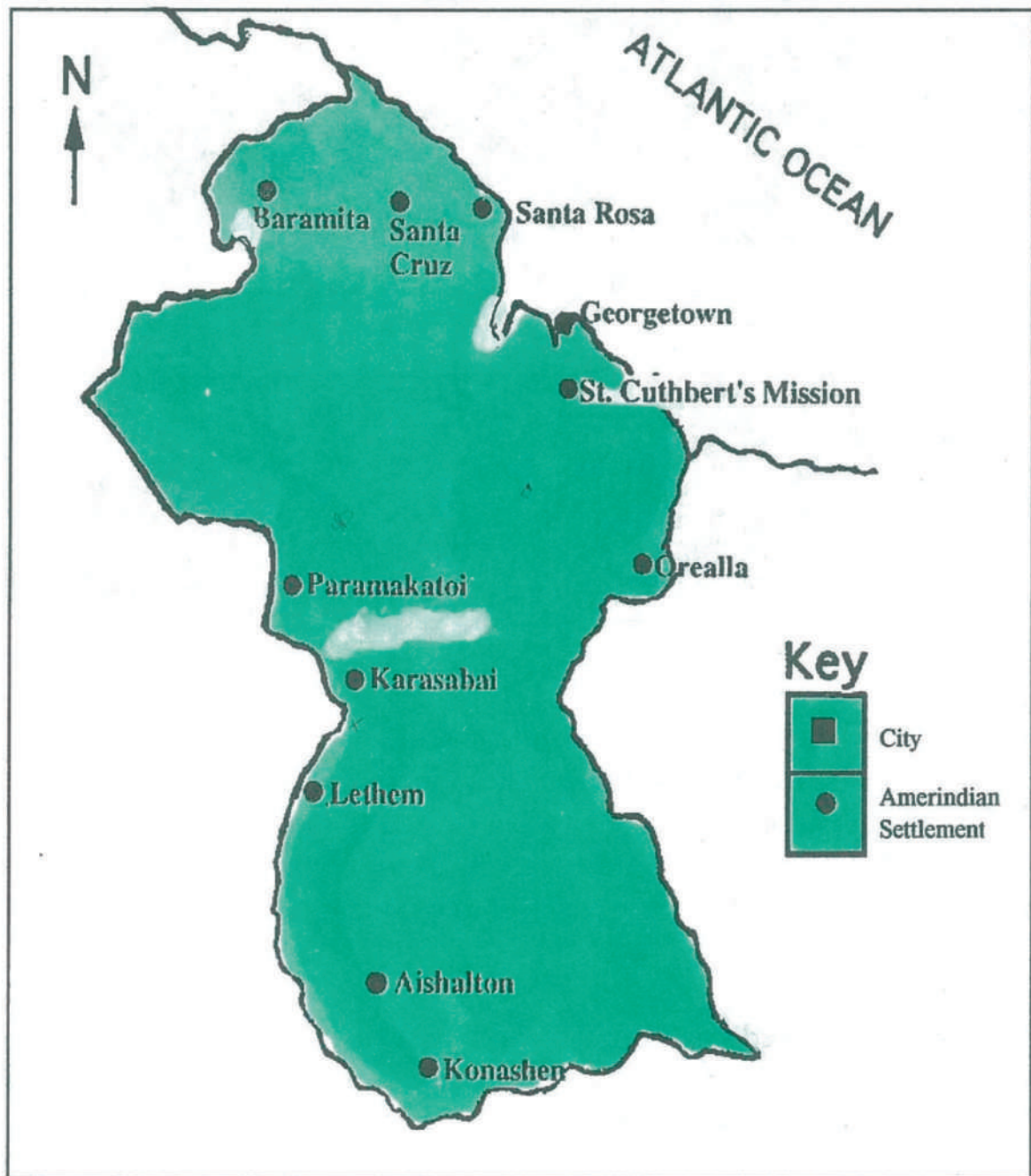
Bartica - meaning 'Red Earth'

Aruka, Arakaka, Moruka, Mabaruma,

Words ending with 'tuk' refer to falls, e.g. Amatuk, Waratuk, Kaituk.

Can you name some other places that were named by the Amerindians?

Look at a map of Guyana and try to locate these places.



In Guyana today, Guyanese of Amerindian descent live in all parts of the country. In the map above, you can see some of these areas. Many members of different tribes may be found living in one area.

For you to do

1. On an outline map of Guyana, insert four Amerindian settlements. Two waterfalls and three rivers named by the Amerindians.
2. Name three Amerindian foods. Write a recipe for any one of them.
3. Name three types of Amerindian craft or make an example of one Amerindian craft for your craft corner. Let your teacher invite a craft worker to show the class how to make it.
4. Have a discussion with a resource person on Amerindian folklore.

The Europeans

The Europeans came to this part of the world in search of the Golden City of El Dorado and the Golden King. They believed that El Dorado or the City of Gold was located in the interior of Guyana. They were not successful in their search. Some of them decided to remain in the country and develop the land. On their small farms they grew tobacco, sugar, cotton and other crops.

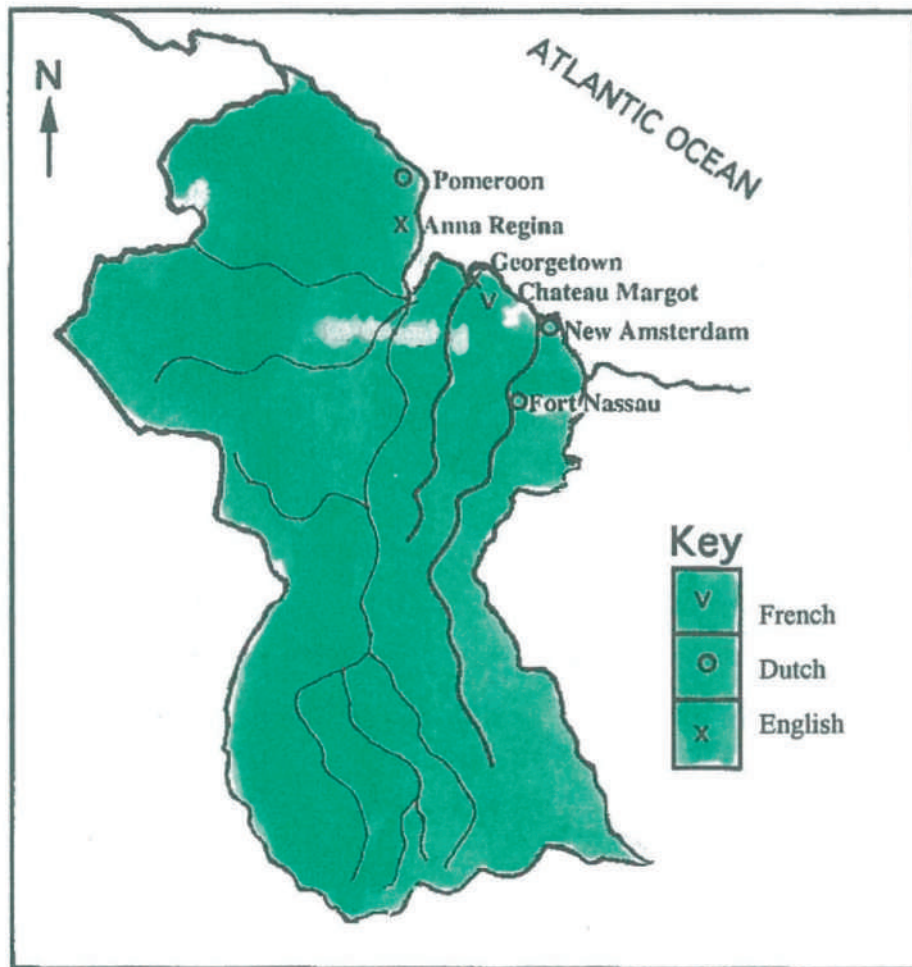
The European nations which came to Guyana were people from

- Spain
- The Netherlands
- France
- England
- Portugal/Madeira

Settlements

If you look at the Map of Guyana (on the next page) you will see different names of settlements. Look at them, and note that these settlements were established by the Europeans.

Let us now take a look at past and present day settlements of the Europeans. We learnt too in this chapter that the European nations included the Portuguese. So we will include settlements of the Portuguese.



Early Settlements	Present Day Settlements	Nation
Kykoveral		
Pereboon	Pomeroon	Dutch
Fort Nassau		
Nova Zeelandia	Fort Island	
La Resouvenir	Le Ressouvenir	French
Chateau Margot	Chateau Margot	
La Grange	La Grange	
Versailles	Versailles	
Goed Fortuin	Goed Fortuin	
Port Mourant	Port Mourant	Portuguese
Victoria	Victoria	English
Georgetown	Georgetown	
Anna Regina	Anna Regina	

Contributions - *Economic*

The Europeans settled in Guyana and planted tobacco and sugar-cane. In order to grow these crops they drained the land which was very low. This drainage was done through the use of kokers. They also built sea-walls to protect the land from floods.

Do you have kokers and sea-walls in your village?

If you have any of these in your village you can visit them and observe the drainage system. You may also look at this picture of a koker.

Each European country traded their produce with other countries. They were the first to introduce trading in Guyana. As a result, they set up trading posts by establishing permanent settlements in Georgetown. The Europeans also introduced the plantation system on the coast. Examples of these plantations are Vreed-en-Hoop and Kitty.



Culture - *Religion*

Europeans never forgot God, even if they went into the heart of the jungle. They were all Christians. At every fort there was always a place reserved for a church. These churches were built, so that all members of the community could attend. The Europeans belonged to different denominations, so they established a variety of churches. The first church was the Roman Catholic church. This church did not expand much until the Portuguese came. Later, the Lutheran, the Anglican, the Methodist, the Congregational and the Presbyterian churches came into existence.

Education

The Europeans established the first school in Guyana. These schools were mainly for the children of the Planters. Later, education programmes were planned for children of the African slaves. The churches provided the buildings in which the schools were held and the Government paid the teachers. The system lasted until the Government of Guyana took full control of education in 1976.

For you to do

1. Match these

Column I

Georgetown
Port Mourant
La Grange
Fort Nassau

Column II

French
Dutch
English
Portuguese

2. Trace a map of Guyana. Locate ten areas on the map where the early people settled.

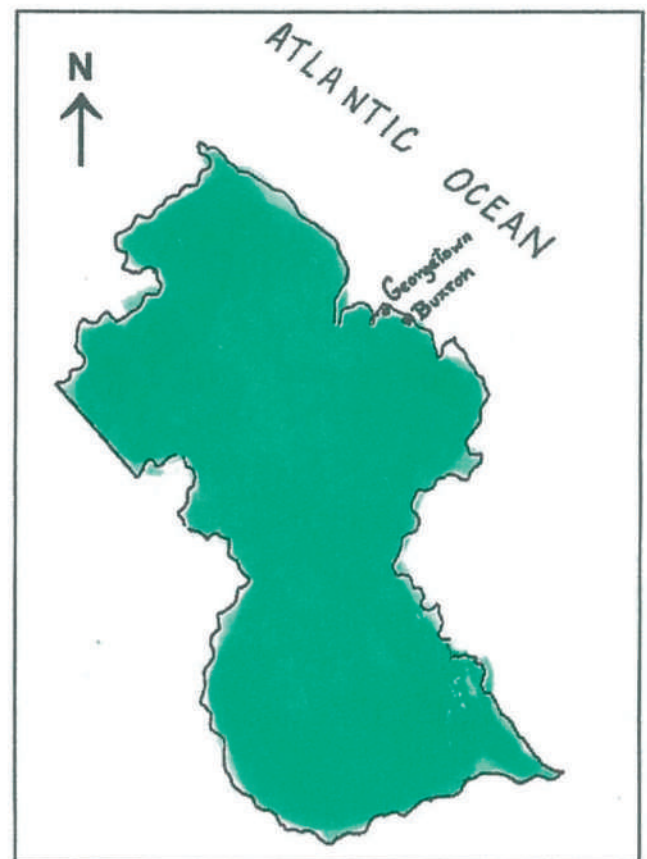
The Story of the Africans

Kofi tells his story.

My name is Kofi and I live in the village of Buxton. You can find this village on the map on this page.

Do you know that Buxton is one of the villages bought by the Africans? You learnt that the first village was Victoria. Some of the other villages developed by our African ancestors were Friendship, Beterverwagting, and Plaisance.

Locate these villages on a map.



Here is a story which was told to me by my grandfather.

After the slaves were freed, the planters wanted the Africans to continue working in the same old way as they did before they were freed. The Africans on the other hand did not want to work on the plantations any longer. The planters therefore tortured them. They cut down fruit trees on the estates in order to deprive the Africans of a free meal, if they were hungry. They even passed laws to prevent them from leaving the estates.

Fortunately for the Africans, many planters were selling their estates and leaving the then colony, British Guiana. The Africans had saved their money during the period of apprenticeship. They pooled their money and bought abandoned plantations. The first of these was Plantation Northbrook. It was renamed Victoria. They established villages which were run as co-operative farms. Even today, these villages have large farmlands in 'back-dams'. Every morning I got up very early to go to our farm before I went to school.

The most popular time in our village was Freedom Day. This day is still celebrated on the 1st of August every year. All the villagers celebrated this memorable event with singing of African songs and with dancing. That was the time when all the old folks and the young men of the village came out to do the Masquerade; 'Mother Sally' and 'Bad-cow' dances. They used instruments such as flutes, mouth-organs and drums to make music. Many African tales were told during that time. I sometimes went with my father to do the Masquerade dance. He said that he wanted me to follow in his footsteps and be a masquerade dancer.

For you to do

1. Use these words in sentences
Africans Freedom Day
2. How did Africans celebrate Freedom Day?

The coming of the Portuguese, East Indians and Chinese

You have learnt how these groups of people came to Guyana. At first the labourers came from Europe. In 1835, Portuguese workers began their journey from Madeira to Guyana and for the next 50 years over 30,000 Portuguese were added to the population of the country. The Portuguese soon realised that they were being used as nothing more than slaves. As soon as they had saved enough money, they left the estates and opened their own businesses.

Some business places founded by the early Portuguese families are still operating in Guyana today. These include Banks DIH, John Fernandes Ltd. and J. P. Santos Ltd. Besides establishing shops, the Portuguese became involved in farming, banking and the operation of pawnbrokerages.

The Portuguese also helped to develop industries, for example rice and sugar. The Planters also tried to obtain the labour of the East Indians and Chinese. In order to force them to remain on the plantations, the Planters passed strict labour laws which practically made them slaves. The first batch of East Indians came to Guyana in 1838 and the last batch in 1917, when immigration came to an end. The first batch of Chinese came in 1853 and the last batch in 1912. With the help of an Anglican Chinese Missionary, the Chinese left the estates as soon as their contract period was over and turned to business like the Portuguese did.

After the East Indians had finished their contract, the Government found that it was too expensive to pay return fares for all the Indians who wished to go back to India, and offered them land instead of their fares. Most of the Indians accepted the land and remained in Guyana. They helped to develop one of our most important food crops - rice. Many of our Indian descendants can be found on the coastal area of Guyana.

East Indians have brought their cultures and are still practising them in Guyana. Today, many people enjoy Indian dishes and are also taking part in Indian festivals.

Some of these Festivals that East Indians observe are:

- (i) Phagwah
- (ii) Diwali
- (iii) Eid-UI-Azha
- (iv) Eid-UI-Fitr

You can discuss these festivals among yourselves and state what group of East Indians observe them.

For you to do

1. Complete this chart.

Historical Contributions	Ethnic Groups	Remarks
Pawnbrokeries		
Phagwah Festivals		
Banking		

2. Make drawings to show immigrants working in rice fields.
3. Name two groups of companies which are still evident in Guyana today and which were started by Portuguese ancestors.

Points to Remember

- Guyanese are descendants of Asians, Africans and Europeans.
- The ethnic groups of Guyana settled in their own areas and contributed to the development of Guyana.
- There are four main tribes of Amerindians, namely the Arawaks, Warraus, Wapisianas and Caribs.
- Reservations are areas set aside for Amerindians.
- The construction of houses built on early settlements differed from those built on present day settlements.
- Guyana is an Amerindian word which means, 'Land of many waters'.
- Places in Guyana have their origin from the early settlers of Guyana.

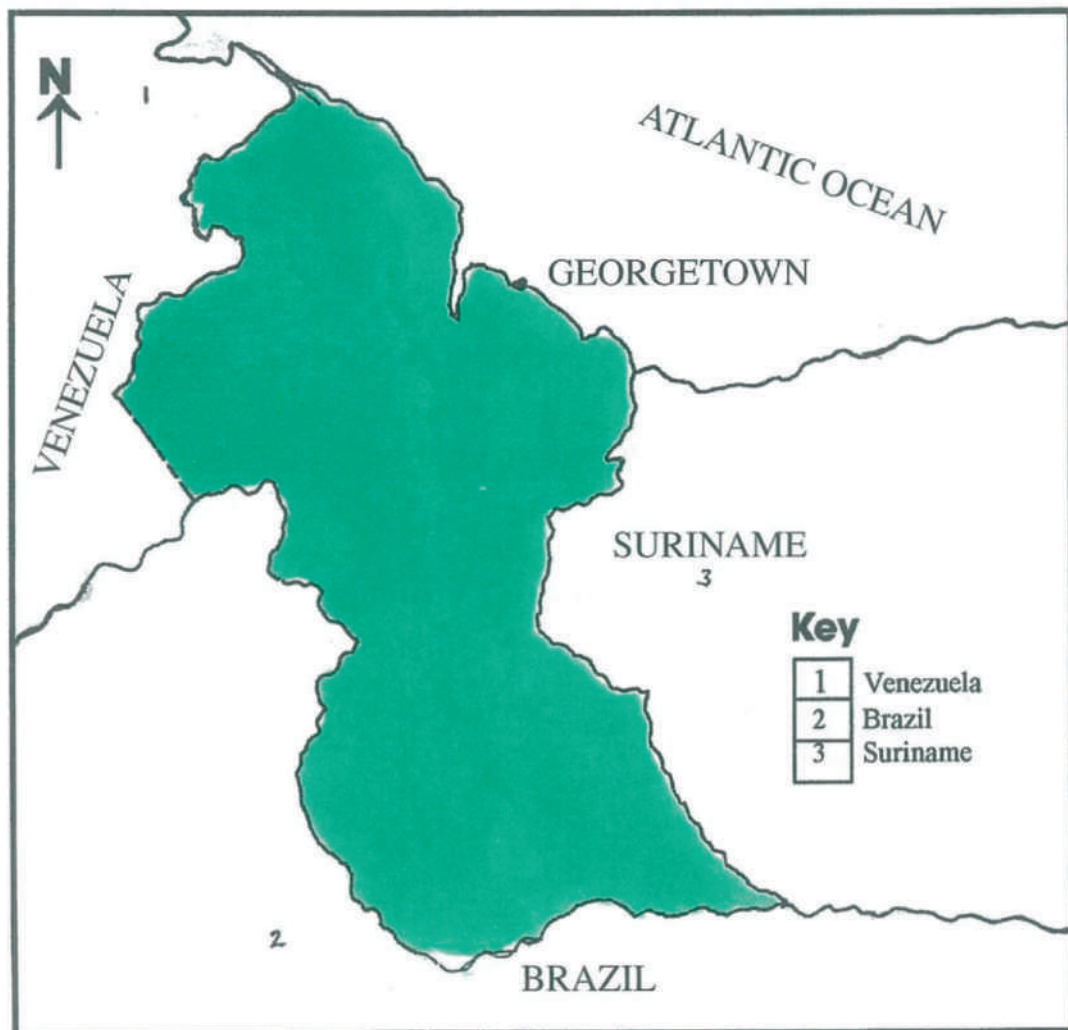
2 Guyana has Neighbours

Our Continental Neighbours

Guyana is found on the mainland of the continent of South America. It is the only English speaking country in South America. Do you know what is a continent? A continent is a large mass of land.

Guyana is surrounded by other countries. An international boundary separates one country from another. The countries that share boundaries with Guyana are called our immediate **Continental Neighbours**.

Our immediate continental neighbour to the east is Suriname. Venezuela is found north-west of Guyana and Brazil to the south and south-west of Guyana.



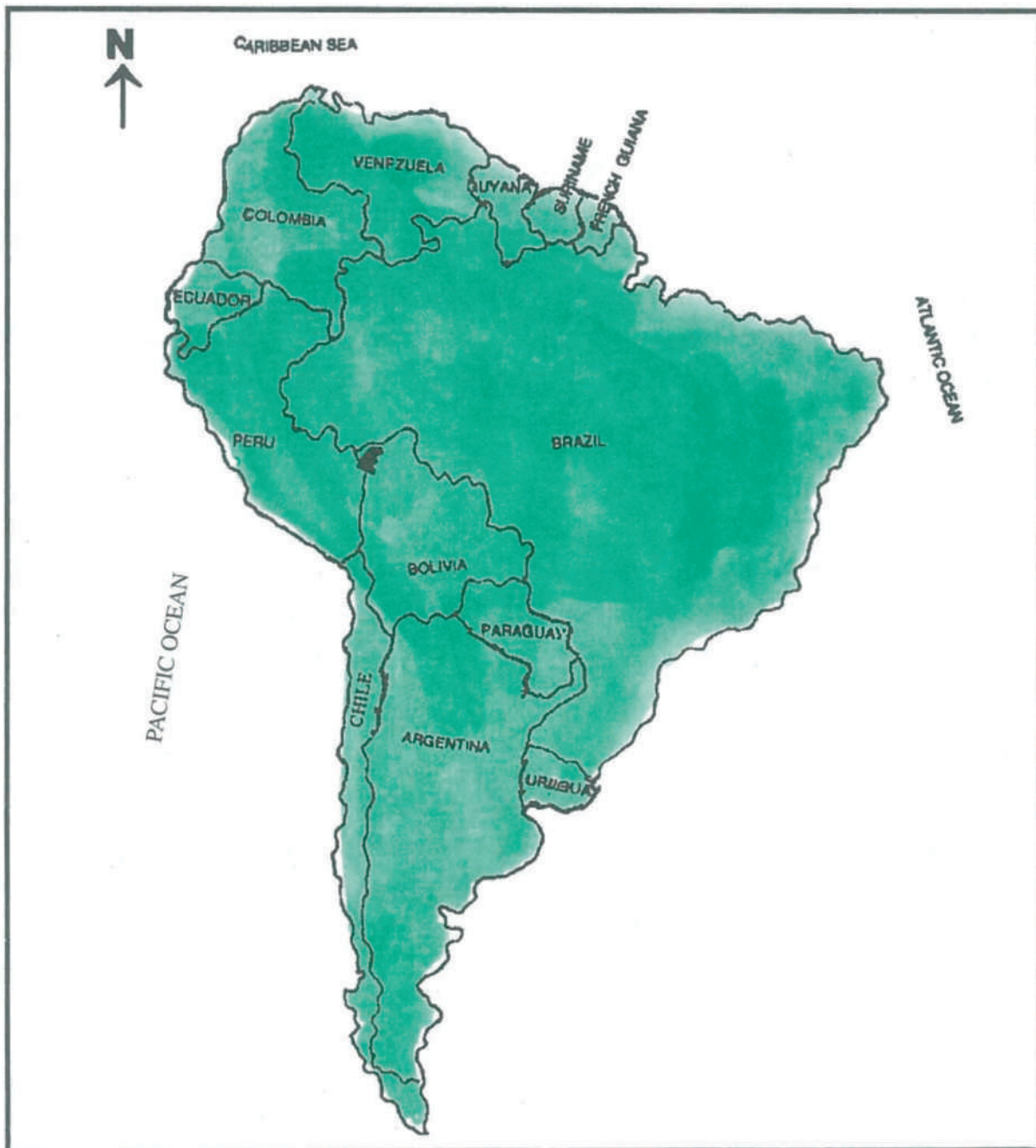
Study the map of the South American Continent. There are many countries on this map. Let your teacher help you to pronounce their names.

Count how many countries there are in all.

Try to locate Guyana.

Can you identify Suriname, Brazil and Venezuela also?

These countries are our immediate Continental Neighbours. We should try to find out more about them.



Suriname

Suriname has certain features that are similar to Guyana. It has a flat coastal plain that faces the Atlantic Ocean, and a forested interior with mountains. It also has the similar kind of climate. Most of the towns are on the coast. The population is small. Its major ethnic groups are East Indians and Africans.

The capital of Suriname is Paramaribo. Can you find Paramaribo on the map of Suriname in your atlas? The official language of Suriname is Dutch. You may find out from your teacher why Surinamese speak Dutch. The currency of Suriname is called the Suriname guilder.

Agricultural Crops

The Low Coastal Plain of the country was first developed by the Dutch. The early settlers of Guyana and Suriname were Dutch who developed the Coastal Plain and made the land suitable for agriculture. Suriname like Guyana, produces rice which the inhabitants cultivate on the Coastal Plain. This is one of the most important crops cultivated. Other crops grown are sugar-cane and coffee. These three agricultural products - rice, sugar-cane and coffee are exported.

Minerals

Suriname produces bauxite and gold. The bauxite ore is found below a heavy overburden of sand and clay. Crude oil is also drilled and produced from natural reserves.

Other Economic Activities

In Suriname the large forested area paves the way for lumbering to be an important economic activity. Charcoal making and balata bleeding are also done. The Surinamese also have a small fishing industry in their country. Their ships go out and fish in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

Surinamese are engaged in other economic activities - agriculture, for example bananas, cocoa, coffee and citrus; lumbering, fishing and mining. Through these, the Surinamese earn a living and develop their country.

Brazil

Brazil is Guyana's continental neighbour to the south and southwest. It is the largest country in South America and the fifth largest country in the world. This country is so large that it is referred to as the 'giant of South America'. Its capital is Brasilia. The official language used in Brazil is Portuguese. Can you find out from your teacher why the Brazilians speak Portuguese. The currency of Brazil is the Real (1994).

The Capital City - Brasilia

This is a modern city which was built in the interior of Brazil. It was built specifically to be a capital city. In 1960, Brasilia became the newest capital city in South America. The reason for building this city was mainly to get people away from the crowded coastland and encourage development in the interior of the country. Roads and railways join the capital with other communities in different parts of the country. Look at the map in your atlas and see if you can find the large towns on the coast.

Agricultural Crops

Like Guyanese, many Brazilians do agriculture. Their chief crops are coffee, cocoa, sugar-cane, rice, cotton, tobacco, coconuts and fruits. Brazil which produces far more sugar than Guyana is known for its coffee through out the world. Besides that, its large area of grasslands is the home of large herds of cattle.

Minerals

Brazil is also known to be extremely rich in mineral deposits. Some of these minerals include bauxite, gold, iron-ore, manganese, crude oil and natural gas. Many of these minerals are mined. The use and export of these minerals have helped in the development of the country.

Forestry

The forest is a very important part of Brazil. About 50% of Brazil is covered by tropical rain forest. Do you know why this is so? This tropical rain forest area is very hot and wet. Plenty of rain and heat can cause the growth of a very thick forest. In this forest, like that of Guyana, Amerindians live. They farm, hunt and fish for food. They also collect nuts and fruits.

Another important activity is the collection of a special gum from a tree in the forest. This gum is manufactured into rubber and it is used to make tyres. Some of you may have ornaments made from balata in your home.

It is said by scientists in the world that the forest in Brazil is important in preserving the world's atmosphere. We all know that trees return oxygen to the air. However, large areas of this forest are being burnt and cleared for farming by people in Brazil. This forest may not grow again. When it is cleared, the soil can be washed away. The rivers become filled with soil and flood the land easily. Animals and fishes die. We must learn to care our forests.

Manufacturing

It is said that Brazil has the most industries in South America. How many of you can remember the Sanos buses that our government bought from Brazil? When your parents take you shopping check the goods to see how many of these are made in Brazil. Some of these goods are shoes, electric irons and gas-stoves. See if you can name the other items.

The people of Brazil are called Brazilians. They play an important role in the development of Brazil. Some economic activities in which they are engaged are - agriculture, mining, lumbering and manufacturing.

Venezuela

Venezuela is our continental neighbour to the west. The word Venezuela means 'Little Venice'. Its capital is Caracas. The official language used by the people of Venezuela is Spanish. The currency of Venezuela is the Bolivar.

Agricultural Crops

The chief crops of Venezuela are coffee, cocoa, rice and maize. This country also has savannahs like Guyana. The savannahs are called Llanos. Cattle are reared there by many farmers. Venezuela, like Brazil has large areas of forest. Lumbering, gathering of nuts and hunting also take place there.

Minerals

Venezuela is rich in minerals such as crude oil and natural gas, iron-ore, gold, and diamond. It has a large petroleum industry mainly around Lake Maracaibo and the Orinoco River mouth. This industry produces chemicals, cooking gas, kerosene, gasoline, diesel fuel and other products. It has also provided jobs for many people. Selling these products to other countries has brought in foreign exchange for Venezuela to develop herself. Guyana imports some of her oil requirements from Venezuela.

The people of Venezuela are called Venezuelans. They work hard together, to develop their country and are engaged in economic activities such as mining, agriculture, manufacturing, and lumbering.

For you to do

1. Examine a map of the world. Identify Guyana on this map.
2. Draw a map of South America. Name and shade Guyana and her continental neighbours on this map.
3. Locate and name the chief town of each country which is an immediate neighbour.
4. Write sentences with regard to the chief town, language, chief products and currency of each neighbouring country.
5. State three ways in which Guyana and her continental neighbours are alike.
6. State two ways in which Guyana and her continental neighbours are different.
7. List a set of activities that take place in a forest.
8. Look at the map of South America and write the names and capitals of our other continental neighbours.
9. With your teacher's help find out why:
 - (a) some countries speak different languages
 - (b) some countries have thick forests.

Guyana and her Caribbean Neighbours

Our Caribbean Neighbours

We also have other neighbours in the Caribbean. Although these countries are found far from Guyana in the Caribbean sea, they are also our neighbours. This is because we have similar history, language, crops, ethnic groups and agricultural activities. Many of these countries and Guyana are all members of the Commonwealth Caribbean. All Commonwealth countries were once colonies ruled by Great Britain. The people in these countries all speak the same language. Other countries in the Caribbean are our neighbours because they are also part of our region.

North of Guyana is the Atlantic Ocean. Guyana's Caribbean neighbours to the north consist of a chain of islands in the Atlantic Ocean. These islands almost enclose a part of the ocean. We call this area of water the Caribbean Sea. Locate this sea on the map on page 21.

A sea is a body of water often enclosed by land.

Our nearest island neighbour is Trinidad and Tobago which is approximately 250 km from Georgetown. There are two other Caribbean neighbours which are close to Guyana. They are Grenada and Barbados. Can you find the countries that we have just named on the Map of the Caribbean? Look at the map and name some other islands. Look again at your atlas and find Belize. Belize is an English speaking country in Central America. See if you can find Central America on your map.

Central America is a neck of land which joins South America with North America.



All the English - speaking islands in the Caribbean, with Guyana and Suriname in South America and Belize in Central America, formed themselves into one group called CARICOM.

On the map above you can see the countries which are members states of CARICOM. The newest member of this group is Haiti. They are shaded.

CARICOM is the Caribbean Community. It was formed in 1973 and is made up of fifteen countries.

These countries are involved in trade, and cultural activities e.g. Carifesta, education, and sports. The headquarters of CARICOM are located in Georgetown, Guyana. Inset is the logo of CARICOM.



Logo of Caricom

Countries	Capital	Economic Activity	Currency
Antigua & Barbuda	St. John's	Salt, fish, coconut oil, tourism	EC Dollar
Barbados	Bridgetown	Sugar, fish, tourism	BDS Dollar
The Bahamas	Nassau	Sponges, tourism	US Dollar
Belize	Belmopan	Sugar, citrus, lumber	Belize Dollar
Dominica	Roseau	Bananas, coconuts	EC Dollar
Jamaica	Kingston	Bauxite, coffee, tourism	Jamaica Dollar
Monsterrat	Plymouth	Cotton, coconuts, tourism	EC Dollar
St. Kitts-Nevis	Basseterre	Sugar, tourism	EC Dollar
St. Lucia	Castries	Bananas, soap, coconuts, tourism	EC Dollar
St. Vincent/ Grenadines	Kingstown	Bananas, arrowroot	EC Dollar
Trinidad & Tobago	Port-of-Spain	Petroleum products, cement, sugar bitumen, tourism	T & T Dollar
Guyana	Georgetown	Rice, sugar, bauxite	Guyana Dollar
Grenada	St. George's	Bananas, spices, nutmeg, tourism	EC Dollar
Suriname	Paramaribo	Bauxite, rice, lumber	Suriname Guilder
Haiti	Port-au-Prince	Textile, clothing	Gourde

The table you just read gives you some information about our CARICOM neighbours. The table shows capitals, economic activities and currency of each CARICOM country.

Helping each other

We are good neighbours and we help one another. We do so by trading with each other. Guyana and its Caribbean neighbours trade with each other. Some of these countries buy rice from Guyana. We purchase oil from Trinidad and Tobago and soap from Dominica. Whenever there is a natural disaster in our neighbour's country, Guyana and other Caribbean countries provide assistance. Guyana usually provides assistance in the form of supplies of rice. We also send our skilled soldiers to help rebuild their roads, buildings and power services.

The picture below shows some of our soldiers who provided assistance in Haiti.



The people of the Caribbean are also closely linked. We can visit each other's country. We share our cultural activities and experiences. Guyanese go to Trinidad and Tobago for Carnival and to Barbados for Crop Over. The Trinidadians and Barbadians in turn come to Guyana for Mashramani. Many entertainers from Jamaica and other Caribbean neighbours come here to entertain Guyanese. We have had reggae singers like Bob Marley and Gregory Isaacs; calypso singers like The Mighty Sparrow and dramatists like Paul Keene Douglas. Similarly, Guyanese entertainers visit other Caribbean

neighbours. We are also linked in sports. Almost everyone knows of our famous cricket champions - the West Indies Cricket team. Can you name any member of the team? Can you say from which country he comes? What other games do the countries in the Caribbean play?

Below are pictures showing symbols and scenes peculiar to the Caribbean. What do they tell you?



For you to do

- Match these capital cities with the correct countries.

Countries	Capitals
Jamaica	Roseau
Belize	Bridgetown
Dominica	Georgetown
Antigua	Castries
Guyana	Kingston
Barbados	Belmopan
St. Lucia	St. John's

- Find CARICOM Countries on this Wordsearch. Ask your teacher if your answers are correct.

S	T	V	I	N	C	E	N	T
M	U	P	A	H	A	M	I	R
I	H	R	N	E	P	A	A	I
B	E	L	I	Z	E	I	A	N
A	T	E	U	N	C	N	O	I
H	C	U	B	U	A	T	G	D
A	U	S	L	Y	A	M	I	A
M	A	T	U	R	E	N	E	D
A	S	G	R	E	N	A	D	A
S	B	A	R	B	A	D	O	S

- Let your class teacher encourage you to write letters to penpals in schools in other CARICOM countries. Ask them to reply and tell you about their country.
- Compile a folder with clippings and pictures on CARICOM countries.
- Write in not more than 50 words, all you know about any famous Caribbean personality.

Other Caribbean Countries

There are other countries in the Caribbean which are our neighbours. Some of these islanders speak English while others speak Spanish, French and Dutch. Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic are Spanish-speaking islands while Martinique and Guadeloupe are French-speaking islands. The people of Curacao and Aruba speak Dutch. Locate these countries on your map on page 21. Find the names of the capitals of these islands. Cuba, the largest island, helps Guyana in the areas of education and health. In our Secondary schools, teachers from Cuba help teach Spanish while many Cuban doctors work in our hospitals.

For you to do

1. Name two Spanish-speaking countries in the Caribbean.
2. Name two French-speaking countries in the Caribbean.
3. Find out from your teacher why some countries in the Caribbean speak Spanish, French and Dutch.

Points to Remember

- Guyana's immediate continental neighbours are: Suriname, Venezuela and Brazil. Their capitals are: Paramaribo, Caracas and Brasilia respectively.
- These countries are alike in many ways. They all have areas of hot, wet climate. They all have a coastline. They have heavy tropical forest.
- They all do farming and mining.
- They are different in that they speak different languages.
- Guyana has other neighbours that are farther away in the Atlantic Ocean. These countries are our neighbours because of history and language.
- We have one Caribbean neighbour, Belize which is found in Central America.
- Guyana is a member of CARICOM.
- Guyana trades with its CARICOM neighbours.
- Guyana has close relationship with her Caribbean neighbours. We exchange skills, we are trading partners and we come to each other's help in times of natural disaster.
- Three of the CARICOM countries are not islands. They are Belize in Central America and Guyana and Suriname in South America.
- There are other Caribbean neighbours that are not members of CARICOM and the inhabitants speak other languages e.g. Cuba - Spanish, Martinique - French, Curacao - Dutch.
- Haiti is now a member of CARICOM.

3 Leaders in Our Community

Communities are places where people live and work. Communities also provide services to their members. To ensure the smooth functioning of these communities there must be leaders.

Some leaders are elected to serve in their communities. Some of these leaders in our community are:

- City and town leaders
- Village leaders
- Trade Union or Labour leaders
- Political leaders



City and Town Leaders

Leaders of our city and towns are the Mayor and City councillors. In the picture you can see a Mayor of our city with his mayoral chain.

In Guyana we have our city and chief town - Georgetown. The other towns are New Amsterdam, Linden, Rose Hall, Corriverton and Anna Regina. With the help of your teacher you can find on a map of Guyana, where these towns are located.

The Mayor and the councillors of these towns are the leaders who make important decisions for the people who live in our city and towns. Some of these decisions are stated in the newspaper.

The fee for the clearing of an animal at the pound is \$300 but at the last City Council Statutory meeting, councillors made a resolution to have the fee increased to \$1,500.

THE Georgetown City Council will from today be collecting refuse in some commercial sections of the city two days per week between the hours of 4:15 pm to 10:00 pm.

These are cuttings from newspapers, on City Council decisions.

Some of the duties of the Mayor and Councillors are:

- Keeping the environment of the city clean by providing garbage disposal services.
- Repairing streets and bridges.
- Maintaining parks, avenues and other recreational facilities.
- Giving guidance and direction for the erection of new buildings and the renovation of old buildings.
- Maintaining markets and abattoirs.
- Inspecting eating houses.
- Providing health care and education e.g. health and day—care centres.

For you to do

Let your teacher arrange a trip to a Town or City Hall nearest to where you live. On this field-trip try to find out as much as you can about how a city or a town is organised.

Community Leaders

The leaders in our community are elected when there are Local Government Elections. At present we do not have village councils. The government made a change. We now have Neighbourhood Democratic Councils. There are sixty-five of these councils which look after the affairs of the neighbourhoods in the country.

These persons on the councils are responsible for keeping our communities clean and maintaining services such as potable water and drainage facilities. Below are the names of five Neighbourhood Development Councils:

- Leguan
- La Jalousie/Nouvelle Flanders
- Buxton/Foulis
- Ireng/Sawariwau
- Kwakawani

Amerindian Village Leaders

In the Amerindian villages the leaders are not elected through the Local Government System. The members of the Amerindian villages elect their leaders. The Captain works along with other leaders called Councillors. If the community is small and has a population of about 200 persons there may be the Captain and only two other leaders or Councillors.

Here is a newspaper report stating some of the duties of a Village Captain at St. Ignatius

- Region 9 (Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo).

The Captain and Councillors represent their community at the Regional Administration level. They are concerned about the ownership of land in their community. Education and social services are provided for their people.

For you to do

With your teacher's guidance, write a letter to your community leader telling him or her some of the things you would like to have done in your community.

Leaders of Our Region

As you know, Guyana is divided into ten Administrative Regions: These regions are run by a special body of leaders called the Regional Democratic Council. This council is usually headed by a Regional Chairman or Chairwoman. These leaders are usually elected at the National and Regional Elections held every five years in our country. They look after the affairs of the Region they represent.

We should know that every Regional Chairman/Chairwoman has other leaders to assist him/her. Some of the more important ones are the

- Regional Executive Officer
- Regional Education Officer
- Regional Health Officer
- Regional Veterinary Officer

For you to do

1. Name your Administrative Region and two others.
2. Find out the names of your regional leader (Regional Chairman).
3. Select one of the regional officers in your region and in a short paragraph, state why he or she is important to the region.

Trade Union or Labour Leaders

Workers in a particular trade or profession usually have special groups which look after their interest. These groups are called trade unions. The workers elect leaders. Let us look at some groups of workers and the unions which represent them.

Workers

Teachers

Public Servants

Commercial & Industrial workers

Sugar workers

(i) Factory and office workers

(ii) Field workers

Names of Unions

Guyana Teachers Union - GTU

Guyana Public Service Union - GPSU

Clerical and Commercial Workers Union
- CCWU

National Association of Clerical,
Commercial and Industrial Employees -
NACCIE

Guyana Agricultural Workers Union -
GAWU

You can identify other workers in your community and name the unions that represent them.

The union leaders look after the rights of members by ensuring that they have satisfactory working conditions relating to:

- wages
- hours of work
- social needs of workers such as
 - sports clubs
 - credit unions
- safety at the work-place
- education of the workers

Trades Union Congress

All the unions for the different workers come together to form a group called the Trades Union Congress. This Trades Union Congress is led by a body called the Executive Council. Members of the Executive Council are elected from leaders of all the different unions. Here is a simple chart of the leadership in the Trades Union Congress.

- President
- 7 Vice Presidents
- General Secretary
- Principal Assistant Secretary
- 3 Assistant Secretaries
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Organising Secretary
- Assistant Organising Secretary

Officers of the Trades Union Congress are also leaders. Some of the things they do are:-

- Provide guidance to individual unions when there is industrial unrest—sit-ins, strikes or lock-outs.
- Organise the annual Labour Day Parade.
- Help other unions to assist their workers.
- Educate workers.

For you to do

1. Let any member of your family or a relative tell you something about how his or her union helps him or her.
2. Look at the chart above. Read the posts on the chart. See if you can find out what these people do, by talking with an officer of the Trades Union Congress.

Leaders

Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow was the first Trade Union Leader not only in Guyana but also in the English-speaking Caribbean. He is therefore called the Father of Trade Unionism. Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow was born in Guyana in 1884. He became a worker in 1898 at the age of fourteen. In those days people worked for ten or more hours per day. They received small wages and salaries and lived under poor conditions. There was no organisation to represent the workers. Critchlow became concerned about the conditions under which people lived and worked. He spoke out against poor conditions on the water-front and on the sugar estates. He was determined to work towards bringing about a change and travelled to work sites in many parts of the country. He talked with workers about their problems and made them aware that they should be treated better.



In 1919 Critchlow founded the British Guiana Labour Union now called the Guyana Labour Union - GLU. It was the first labour union not only in Guyana but also in the English-speaking Caribbean.

From then on, it was firmly established that workers have rights. Later on, Critchlow went on to help workers in various job areas, to form Trade Unions. Today there are trade unions which represent almost all types of workers.

In recognition of the work that Critchlow did for workers in Guyana, a monument has been built in our Parliament Building Compound. This monument is a statue of the man himself. Critchlow Labour College was named after him.

More about leaders

Leaders are elected for a certain period of time. They must leave their office at the end of the period and new elections must take place. Our leaders in the National Assembly, the highest law making body in the land, usually have to give up their position after five years. An election is held and they may be re-elected to their position.

Most organisations have laws to remove leaders from office if their work is unsatisfactory.

For you to do

1. With your teacher's help write a simple fact-sheet on another labour leader.
2. (a) List the names of two organisations in Guyana.
(b) State how their leaders are elected and re-elected.
(c) State how their leaders can be removed from office.

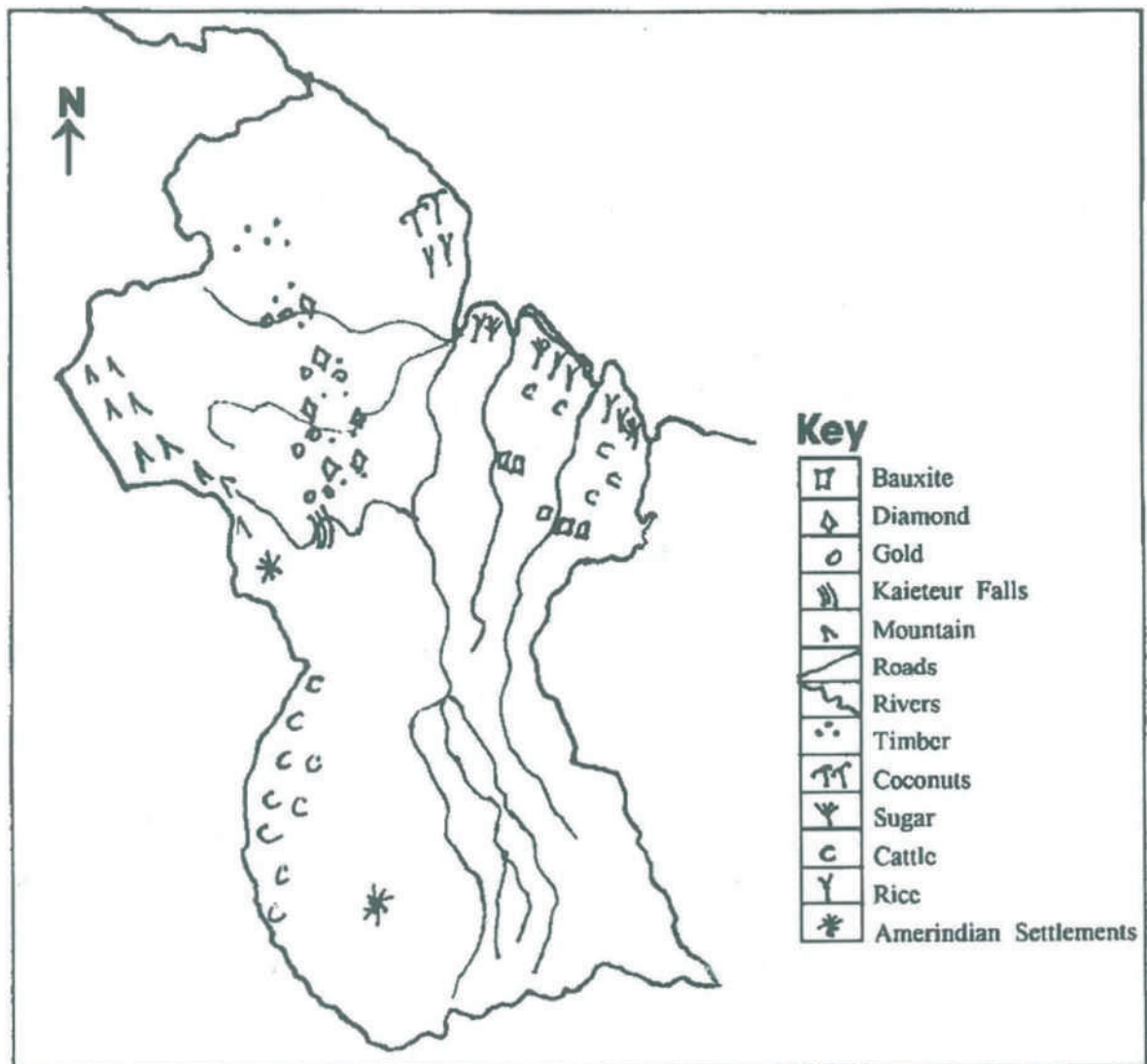
Points to Remember

- Every community whether a farm, village, town, city, region or country has a leader or leaders. Organisations within the community also have leaders.
- Leaders are given special names. For example a leader in a town is a Mayor; the leader of an Amerindian village is a Village Captain or Touchau.
- Leaders are supposed to look after the affairs of their community or organisation to provide a better life for the citizens.
- Leaders are most times elected to their position for a fixed period. They can be removed. They can be re-elected.
- Trade Unions provide leadership and support to many kinds of workers. They try to provide workers with better working conditions.
- Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow, a Guyanese, formed the first Trade Union in Guyana and the English-speaking Caribbean.

4 Resources of Guyana

Our country has many important resources which its people use to develop their communities and the country. When people develop their communities they make them better, healthier and more comfortable.

List Guyana's resources from the map below.



To develop any community, *resources* are necessary. Resources are living and non-living materials which are valuable and useful to a country and its people.

Some resources are natural - that is, they are made by nature and not by man. Some natural resources are air, sunlight, land, forest, animals, water and minerals.

The resources of Guyana are used to provide:

- food, so that we Guyanese can eat well and live healthy lives.
- jobs, so that Guyanese can earn money to provide their families with the things they need.
- land on which people can build their homes, hospitals, schools, markets and other places of importance.
- water to quench thirst, cook and keep themselves and their surroundings clean.
- minerals and food for export - these bring in foreign exchange which is used to develop Guyana.

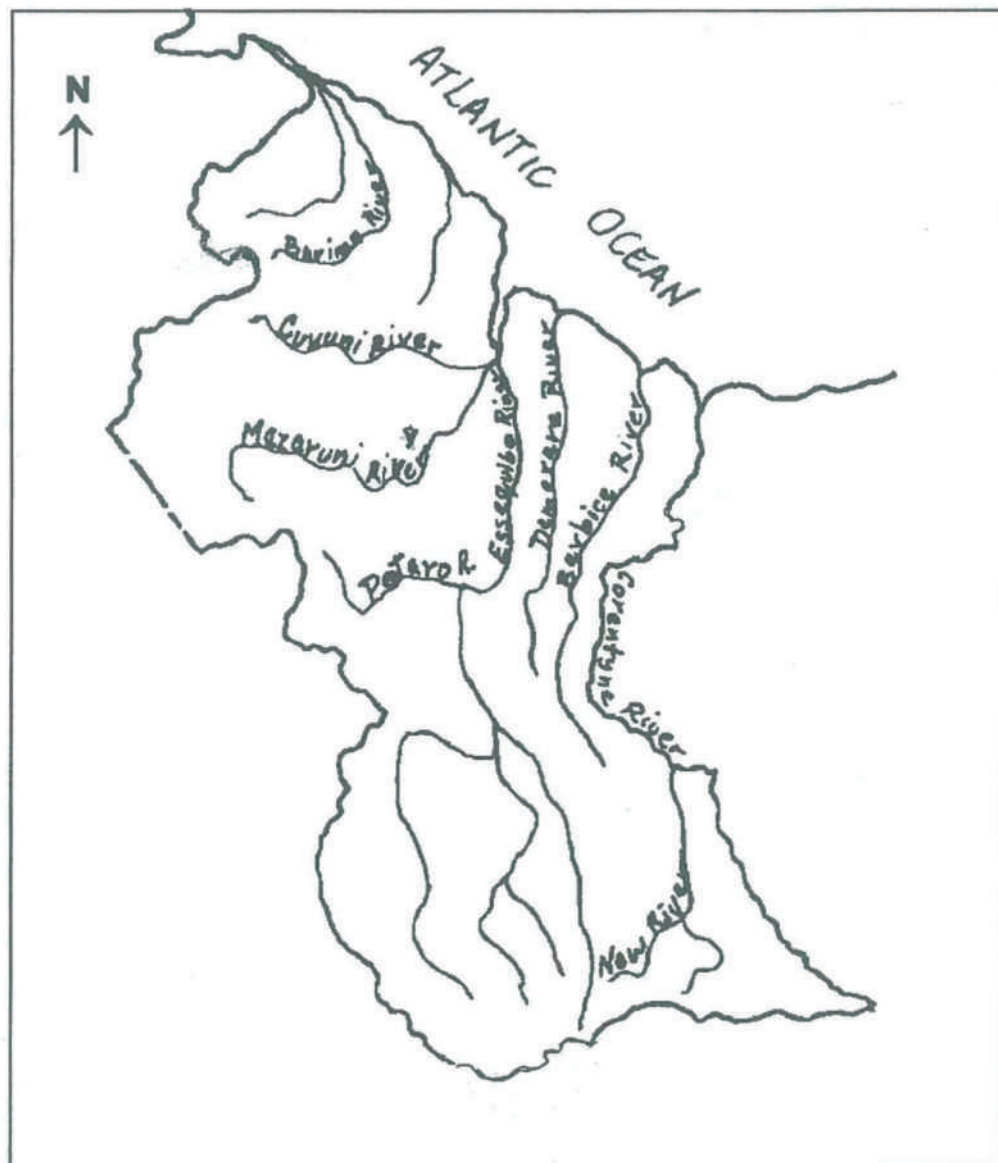
Our Water Resources

If you look at the map of Guyana on page 36 you will see a number of rivers. Try to name them. These rivers are only a few of the many waterways found in Guyana. In this our 'Land of Many Waters' there are numerous rivers, lakes, waterfalls, canals and creeks which are useful to us in a variety of ways. They provide us with:

- water - for drinking, bathing, washing and for watering our crops.
- fish for food.
- a means of recreation for river sports.
- attraction for visitors who are tourists.
- means of transportation.

Our water resources are therefore very important to us. They are not only helpful in our agricultural industries but also in the timber and mineral industries.

Here is a Map of Guyana showing its main waterways.



For you to do

Copy this map in your books and draw in the following:

- 1 - The three main rivers - Essequibo, Demerara, Berbice
- 2 - Kaieteur Falls
- 3 - The Cuyuni, Mazaruni and Potaro rivers
- 4 - The Corentyne river

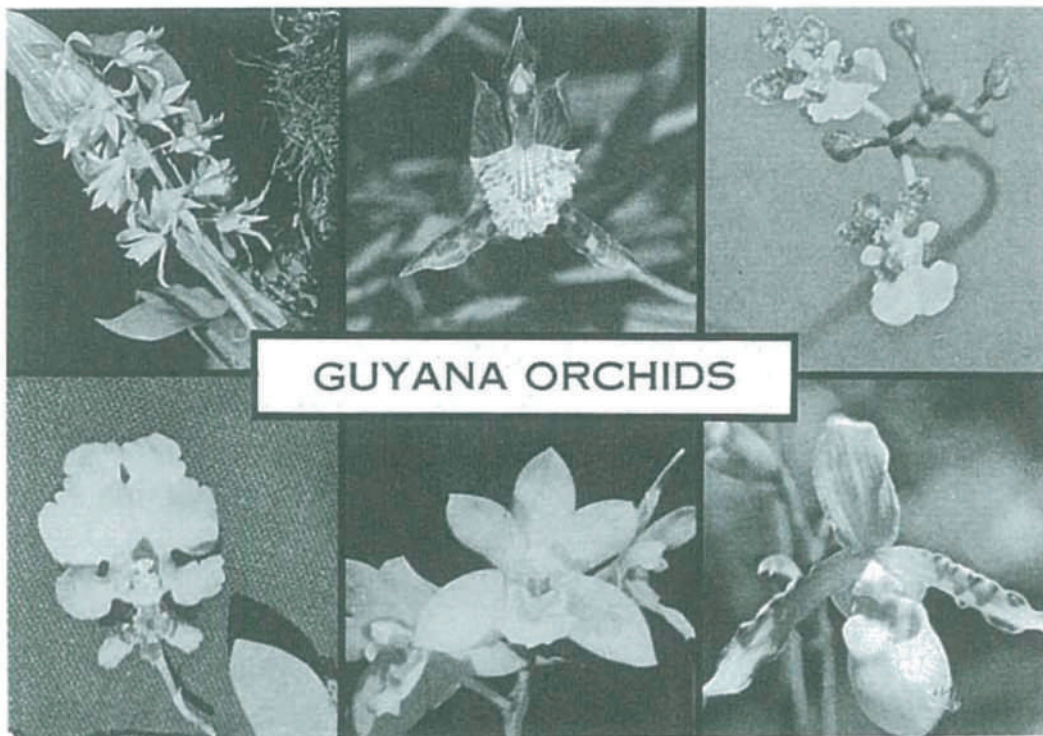
Our Forest Resources

Look at the map of Guyana in your atlas and you will see that the forested highland region takes up a large part of the total area of Guyana.

The Forested Region

Guyana is the largest producer of forest products in the Caribbean. From the forest, we can get:

- timber products - greenheart, wallaba, mora, purple—heart.
- food - numerous plants and animals which grow and live in the forests, and medicinal plants.
- fuel in the form of charcoal.
- exotic plants for decorative purposes - orchids as can be seen in the picture.
- animals for zoos around the world.



Can you name two plants used as medicine and two animals that may be found in zoos?

Many of our forest products are exported and this helps our country to earn valuable foreign exchange. Some types of timber and their uses are:

- Greenheart - used all over the world to build wharves, docks and stellingings.
- Purpleheart - used to make furniture, doors and windows.
- Silverballi - used to make boats.
- Wallaba - used to make fuel, charcoal and telegraph poles.

A Timber Industry in Guyana

The Willems Timber and Trading Company limited is one of the large companies which prepares timber especially greenheart for export. This company was established in 1933 by Ursula Willems whose sons now control the industry. Greenheart is ideal for use in sea water and is the most valuable of all the Caribbean forest resources.

The milling operations for Willems Company take place at Kaow Island - one of the many islands in the Essequibo river.

After the trees are selected in the forest, they are felled with the use of chain saws.

They are then hewn into squares by persons called 'squares'. After squaring, they are hauled along especially on cut paths by wheel tractors, to the nearest loading ramp on the main truck road. At the loading ramp the logs are loaded on trailers which are pulled by trucks and taken to the waterside which may be as far as 32 km away.

The logs are thrown into the water and loaded on 'sling-punts' which tow them either to the loading beach for shipment overseas or to mills to be converted to lumber.

Activities at Kaow Island

On Kaow Island, a small community has developed and the residents are all involved in the various activities of the timber industry.

- The greenheart is sawn for export to the United Kingdom and the United States of America.
- Wallaba fence posts are sorted.
- Charcoal is produced.

The company also builds its own launches, tugs and boats and uses its waste materials to produce steam for the generation of electricity.

Our Gold Industry

You can see, if you look at the map of Guyana showing resources in your atlas, that gold can be found throughout the northern part of the forested region and in a few areas in the southern part.

Gold is found in gullies, streams and rivers and on hillsides. Years ago, gold was mainly taken out by one of these four methods. Some of these methods are still used.

- Dredging - Machine-driven chain buckets were used to scoop the gravel from the lakes, rivers and pools. The gravel was then treated to take out the gold.
- Milling - The stones were crushed before the gold was removed; this operation needed very expensive machinery and was only used by large companies.
- Hydraulic method - The banks of streams were washed with large amounts of water to loosen the soil. The soil was then collected in a pit and sorted to remove the gold.
- Hand method - This method was responsible for the removal of most of the gold and was done by large numbers of persons working in small groups. They were called prospectors or pork-knockers who used either the 'panning' method or the 'sluice and tom' method to take out the gold.

Panning was done when the gravel was washed in a batell. Lighter soil was thrown off leaving the heavier gold in the batell.

Gold is used to make ornaments and jewellery, and as a system of exchange and trade. It is very valuable and rare, that is, it is not found in many countries. In the early days of mining it was very hard work and took long hours. After earning large sums of money some pork-knockers just wasted it. However, they have now learnt to spend their money wisely. They also do not have to work as hard as before to take the gold from the river beds. Many companies are now operating in the gold fields and the methods used are in many ways different from what was done long ago. One of the newer methods is called missile-mining.

Mining at Mahdia

Mining at Mahdia begins with debushing or deforestation. All vegetation, for example trees and shrubs are removed by cutlasses, axes, chain saws and/or other tools. The tools used depend on the capital resources of the operator.

The top soil or overburden is stripped and excavated by using the hydraulic method. This method is done by using a water pump connected to a large hose with a nozzle at the end. Water is pumped through this hose to the gold-bearing area. A slurry (gold-bearing soil mixed with water) is produced and channelled through a ground sluice (a small canal) to a sump (a man made hole). The slurry is then pumped to an elevated sluice which is situated near to, or over an area which is called the tailing disposal area.

The picture below shows one type of operation of gold mining at Mahdia.



Here the gold is separated from the gold bearing soil by washing. The gold and other heavy materials which may be present are shaken into a box enabling the gold particles to come closely together. The gold is further concentrated by using a batell (a meshed metal cone). The final concentrate of gold is then mixed with mercury (quicksilver) which causes the gold particles to stick together, thus forming an amalgam (a mixture of gold and mercury). The amalgam is heated so as to evaporate the mercury. The final product - raw gold is obtained.

For you to do

1. List three products which we get from our forests.
2. In which river is Kaow Island found?
3. Do you know of any foreign company which mines for gold in Guyana? Name it.
4. Let your teacher help you understand the meanings of the terms - debushing, deforestation, capital resources, tailing disposal area.

Our Animal Resources

You read earlier in this book on page 34 that resources can either be living or non-living materials. Animals make up a part of our living resources. Our animal resources include animals which are:

- used as food.
- used for work.
- kept as pets.
- a part of our wild-life and our exports.

We will now take a closer look at one industry which uses one type of our animal resources to provide food.

Our Dairy Industry

The dairy industry has changed much over the years from old ways of dairying to new ways. This industry takes care of cows which are reared mainly for their milk. The milk is sold fresh or processed to make butter, pasteurized milk and yoghurt.

Old Ways of Dairying in Guyana

Cows were reared by families - each family might have had 2-4 milch cows. The animals were taken care of by the members of the family who loosed them around the house or neighbouring areas to eat whatever grass was available. They were sometimes left to roam the roadways and streets, thus putting the lives of people in danger. Unfortunately, this still occurs.

Besides grass, some cows were also given molasses and rice bran or rice “mar” for food. Rice “mar” is the liquid obtained after the rice is boiled.

No special breed of cow was reared and in-breeding was allowed. This, however, led to a poorer breed of cows. In many areas, this system is still in use.

Sick animals were taken care of by their owners. The home cures often did not work and led to a high death rate among cows. The loss occurred because there were few veterinarians. The veterinarians are doctors who take care of animals.

Milking was done by the hand method. But the milkers were not always hygienic, since they used unclean hands and unclean utensils. The quantity of milk produced by cows reared in this way, was very low. Sometimes, the owners processed the milk to make ghee for use by their families.

New ways of Dairying in Guyana

The Livestock Development Company had two large dairy farms but these have now ceased operations. These were at Ebini on the Berbice River and Moblissa on the Linden- Soesdyke Highway. We now have three major dairy operations:

- (i) Danzic Pasteurisation Plant whose products use the trade name of “White-gate Dairies”.
- (ii) Saint Stanislaus College Farm with “Good Morning” products.
- (iii) New Amsterdam Dairies with their “Moo Goodies” products.

The above-named dairies obtain their milk mainly from the many small-scale farmers whose main breed of animals is the Holstein. Some of these cows were imported from the USA in 1987. In that same year, special pastures of antelope grass were planted to supply the right quality of food for the milch cows. The animals are fed according to their needs and stages of growth. Special qualified veterinary officers and technicians help to take care of the health of the animals.

The use of artificial insemination (A.I.) as a means of breeding has greatly reduced the old practice of “inbreeding” in the dairy industry.

For you to do

1. Prepare a project on Guyana's Animal Resources.

Points to Remember

- Resources can be natural or artificial.
- Many industries are carried on in different parts of Guyana.
- Operations of gold take place in Guyana, so as to aid its development.
- The gold industry and the timber industry are two of the main earners of foreign-exchange in Guyana.

5 Natural Regions in Guyana

In Book IV you learnt that Guyana is divided into ten administrative regions. The people in these regions are responsible for carrying on most of the business of these regions. They therefore manage the regions. You also learnt that a region is a small part of Guyana.

In this chapter we are going to learn about the Natural Regions of Guyana. If you live on the coast, you must have made a trip or trips to the Timehri International Airport or to the town of Linden. If you were observant, you would have noticed many differences between the area where you live and the areas you have visited. Did you notice anything different at all? Perhaps the most striking difference between these two areas is the type of soil. How would you describe the soil in your home area? It is dark-brown in colour and is made up mostly of silt. Along the Linden-Soesdyke highway, the soil is sandy.

Another major difference which you might have noticed is the level of the land. How would you describe the land on the coast? You may say it is flat or low. Is the land at Timehri or Linden flat or low? No, it is mainly high and hilly.

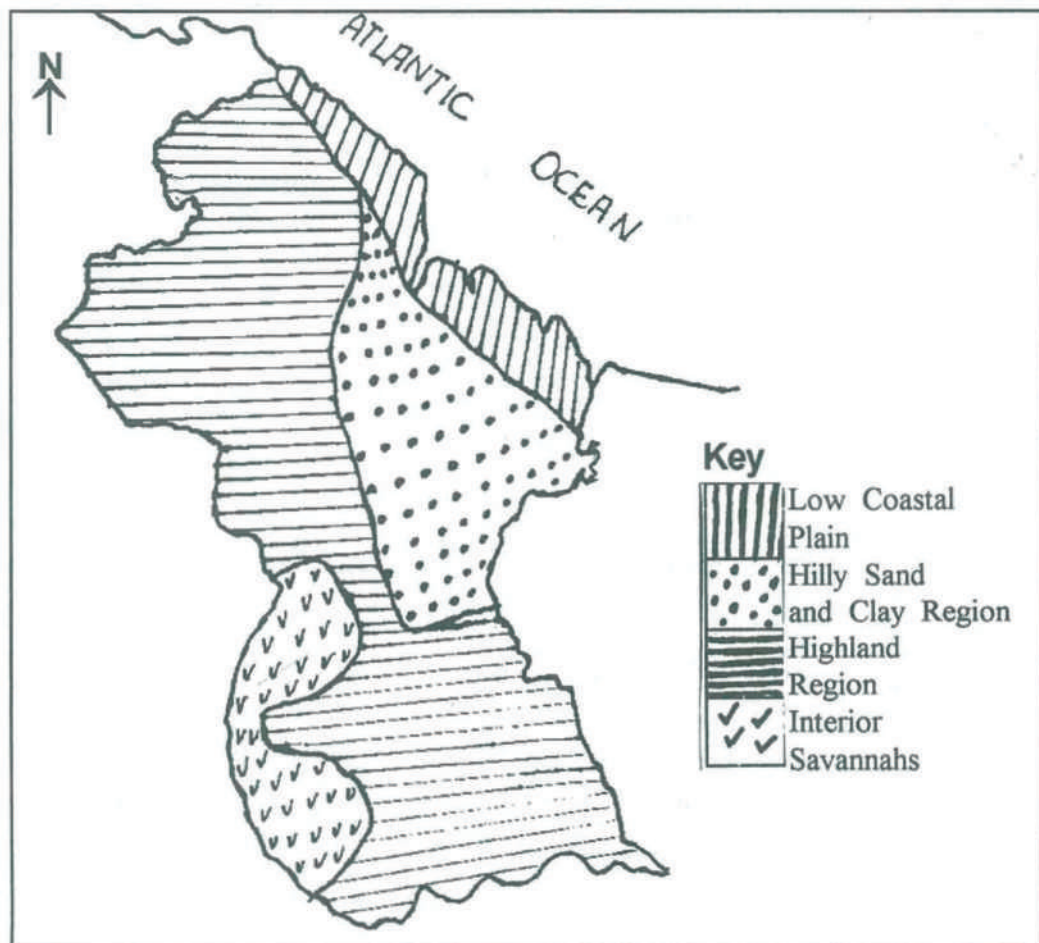
Now if you had looked carefully you might have noticed also that the kinds of plants which grow naturally at Timehri and Linden are different from those that grow on the coast. How are they different?

Some of you might not only have visited Timehri or Linden for a day but you might have spent a longer time. You might have spent a few days or even longer. If you did, how would you describe the days and the nights? Were they hot or cold? How do they compare with the days and nights on the coast? Did you find Linden hotter than Georgetown or Corriverton during the day? Were the nights the same as on the coast? Or were they cooler? I am sure that you had found that at Linden, the days were hotter and the nights were cooler than they were on the coast.

If you were to travel in a straight line across the whole of Guyana starting from Mahaicony and ending at Lethem, you would find out that the buildings, soil, plants or vegetation and the climate change from area to area. The area which has similar features such as soil, build of land, plants or vegetation and climate has been given a special name. It is called a **Natural Region**. If you examine these features you will find that they occur naturally. This is why we give the area where they are found, the name **Natural Region**.

Since these features are different on the coast from what they are at Linden, the places on the coast fall into a different natural region from Linden. It means therefore, that you are living in a different natural region from the people at Timehri or Linden.

If you were to take a trip from Mahaicony to Lethem you will notice that the Natural Regions change and that Guyana has four Natural Regions. Look at the map below and note the four Natural Regions.



The four Regions are:

- The Low Coastal Plain
- The Hilly Sand and Clay Region
- The Forested Highland Region
- The Interior Savannahs

The table below shows the main features of each Natural Region in Guyana.

Region	Build	Soil	Vegetation	Climate
Low Coastal Plain	Flat plains	Silty loam and pegasse, clay	Courida mangrove shrubs grass	2 wet & 2 dry seasons
Hilly Sand and Clay Region	Hills & valleys	White sand and clay, Brown sand Red sand	Tall trees	Hot days & cool nights. Relief rainfall
Forested Highland Region	Mountains	Mostly rocky	Taller trees	Rainfall all year round Hot wet climate
Interior Savannahs	Rolling grassland, hills	Clayey rocky soil	Sand-paper Grass palm trees cashew nut	6 months rainfall 6 months dry weather

You can examine the features of the regions and point out the differences and similarities among them. Note that while the build of the land is flat on the Low Coastal Plain, the area is made up of hills in the Hilly Sand and Clay Region and mountains in the Highland Region. The build of the land in the Interior Savannahs is rolling or undulating.

The Low Coastal Plain

From the map on page 46 you will see that this part of Guyana stretches from the northern tip, Point Playa - to the Corentyne River at a distance of approximately 450 km.

It varies in width from about 50km in the west, to 90 km in the east. From the table on page 49 you will notice that the main features of this region are:

1. The land is flat. Sometimes it is called a plain.
2. The soil is made up of silty clay, loam and pegasse.
3. Courida and mangrove are two types of trees which grow naturally at the edge of the ocean, on the mud flats and along the river banks. There are two rainy seasons and two dry seasons during the year.

Resources

In any area, the natural features present, combine to provide the basis for livelihood in that area. People use what they have in the region to make a living. In the Low Coastal Plain, the soil and the climate together with the flat land, provide the necessary materials for agriculture. This is why agriculture is one of the main economic activities in this region. The people who live in this region use the flat land, the clayey soil and the wet and dry climate to grow sugar-cane, rice, coconuts, ground provisions and a number of green vegetables and fruits. They also rear poultry and livestock such as cattle, pigs, sheep and goat. Fishes are also reared in some areas in this region. You can see therefore, that a large percentage of the food we eat is produced in this region.

The Sugar Industry

Sugar-cane cultivation and the manufacture of sugar are the main activities of the sugar industry in Guyana.

Sugar-cane is grown only on the Low Coastal Plain. The estates have very extensive fields which cover many hectares. Factories are located on some estates. Where there are no factories on the estate, the sugar-cane is sent to a neighbouring estate where there is a factory. For example, the sugar-cane

grown at Leonora is sent to the factory at Uitvlugt to be manufactured into sugar. Some sugar estates in Demerara are - Uitvlugt, Wales, La Bonne Intention and Enmore; in Berbice are - Blairmont, Albion, Rose Hall and Skeldon.

Importance of the Sugar Industry to Guyana

1. The Sugar Industry provides employment for thousands of field, factory and office workers. People are needed to prepare the field, plant the cane, clear the weeds from the young canes, fertilise them and then cut the canes when they are ripe.

In the factories, people are needed to work the mills and boil the cane juice into sugar. Men are also needed to drive lorries, trucks and other vehicles which are used in the industry. In the office, managers, clerks typists and accountants are employed.

2. It earns foreign exchange for the country. Over 75% of the sugar which is produced in Guyana is sold to foreign markets such as the European Economic Community. When we sell our goods to a foreign country, we are paid with foreign currency, for example, the pound sterling or US dollar. Guyana, therefore earns foreign currency by exporting goods to other countries.
3. The money that we receive from the sale of sugar abroad, is used by the government to buy things which we need. Some of these things are drugs or medicine, fuel, vehicles, machines for our industries, fertilisers and cement. It helps us to buy foreign goods which we need, but which we do not produce.
4. Sugar provides raw materials for some of our manufacturing industries. It is used in large quantities in the manufacture of sweets, jams, and jellies, aerated drinks and malt.

5. It provides us with a sweetener for domestic purposes.

Think about a home without sugar. How would you sweeten your tea, drink or porridge? Will you be able to bake a cake or make ice-cream? Think about all the other ways in which we use sugar in the home.

By-products of sugar

Some materials are produced during the manufacture of sugar. These are called by-products of sugar, for example, bagasse and molasses.

Bagasse - The cane passes through a mill which squeezes the juice out. The husk that is left is called bagasse. This bagasse is used for fuel in the sugar factory.

Molasses - This is a thick dark brown liquid or syrup which is obtained during the boiling process of the cane juice. Molasses is very important because it is used in the manufacture of rum. Guyana sells rum to foreign countries and so earns foreign exchange. Molasses is also used as feed for animals.

Other Features of the Low Coastal Plain

1. The North East Trade Winds

People who live on the Low Coastal Plain are lucky because they enjoy the cool breeze which comes from over the Atlantic Ocean. The North East Trade Winds blow across the coast and temper the heat of the sun. This is one reason why the villages on the coast are mostly windy and cooler than villages inland.

2. Sea Walls and Sea Dams

One distinct feature of the Low Coastal Plain is that it is being washed throughout its length by the Atlantic Ocean. It is also lower than the water level in the ocean. This is why walls or dams have been built to prevent the water from flooding the land. In some areas these walls are built of concrete, while in other areas they are made of earth. Courida and mangrove trees grow naturally along the water-edge and these help to protect the sea-dam from the full force of the water.

3. Rivers and Islands

Another very important feature of the region is that many rivers flow through it, into the Atlantic Ocean. The main rivers are Essequibo, Demerara, Berbice, Mahaica, Mahaicony, Abary, Canje and Boerasirie. The banks of these rivers have very fertile soil and form the main farming areas on the coast. The largest of these rivers is the Essequibo River. This river is large and it has many islands at its mouth. Two of the islands are Wakenaam and Leguan. The soil of these islands is very rich. Most people who live there, do farming for a living. The chief crop grown is rice.

The Hilly, Sand and Clay Region

You have read about one of the 'Natural Regions', the Low Coastal Plain. You will now learn about another natural region, the Hilly, Sand and Clay Region. This region is so named because of the many hills, clay and sandy soils which can be found there.

This natural region is found to the south of the Low Coastal Plain. It starts south of the Pomeroon River. It then goes in an arc across the Cuyuni, Mazaruni and Potaro Rivers and continues across the Demerara to the border at Suriname. See if you can follow these directions on the map on page 46. If you look at a small map of Guyana you can see that this region takes up about 1/5 of Guyana.

Main Features

From the table on Page 47 you will notice that the main features of this region are:

1. The land is hilly.
2. The soil is made up of white sand, brown sand and red clay and sand.
3. The soil is covered with forests and patches of savannah land. There are also many black water creeks.
4. The days are hot and the nights are cold.
5. Except for the large mining settlements of Linden, Ituni, Bartica and Kwakwani the villages are small and scattered.

Resources

What we must know about any region in Guyana, are its resources. We also need to know how the people make use of them. To do this we can travel over land to any area in this region. This will give us an idea of how people live in this region. Try to find Georgetown and follow the East Bank Demerara Highway to reach Soesdyke. It is at this point that the Soesdyke—Linden Highway begins. As we travel along this highway, we will discover that we are in the Hilly Sand and Clay Region. We may be able to see some of its resources and the way people live.

Mining of Sand

If we look at the side of the highway we will notice huge sand pits. The collection and sale of sand there, is a thriving business. For what do you think the sand is used? In this picture you can see one of the many sand pits along the highway.



Settlements

As we keep on travelling along the highway we will see small scattered settlements or single homes in clearings. We will be able to locate the settlements and trails leading into the jungle. Here are the names of some of the settlements:-

Yarakabra	-	Farming settlement
Kuru-Kururu	-	Farming settlement
Kuru-Kuru	-	An education settlement
Madewini	-	A tourist settlement
Camp Stephenson	-	A military settlement

What people do

How do some of these people live?

Many of them do farming. Pineapple cultivation is done on the highway on large farms. Pineapple plants grow well in sand. Citrus trees, peanut and ground provisions are also grown here. The soil is not very fertile, but if fertiliser is added to it, many crops can be grown successfully.

Making of Charcoal

We may notice groups of men chopping down trees. We may see bags of charcoal packed along the sides of the highway. Trucks collect this charcoal to sell in Georgetown. How is this charcoal made? Trees are cut down and chopped into suitable lengths. They are placed into a hole in the ground in a special manner. This hole in the ground is called a charcoal pit. The logs are then covered with green leaves and sand. They are lighted. These logs burn slowly. When the logs have been burnt, they form charcoal. This charcoal is collected and placed into bags.

Logging

Groups of men called loggers cut down trees and stack the logs. These logs are brought to the city and sold. They are used by bakershops and factories to produce fuel.

Mining

If we continue our journey we will reach Linden. This is the end of the highway. As you enter Linden, the first sight to greet you will be the chimneys of the bauxite factory. You will also see the large mountains of waste sand called overburden.

An important mineral, bauxite ore, is found around Linden. This mineral is a hard pinkish rock. Check the map on page 34. It shows the places where bauxite ore can be found in Guyana. The area where it can be found is covered with forest. Bauxite ore is found about 60 metres under the sand and clay.

How do the people mine this ore?

- The overburden is removed, to expose the bauxite ore.
- The bauxite ore is broken up by the use of explosives.
- Pieces of bauxite ore are taken to the plant in railway trucks. Bauxite is processed at the plant.
- The picture shows the chimneys of the Bauxite Plant, with smoke coming from them. What else do you see in this picture?



Small ships sail up the Demerara River to Linden and load the refined ore. It is then taken to the deep water harbour in Georgetown for trans-shipment to other countries like the United States of America. This trans-shipment is necessary because the Demerara River mouth has sand bars which prevent large ships from sailing up the river. The bauxite boats can only sail there, when the tide is high. Bauxite mining also takes place at Kwakwani and Aroaima in the Berbice area.

How the Bauxite Industry helps us

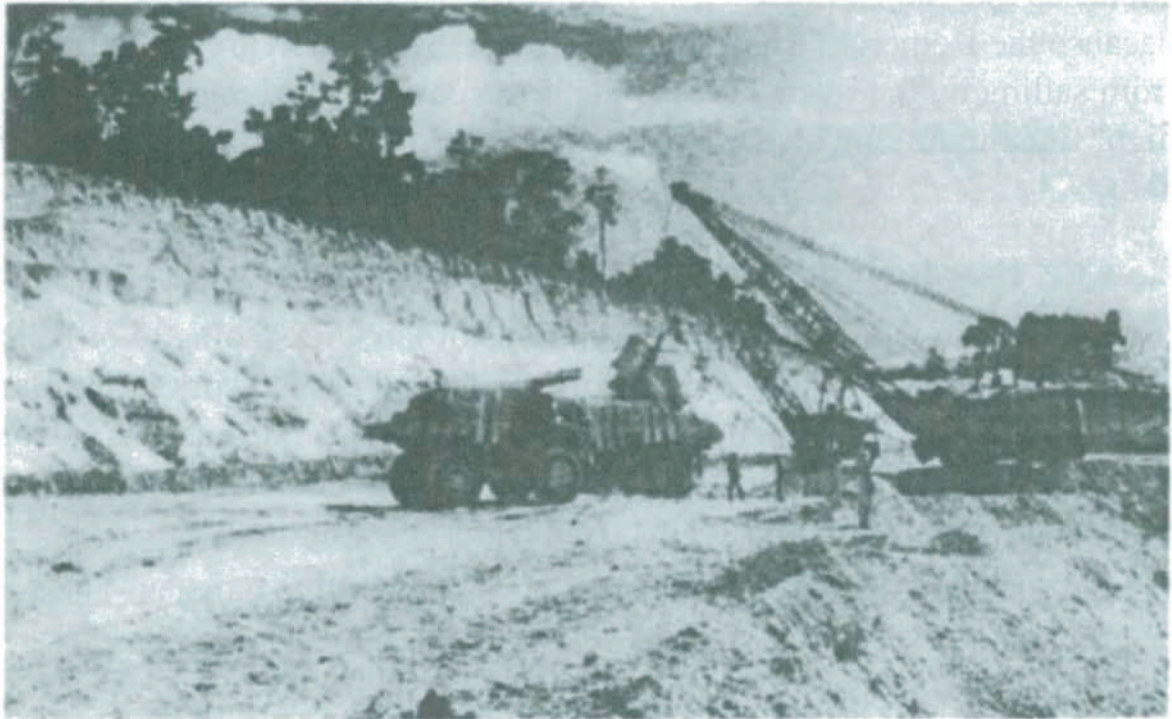
If you are in Linden you may see hundreds of labourers going to or from the bauxite factory and mines. These workers depend on the work in the Bauxite Industry for their livelihood. Many of the people at Linden and its surrounding settlements, work in this industry. Our country, Guyana, also depends on the *foreign exchange* or *money* it gets from exporting bauxite ore.

Below is a chart showing the benefits of this industry to Guyana. These benefits are:

- jobs for
 - engineers
 - drivers
 - machinists
- homes for workers
- schools
- hospitals
- sports club
- playground
- foreign exchange

What other benefits can we get from the bauxite industry? Do you think other industries provide the same benefits? What other important activities are done in this region?

This picture below shows bauxite mining at Bermine. Note the big machines and the deep excavation.



For you to do

1. Compare the Hilly Sand and Clay Region with the Low Coastal Plain.
Do it like this.

Hilly Sand and Clay Region	Low Coastal Plain
(a) The soil is sand	The soil is silt and mud.
(b)	
(c)	
(d)	
2. Look at a map of Guyana. Find the Hilly Sand and Clay Region. Locate some of the settlements. List them.
3. Give the reasons in your own words why this region is important to Guyana.

The Interior Savannahs

Earlier in the chapter, you read about the Low Coastal Plain, and the Hilly Sand and Clay Region. Let us take a look at the Interior Savannahs.

If you take a look at the map on page 46 you will see that the Interior Savannahs are found in the south-western part of Guyana next to the Brazilian border. This area consists of rolling grasslands with a few hilly areas. This region is divided into the North Savannahs and South Savannahs by the Kanuku Mountain Range.

Those of you who live at Lethem or at any other place in the Rupununi, will be familiar with the features of this area. For the majority of children who live in the other Regions, the Interior Savannahs can be also very interesting. You will find that

- The southern part of the region is mountainous while the northern part consists mainly of rolling savannahs. The Shiriri, Marudi and Bat Mountains are found in the South Savannahs.
- The vegetation is chiefly grass and scattered palm trees. Along the river bank can be found trees.
- There is a long dry season and a long wet season. Each of these lasts for about six months.

During the long dry season the earth becomes dry and parched. The heat of the sun sometimes starts fires with the dried grass, destroying much of the grasslands and causing cattle to be scattered.

Cattle Rearing in the Interior Savannahs

The main economic activity of the Interior Savannahs is cattle-rearing. This activity is popular because of the resources present in the region. There are extensive grasslands which stretch for many kilometers and which are suitable for grazing cattle.

Cattle rearing is therefore done on a very large scale. Thousands of cows are reared in the savannahs mainly for the production of beef which is sold to other parts of Guyana. Beef forms a very important part of the diet of the people

who live in this region. The beef is cut into strips and smoked until it is cured or preserved. This product is called “tasso” and can now be kept for long periods without spoiling.

Cowboys or Vacqueros in the Interior Savannahs

The men who look after the cattle are called cowboys or vacqueros. It is a wonderful experience to see the vacqueros rounding up the cattle and sometimes catching them with lassoes. They do this on horseback. This activity calls for much skill on the part of the vacqueros, since they have to anticipate the movement of the animal and the distance over which they have to throw the lasso. If you look at the picture you will see vacqueros in action.



Making Leather

Another important economic activity of the Interior Savannahs is the tanning of leather. When cattle are killed, not only is the meat useful but also the skin. It is used for making leather. The process by which the skins are made into leather is called tanning. The leather is used for making bags, belts, sandals, shoes, slippers and wallets.

Farming

Agriculture is also done in this region but on a much smaller scale than in the Low Coastal Plain. The crops which are grown are corn, sweet potatoes, cassava, beans, peanuts, fruits and tobacco. These are planted about the beginning of the wet season.

Climate in the Interior Savannahs

As was said before, this region has one long dry season and one long wet season. All the activities of this region are centred around these two seasons. The long dry season begins in October and ends in April. The period is so hot and dry that the earth becomes parched and the grass turns yellow and dies. Few trees survive in this weather. One such tree is the sandpaper tree which grows nearer the mountains where the rivers flow. The tree gets its water from the rivers. Because of the intense heat of the sun, grass fires are sometimes started. These fires not only destroy much of the grazing ground but scatter the cattle. This latter situation is called a stampede.

The people who live in this region have special work to do during the dry season. They round up their cattle, repair houses and fences, catch birds and fish. Fishing is possible because the water in the rivers and lakes is very low.

In the wet season, there is much heavy rainfall and sometimes violent thunder storms. This results in severe flooding and damage to animals, as well as property. This season lasts from May to September. All the rivers become full and overflow their banks. Movement from one place to another becomes difficult and more dangerous during this time.

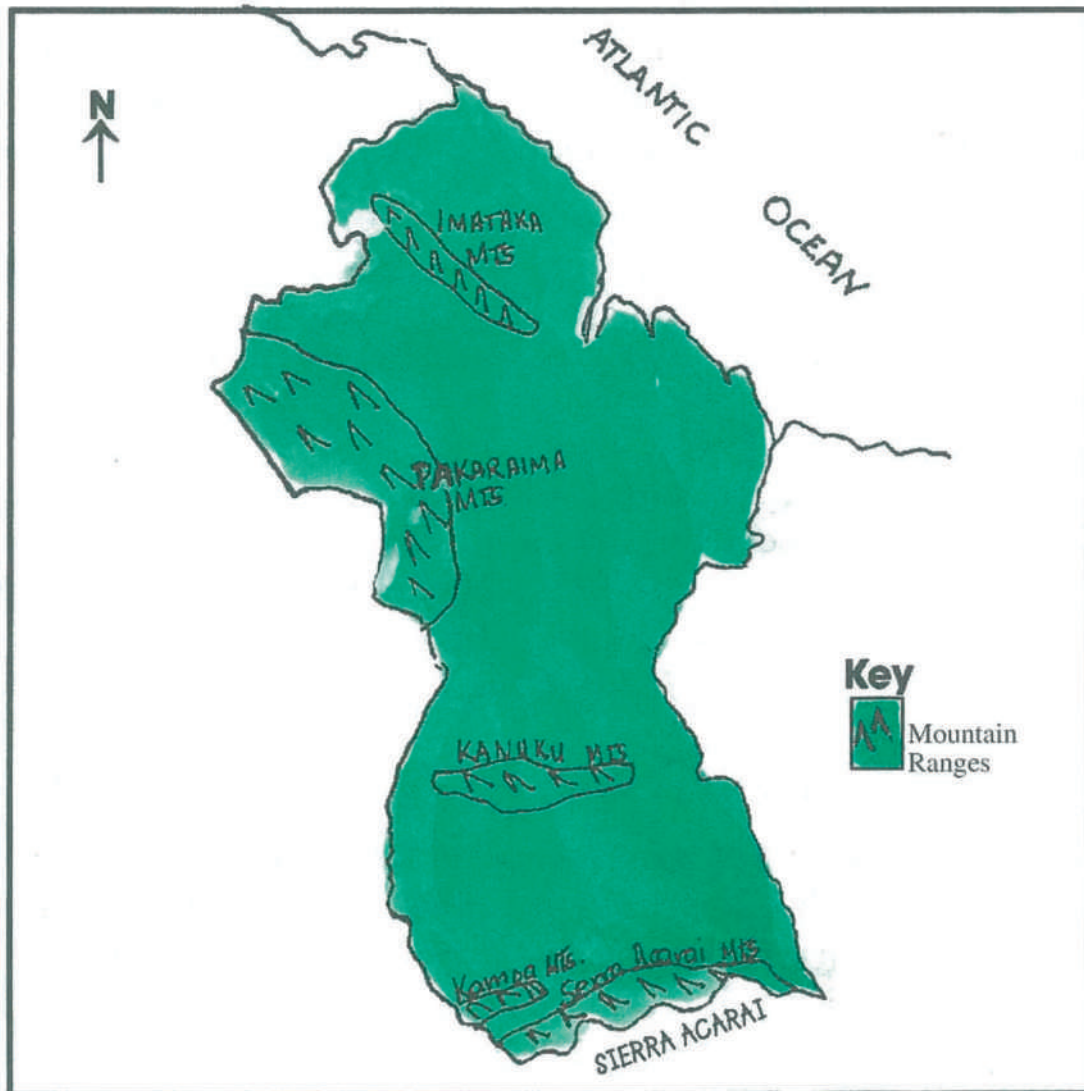
The Airstrip at Lethem

Lethem is one of the busiest and most important settlements in this region. You can fly from the Cheddi Jagan International Airport in the Hilly Sand and Clay Region to the airstrip at Lethem. From Lethem, you can fly to smaller airstrips in the region. This airstrip is bigger than most interior airstrips in Guyana and can facilitate the landing and taking off of bigger aeroplanes. The Lethem Airstrip can therefore be seen as a resource in the region, since it allows for

the fastest means of communication and transportation between the coast and the Interior Savannahs. The airstrip links the Rupununi Savannahs with Georgetown, our city. In addition to this, it also makes air travel between Guyana and Brazil possible.

The Forested Highland Region

Our final Natural Region is the Forested Highland Region. If you look at the map on page 46 you will see it is the largest region. You will see also that it spans almost the entire country from north to south. Forest-covered mountains and highland are the main features of this region. The map below will show you some mountain ranges of this region.

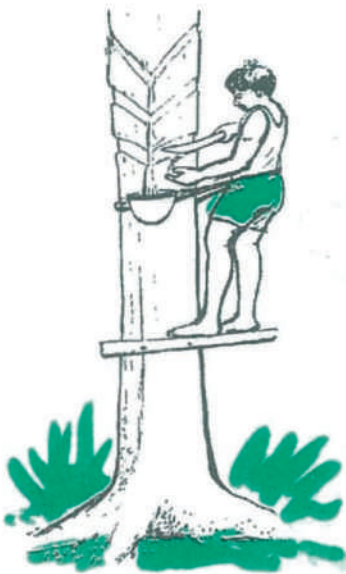


Let your teacher help you to pronounce the names of these mountain ranges. These are the

- Pakaraima Mountain Range
- Kanuku Mountain Range
- Kamoia Mountain Range
- Sierra Acarai Mountain Range
- Imataka Mountain Range

Let us ask ourselves a few questions. Read the statements below each question. What work can people do in a natural region like this?

Before we answer this question, we should know that this natural region is sparsely inhabited. The villages are small and scattered. Few Amerindians live in this region. These Amerindians hunt, fish and farm. They collect nuts; bleed balata from trees to make ornaments and work with businesses in the area. In the pictures on this page, you can see how balata-bleeding is done and some ornaments which are made from balata.



Mining is also done in this area. This region has two of Guyana's important minerals - gold and diamond. A small number of miners called pork-knockers can be found here now. They search the river beds and banks for the gold and diamond that have been washed down from the mountains. They name this process the hand method. One of the tools they use is a batell. At present, mining is mainly being done by large firms using equipment - bulldozer and furnace to smelt the gold. Can you name a large firm that mines gold in Guyana? Find out about Omai Gold Mines Ltd.

Hunting is done in this region for two purposes. One purpose is to provide meat for cooking. The other purpose is to trap birds and fishes for the wild-life trade. Many of our parrots, alligators, monkeys and creek fishes and other animals are caught for the wild-life trade. Yes, many of these animals are sold overseas. Many people make their living by supplying the traders in Georgetown with some of the animals' skins for export, for example:- the skins of the caiman and camoudi, I am sure you have seen these skins for sale in the craft shops and in our market places.

Many people who are seen in this natural region do not belong there. These people are tourists. They visit there to view our beautiful waterfalls, birds and animals. They take away samples of plants and may even climb our mountains.

Many tourists visit the Kaieteur Falls and its park. You can look here at one of the most beautiful waterfalls in the world.

How do people move around in this Natural Region?



A quick method of travelling from this region to Georgetown is by aeroplane. There are many airstrips in this region. Aeroplanes fly persons from one place to another.

The importance of air travel is that it:

- provides quick and safe transport for miners.
- brings food stuff to the camps quickly.
- is used by Government officers to conduct urgent business.
- enables the transport of sick and badly wounded people quickly to hospital.
- transports soldiers to their interior camps.

There are also roads and trails. These are used by the miners and loggers to travel from Linden to Bartica from where they continue their journey to the gold and diamond mining areas.

Wherever the rivers are free of rapids, rock and under-water trees, boats are used. The Amerindians use their boats for hunting and fishing purposes and to move from one place to another. The creeks and rivers are also used by miners when moving from place to place.

Why is this region sparsely populated?

This area is very under-developed. Thick forest, high land, many rivers and waterfalls make settlement a problem. Besides that, some areas are affected by the anopheles mosquito. This type of mosquito spreads malaria which can cause serious illness and death.

You have read about the Highland Region. Is this region important to Guyana and Guyanese? The answer is yes. Here is a list of some of the benefits which can be derived from this region.

- The region is covered with thick forest. The forest grows thickly because of the heat and heavy rainfall. The forest provides us with lumber, nuts, balata and exotic plants. Besides that, we hunt the animals that make the forest their home.
- Highlands always tend to get more rain. Many of our rivers start in these mountains and flow toward the ocean.
- Gold and diamond are washed down from the mountains by their many streams.
- Its beautiful scenery may encourage many tourists.

- Waterfalls on the rivers may provide a possible source of electricity to light up our homes and to provide power for factories. This power from water is called hydro-electricity.

For you to do

1. List one difference between the Forested Highland Region and the Interior Savannahs.
2. If you were living in a village in this region, how would you do these things:-
 - (a) Provide yourself with food
 - (b) Earn money
 - (c) Travel from there to Georgetown
 - (d) Advise a pen-pal in Georgetown how to live in this region.
3. Draw a map of Guyana to show our natural regions. Use a key.

Points to Remember

- Guyana has four Natural Regions - The Coastal Plain, The Hilly Sand and Clay Region, The Interior Savannahs and the Forested Highland Region.
- The work carried on in the Natural Regions depends greatly on the physical features of the Regions.
- The bauxite, gold and diamond industries help Guyana to earn much foreign currency through the sale of these goods.
- Tourists are attracted to view the beautiful Kaieteur Falls and the birds and plants of Guyana.
- The airstrips of Guyana help tourists and others to travel easily and quickly from one place to another, especially in the interior.

6 A Glimpse of our History

Guyana as a colony

In the picture there are eight youths. Randy is their leader. The elderly man sitting with them is Mr. Parris who was a village chairman for Lodge, Georgetown, for over ten years.

These youths were always interested in knowing things about Guyana in the past. They decided to ask Mr. Parris. He promised to help them. He invited them to chat with him under a big grape tree at the back of his yard. They accepted the invitation, and were there with Mr. Parris at five o'clock in the afternoon. Mr. Parris took a collection of booklets, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, pictures, coins and other materials that he thought were necessary.



Here is the conversation that took place.

Mr. Parris: Let us look at Guyana as a colony.

Randy: What is a colony?

Mr. Parris: A colony is a country that is governed or ruled by a parent country.

Randy: Was Guyana a colony?

Mr. Parris: Yes! Guyana was a colony which was known as British Guiana.

Randy: Why British Guiana?

Mr. Parris: During the years before May 1966 it was British Guiana because it was governed by Great Britain, and ruled by a representative of the King or Queen. It was a member of the British Empire.

Randy: Who represented the King or Queen and where did he or she live?

Mr. Parris: A Governor represented the King or Queen of England. The Governor lived in Government House which is now known as State House.

At this point Mr. Parris displayed to the boys pictures of the National Symbols that were used at that time - The flag and the Coat-of-Arms.

Randy: Please tell us about these pictures.

Mr. Parris: Let me start with the flag. The flag is called the Union Jack, and its colours are red, white and blue. The Coat-of-Arms had a motto that was written in Latin, 'Damus Petimusque Vicissim' which means 'We give and we take in return'.

Randy: What about the Anthem, can you remember the words?

Mr. Parris: I can remember the words of the first verse of the Anthem. It goes like this. God save our gracious King/ Queen.
Long live our noble King/Queen. .
God save our King/Queen.
Send him/her victorious.
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us
God save our King/Queen.

Randy: What about the currency used then? Did we use the same money as Great Britain?

Mr. Parris: In Great Britain they used pounds, shillings and pence. But in British Guiana we used shillings and pence. Instead of pound notes, we used dollar notes.

Randy: How long did British Guiana remain a colony under the British Empire?

Mr. Parris: Guyana remained a colony for 152 years. Our next topic will show how British Guiana moved from this stage.

The struggle for Independence

Randy: Mr. Parris, were the people in British Guiana able to form their own laws? And what about the wages they received? Were they paid salaries like the people in Britain?

Mr. Parris: There were poor labour laws. The eight hour per day labour law was not in force, and they were paid small wages. The standard of living was very low. So political groups were formed during the period 1946-1966.

Randy: Why were these groups formed? Were they the first political parties in British Guiana? What parties were they?

Mr. Parris: These were

1. The P.A.C. - The Political Affairs Committee was formed in 1946 and was led by Mr. Joycelyn Hubbard, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Mrs. Janet Jagan and Mr. Ashton Chase.
2. The B.G.L.P. - The British Guiana Labour Party which was formed by Dr. Jung Bahadur Singh.
3. The W.P.E.O. - The Women's Political Economic Organisation. This was a party of women leaders formed in 1946. They were Mesdames Janet Jagan, Jane Phillips-Gay, Winifred Gaskin and Frances Stafford.

Randy: Can you explain the real purpose of this party?

Mr. Parris: The women in this party assisted other women. They educated them, helped them to improve their skills and encouraged them to take part in matters of the state.

Randy: So the women also joined in the struggle. Were women allowed to contest the 1953 General Elections? What happened after the 1961 Elections?

Mr. Parris: The P.P.P. won the Elections on April 27, 1953. They remained in office for 133 days. Their rule came to an abrupt end after the British dismissed the P.P.P. Government. The British also sent the first batch of foreign soldiers to British Guiana. These soldiers were the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. They came to maintain law and order. The British were told that people in British Guiana had

become disorderly, and were rioting and looting. An interim Government was set up by the British Government. The PPP won the elections in 1957 as well as 1961. Elections were again held in 1964 under the System of Proportional Representation. The results of these elections brought Mr. Burnham and Mr. D'Aguiar together to form the ruling Government and Dr. Jagan as leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly.

The formation of other Political parties

Mr. Parris was keen in giving the eight boys first hand information. He brought a stack of old papers that he kept in his library. These papers contained information of early political parties.

Mr. Parris: I was an active member of one of these parties. Each member tried his/her best to be the most popular person. It was exciting attending their meetings and listening to the fiery speeches of their leaders.

Randy: Tell us more about these parties.

Mr. Parris: After the suspension of the Constitution of 1953, British Guiana was ruled by an Interim Government during the years 1954 to 1957. At that time, Guyanese were interested in joining the struggles for independence so they formed other political groups. They were anxious to become members of the Legislative Assembly so that their voices could be heard as they made useful contributions towards the good of their country in Parliament. Some political parties that were formed were

Parties	Leaders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The original or first P.P.P. (People's Progressive Party) under Dr. Cheddi Jagan was divided. One party was led by Dr. Cheddi Jagan, and the other party was led by Mr. Forbes Burnham. 	<p>Dr. Cheddi Jagan</p> <p>Mr. Forbes Burnham</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The U.D.P. (United Democratic Party) 	<p>Mr. John Carter</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The N.L.F. (National Labour Front) 	<p>Mr. Lionel Luckhoo</p>

Randy continued to ask Mr. Parris questions, as he was the leader of the group.

Randy: Were there two parties called P.P.P.?

Mr. Parris: Yes, but after the National Elections in 1957, the P.P.P. under Mr. Forbes Burnham changed its name. His party became known as the P.N.C. - People's National Congress. As time went on other parties were formed.

Party	Leader
• The G.I.M. (Guyana Independence Movement).	Mr. Jai Narine Singh
The U.F.(United Force)	Mr. Peter D'Aguiar

The UF party was formed in 1960. The leader of this party was determined to represent the views of the Portuguese, Amerindians, the coloured middle class and the Catholics. These people were considered the Minority group.

Randy: Why were they called "Minority"?

Mr. Parris: They were called the Minority group because they represented a small group of people. The United Force Party thought it fit, to represent them in Parliament. So this led to the General Elections of 1961. After this election, more political parties were formed. Two of these were:

Party	Leader
• W.P.A. (Working People's Alliance)	Mr. Eusi Kwayana
• P.D.M. (People's Democratic Movement)	Mr. Llewelyn John

The United Force party which was led by Mr. Peter D'Aguiar retained its name. Mr, Fielden Singh became the new leader of the party.

Today, The United Force Party is called the TUF. The leader is Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

For you to do

1. Read and discuss the questions and responses in the conversation.
2. Read this poem and answer the question which follows.

Cheddi and Burnham were a team.
To free Guiana from the British was their dream.
The struggle was successful.
But the British were unmindful.

Question: Why did Cheddi and Burnham struggle to free the country from the British?

3. Answer these questions.
 - (i) Who was sent to British Guiana as a representative of the queen?
 - (ii) Name the small groups of political parties and say why these were necessary.
 - (iii) What took place in 1953? Write a short paragraph.

The story of Independence

Mr. Parris the elderly villager and the eight youths continued to meet every afternoon, under the grape tree. They talked about things that took place in Guyana before and after Independence. Mr. Parris displayed the slogans below.

**From a Colony ruled by
Britain to a Nation**

**Guyanese choose their
own Government**

**Independence gives
Guyanese
the right to govern**

Randy: What is Independence?

Mr. Parris: Independence means taking care of yourself: managing and directing your own affairs. This is what we wanted for our country.

Randy: How did Guyana become independent?

Mr. Parris: The Guyana Independence Act 1966 which, was passed by the British Parliament, enabled the country to obtain its Independence.

There was some disagreement however between the P.P.P. Government under Dr. Cheddi Jagan and the opposition parties. The P.P.P. under Dr. Cheddi Jagan wanted the voting age to be 18 years and the system of voting to be 'First past the Post'. This meant that the party which received the most votes in each constituency would take up the seat in the Legislative Assembly,

The P.N.C. wanted the voting age to be 21 years and the system of voting to be Proportional Representation. Ask your teacher to explain the meaning of Proportional Representation.

Randy: What happened next?

Mr. Parris: In October 1963, the P.P.P. leader along with the two leaders of the Opposition, Forbes Burnham and Peter D'Aguiar went to London for the granting of Independence to Guyana, by the Queen.

Randy: What was the result of their visit?

Mr. Parris: The voting age and the system to be used for elections were decided by Mr. Duncan Sandys who was in charge of the colonies under the British rule. He agreed to the system of Proportional Representation and to 21 years as the voting age. He also said that there should be elections before Independence.

Randy: I guess everyone felt happy.

Mr. Parris: Yes, when the leaders returned, they were greeted with loud cheers. However, there was a period of unrest and sadness, during 1962-1964.

Randy: What took place?

Mr. Parris: There were long marches of protest for an increase in salary and wages. People were dissatisfied with the Government and they rioted. The British troops were sent in to restore order.

Randy: What did the Government do?

Mr. Parris: They could not do anything. The Government was put out of office.

Randy: After all of this happened how did we get Independence?

Mr. Parris: The Guyana Independence Act 1966, of the British Parliament did not give the United Kingdom any power to govern Guyana, so we got our Independence. On May 26th, 1966 the British flag which was the Union Jack was lowered. The Golden Arrowhead the flag of Guyana rose high in its place, and Guyana became a free nation. This is what the Union Jack and the Golden Arrowhead look like.



The Union Jack



The Golden Arrowhead

Randy: Who received the instruments of Independence and by whom were these given?

Mr. Parris: The instruments of Independence were handed over to the Prime Minister of Guyana by the Duke of Kent, the cousin of the Queen of England. He represented the Queen. The Duchess of Kent, his wife was also present at the handing-over ceremony in the National Assembly in Parliament Buildings.

After British Guiana became independent, it was renamed Guyana. It was free to make its own laws. The Prime Minister appointed a Governor General to assist him in running the country.

Randy: Who was the Prime Minister?

Mr. Parris: Mr Forbes Burnham.

Randy: What - was the name of the Governor General?

Mr. Parris: Sir Richard Luyt carried out very briefly the duties of Governor General. The Prime Minister then appointed a Guyanese, Sir David Rose as the Governor General of Guyana.

Symbols of Nationhood

Mr. Parris: Let us look at what makes us a Nation. Our Flag, Our Anthem, Our Pledge and Our Coat-of-Arms. These are highly recognised symbols of nationhood.

Randy: Do you know anything about them?

Mr. Parris: Yes, I do.

The official heraldic description of our Flag, the Golden Arrowhead is a mass of green issuing from the right, a pile bordered with white, the golden arrow, a pile of red, bordered with black upon the same base.

The colours of the flag have special meanings - The green background stands for the agriculture and forest of Guyana. The white represents the waters and rivers of Guyana. The gold stands for Guyana's mineral wealth. The black border means endurance. The red triangle stands for the zeal and the dynamic task of nation building which lies before our young and independent country. The arrow shape tells of the country's forward thrust into the future. Our flag was described as one of the most significant departures in national flag design, in modern times. The design was changed from the usual patterns of squares and rectangles as on flags of ancient times.

The words of the National Anthem were written by an Anglican Priest, Rev. A. L. Luker. The music was written by Mr. R. C. G. Potter, a Guyanese educator, after whom the Cyril Potter College of Education was named.

The Coat-of-Arms was selected on the recommendation of the National History and Arts Council and approved by the House of Assembly on Friday 25th February, 1966. On the Coat-of-Arms, the Amerindian head-dress stands for the Amerindians as the indigenous people of the country. The two diamonds at the side of the head-dress signify the country's mining industry. The helmet is the monarchical insignia. The two jaguars holding a pick-axe, a sugar-cane and a stalk of rice stand for labour and the two main agricultural industries of the country - sugar and rice. The shield which is decorated with our national flower, the Victoria Regia Lily, protects the Nation. The three blue wavy lines represent the many rivers of Guyana. The Canje Pheasant at the bottom of the shield represents a rare bird found chiefly in this part of the world.



Exercising Nationhood

Randy: I think revenue stamps and money are some other symbols to show that Guyana is a nation.
 These are pictures of stamps and money I collected.



Mr. Parris: I am glad you collected these things. Guyana designs its own stamps. These are sent outside of Guyana to be printed. The pattern of money is selected and sent to a Mint to be printed. These are later returned to the Central Bank which is the bank of issue. It is a banker for the other banks in the country. This bank is managed by a Governor, a Deputy Governor and two or more directors. This Central Bank is known as the Bank of Guyana and was established on the 16th October, 1965.

For you to do

1. Complete the following
 - (a) The great leaders that brought Independence to Guyana are _____, _____ and _____.
 - (b) British Guiana was renamed _____.
 - (c) The leader that received the instruments of Independence was _____.
2. Draw the National Flag and write all you know about it.
3. Name four buildings on which the National Flag is flown.
4. Who ruled Guyana when it was a colony?

National Awards and Honours

Randy: Mr. Parris, please tell us what you know about National Awards. My neighbour Mr. Clarke is a fisherman and he will receive a National Award.

Mr. Parris: Guyana became a Republic on the 23rd February, 1970. During the Republic celebrations the names of persons who will receive National awards are read out. Before Independence, the King or Queen of Britain awarded honours to persons of the British Empire who performed distinguished services to their colony or country. Few Guyanese received this award.

Randy: Where do they receive these awards?

Mr. Parris: Every year, during the Independence celebrations, distinguished Guyanese receive the awards for rendering invaluable services to their community and country. They receive these awards at a ceremony at the National Cultural Centre, from the Executive President of Guyana.

Randy: What is an Executive President?

Mr. Parris: He is the Head of State who has full power to govern Guyana.

Randy: I see among your collections, pictures of National Awards and Honours. May we look at them?

Mr. Parris then showed them these pictures.



Military Service Medal



Disciplined Service Medal

(Fire)



Disciplined Service Medal

(Police)

He told them that a new system of National Awards was recommended by a committee of twenty-five people. The people recommended for National awards were people with dedication and consistent service of the highest quality. Persons involved in Education, Culture, Sports, Trade Union, Police, The Army, Business, Agriculture Science, Medicine, Social Work were among those who received awards.

Mr. Parris: Here is a list of some National awards.

- O.E. Order of Excellence
- O.R. Order of Roraima
- C.C.H. Cacique Crown of Honour
- A.A. The Golden Arrow of Achievement
- M. S. Medal of Service
- D.S.S. Distinguished Service Star
- M.S.S. Military Service Star

The following are also special Awards for services given.

- The Golden Arrow of Courage
- The President's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

The Order of Excellence

This is the highest award of the country. Guyanese citizens of high esteem such as the former Executive President, Her Excellency, Mrs. Janet Jagan received this award. It is also given to persons who have the same qualities and who live out of Guyana. A person who has received this honour will use "O.E." at the end of his or her surname.

The Order of Roraima

The Order of Roraima comes next. It may be awarded to any citizen of Guyana who has rendered outstanding service to Guyana.

The Cacique Crown of Honour

This order may be awarded to a citizen of Guyana who has given services of a very high quality, working for very long hours in the public service, Local Government Service, social and voluntary services, trade unions and industry.

The Arrow of Achievement

This order may be awarded to a citizen who has given long and dedicated service of a consistently high standard in a responsible office.

The Medal of Service

This order may be given for service of a special quality in community work and acts of bravery.

The Military Service Star

This order is the highest award of the state for the Military Service and is awarded to officers of the G.D.F.

For you to do

1. Name the National Awards.
2. Say who are the people that receive these awards.
3. Draw one award and write all you can remember about it.
4. Say what these mean.

O.E.; O.R.; M.S.; A.A.; C.C.H.; M.S.S.; D.S.S.

5. Say what category of workers receive these

(a) D.S.S.

(b) M.S.S.

Symbols of Historical Events

Mr. Parris continues his chat with the eight young men. He told the youths that every country has landmarks or monuments to remind its people of what took place long ago.

Landmarks and Monuments

Guyana's landmarks and monuments are statues, forts, monoliths, tombs or buildings set up in memory of a person or an event. These National landmarks and monuments are preserved by the Government, the City and Town Council, or Village Council, or interested non-governmental organisations.

Landmarks and monuments can be found in many parts of Guyana. Here are some pictures.



The Lighthouse



The Non-Aligned Monument

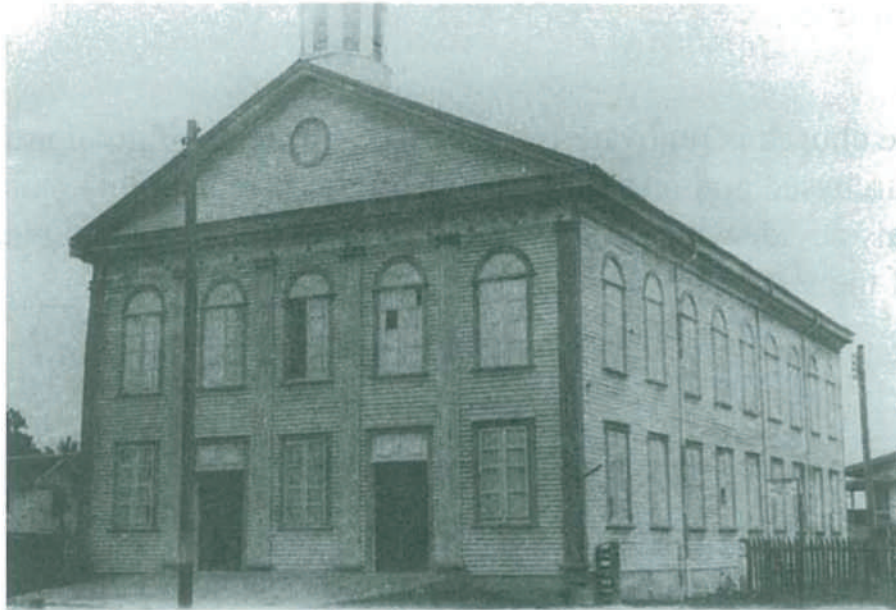


The 1763 Monument

Mr. Parris also mentioned these.

- (a) The Liberation Monument in the compound of the Umana Yana, Georgetown.
- (b) The Water Wheel - Linden.
- (c) Chateau Margot Chimney - Chateau Margot, East Coast Demerara.
- (d) Damon's Statue - Essequibo Coast.

There are also many other landmarks and monuments in Guyana. You can find out their names and location from your parents or teachers and make a longer list.



This is the picture of the Mission Chapel Congregational Church in New Amsterdam, Berbice. It is one of Guyana's National Monuments. The early Congregational Missionaries in Berbice led by Reverend John Wray, first held church services with the slaves under a tamarind tree. At that time, they did not have a building for their services. In the year 1819, the first Mission Chapel Congregational Church opened near to this tamarind tree. It was a small church then, but was enlarged as its membership grew. The church was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt in 1825. In 1841, the corner-stone of the present Mission Chapel was laid during the ministry of Reverend Davies. This building can be seen in the picture above. The church was managed by a congregational body. This congregational body was the first to open a school for the people of British Guiana. It was also the first that started to train Guyanese to become ministers of Religion.

It was stated before, that the church was established by missionaries. However, the Rev. Pat Matthews became the first Guyanese-born minister, appointed to the church. Later, after his death, his wife became the first female minister of the church.

The early missionaries who established the church were concerned with the plight of the slaves and the conditions under which they lived and worked. Their work did not only include teaching them religion, but they also sought to give them basic skills of reading, writing and helping them in other ways to better their lives.

Today, the church is renovated. It has maintained its original architecture. The church purchased and installed a majestic pipe organ which exists to this day. There is also evidence of historical relics such as murals and plaques depicting the life of the slaves.



In this picture above you can see one of Guyana's famous landmarks. This country church is about 120 to 160 years old. It is situated in Karia Karia on the left bank of the Essequibo River, a settlement about 20 km south of the Supenaam River. This area is a remote part of Guyana where Amerindians live alongside other settlers, many of whom came years ago from the coastland.

This church belongs to the Karia Karia Congregational Mission and has a box-like architecture with a 'V' roof. It stands on short pillars. This simple house of worship was constructed by the early settlers.

On your visit to Georgetown, you may undoubtedly see the imposing structure of St. George's Cathedral. Just west of the St. George's Cathedral, is a small garden which has historical significance and is listed as one of our national landmarks. This area was first used as a drilling square by the company of the British Militia who was responsible for the internal and external security of our country in the colonial days.

This piece of land was handed over to the Mayor and Town Council in 1907. In 1908, it was enclosed by an iron rail and planted as a garden - The Company Path Garden.

Erected in the garden is a monument to the four founder leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement - President Tito of Yugoslavia, President Nkrumah of Ghana, Prime Minister Nehru of India and President Naseer of Egypt. In the picture on page 78 the busts of these four leaders can be viewed. The Non-Aligned Movement is a grouping of developing Third World countries which decided that they would not be politically influenced by the Capitalist nor the Socialist world powers. They would not be politically associated or aligned with the United States of America or Russia. They decided to be non-aligned to any of these two powers.

For you to do

1. Answer these questions:
 - (a) What is a National Monument?
 - (b) State the names of three monuments and say where they are found.
 - (c) Write all you can remember about a monument of your choice.
2. Go on an educational tour to a site selected by you and your teacher. Collect pictures of landmarks and monuments for your Social Studies corner.
3. Make a model of a monument of your choice.

Co-operation among early Guyanese

In this section of the chapter, we shall look at some ways in which the early Guyanese people practised co-operation.

The Box

The box was a form of co-operation practised by the slaves. This was an informal way of saving money. The persons who joined the box were the members. The money saved or thrown was known as the box-hand. The members all pooled their money together. This money was given to one member at the end of the day, week, fortnight or month. In this way the slaves were able to buy pieces of household equipment. This kind of co-operation is practised among Guyanese until today.

Lend a hand: Give a hand: Give a day

Pooling money together was not the only way in which early Guyanese practised co-operation. They also pooled their labour whenever they had large jobs to do, especially when preparing land for planting or when harvesting their crops or building their homes. If one member of the community had such a job to do, he called on the others to give him a day's work or to lend a hand. In this way, many persons provided the labour when a job was done. This labour was repaid when he or she went to work for one day on the farms of others.

Co-operatives in Guyana

A co-operative is a business formed by a group of persons. Its aim is to provide cheap goods and services for a community.

The co-operative movement in Guyana was formed to bring people together in groups to plan, work and be of service to each other and the nation. The first co-operative in Guyana started after slavery was abolished in 1838. In November 1839, 83 persons including two women bought a plantation from the original owners, for the sum of 30,000 guilders (\$10,284.63). The name of the plantation was Northbrook, which is now known as Victoria village. This village can be found on the East Coast of Demerara. The freed slaves continued to pool their money to buy other plantations.

In the picture you can see how the freed slaves took their money to buy Plantation Northbrook.



Other co-operative societies were formed after this one, and they were all registered.

The types of co-operative societies that formed today are the Consumer Co-operatives, Fishing Co-operatives, Housing Co-operatives, Agricultural Co-operatives and Thrift Co-operatives.

Banks

The Guyana National Co-operative Bank was established on 24th February, 1970. Two other banks were also established. They were the Guyana Co-operative Mortgage Finance Bank, and the Guyana Agricultural Co-operative Development Bank. These banks were set up, in order that these co-operatives could borrow enough money to operate effectively.

Training

There are also places of training to train persons to manage these co-operatives. These are the Kuru-Kuru Co-operative College which was established in July, 1973 and the Co-operative Training Institute. The Kuru-Kuru Co-operative College is found on the Soesdyke-Linden Highway. Students are able to live there while they receive their training.

The School Co-op

The School Co-op society is a Thrift Society. Members of this society are children from Grade 2 to Grade 6, The members elect the officers who manage the co-operative. They are the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. These are also guided by a teacher who is the School's Co-operative Supervisor.

The Chairman organises meetings, the Secretary records pupil's savings and the minutes of meetings, and the Treasurer is responsible for banking the money. The money was banked at the Guyana National Co-operative Bank. The Bank is now owned and controlled by the National Bank of Industry and Commerce. There are two types of savings: Ordinary Savings and Special Savings. The Ordinary Savings are withdrawn when you leave the school, or when you are transferred to another school. The Special Savings are withdrawn if you need the money for a special purpose.

For you to do

- 1 Make a scrap book of pictures depicting co-operative work.
2. List six co-operative enterprises you know about.
3. Write a short paragraph to tell how you can benefit from co-operatives.
4. Name the types of savings in a school co-operative.
5. Which one of these savings is more beneficial to you?
6. List the duties of the chairman/chairperson, the secretary and the supervisor of a co-operative thrift society.

Points to Remember

- Guyana was once a colony known as British Guiana.
- Political parties were formed to help Guyana gain its Independence status.
- Guyana received symbols of Nationhood on becoming a Nation.
- National Awards are given to persons who give invaluable service to the country or the area in which they live.
- The Government preserves and maintains National landmarks and monuments.
- The landmarks and monuments help us to write and/or tell about our history.
- Co-operation is a way of life of all Guyanese.
- Co-operation was practised by the slaves as well as other groups.
- Many local forms of co-operation are still being practised in Guyana.

7 Our Health and Safety

Keeping our Environment Healthy

All of man's activities whether in the home, factory or on the farm, produce some amount of waste. When mother prepares a meal, she gathers waste from vegetables, condiments and processed foods. When seamstresses and tailors sew, there are always left-over pieces of cloth and ends of thread. The farmer after cleaning and preparing his garden plot, gathers tree trimmings. Even the smoke which comes from the baker-shop's chimney is waste.



Look at the pictures above and tell the different kinds of waste. Can you name some house-hold waste? What do your family members do with their waste? If you live in the city, town or village you may have observed how people get rid of their waste. This waste is called refuse.

Refuse is what is rejected or left as worthless or not wanted.

You may have noticed too, that waste can be in a solid, liquid or gaseous form. If you visit an aerated factory you will notice that a lot of water is used in the manufacturing of aerated drinks. The factory may empty its waste water into drains which lead to trenches, canals and rivers.

You may have assisted your father to clean the poultry pen. You had to heap up the dung which is solid waste. The water you used to wash the floor of the pen became liquid waste.

Wherever you live, you may have noticed smoke coming from chimneys.

In most villages and scattered rural communities, the house-hold may be responsible for the disposal of their own refuse. Quite often it is burnt or buried.

In the city, town and some villages, the Town or Village Council provides the service of refuse disposal. In communities such as these, the refuse is collected and disposed of, by means of incinerating or land fills.

Using the Incinerator

Incinerators are mostly found in the city and other towns. They could be large or small. Refuse from the house-hold, factories, hospitals, abattoirs, markets and other places around the town are taken to the incinerator where they are burnt regularly. The refuse from the hospitals, abattoirs and markets are taken to the incinerators in special vehicles. Public Health Laws require that refuse from institutions such as health centres, hospitals, and abattoirs must be burnt in an incinerator. This is necessary to prevent the spread of infectious and harmful diseases.

Land Fills

Using land fills for refuse disposal serves a double purpose -

- (i) It could be a means of reclaiming low-lying surfaces.
- (ii) It is a way of getting rid of refuse.

In low-lying areas the surface is graded to a certain depth. The refuse is dumped and compressed. When there is enough refuse the dump is covered. From time to time, the site is treated with chemicals. When completed, this area is planted with grass.

If properly prepared, this method of refuse disposal is free from dust, flies and other nuisances. Perhaps, this method was used in your community. The playfield you and your class-mates use at school may have been once a land fill.



A farmer washing his spray-can in a canal.

Pollution

Air pollution can occur when man-made or natural waste poisons the air. Smoke belching from the chimneys of factories, electric power plants, or from motor vehicles, aeroplanes, boats or furnaces gets into the air and sometimes makes our breathing difficult. When this happens the air is polluted or impure. When people breathe polluted air, the impurities remain in their lungs. These impurities can cause or worsen such respiratory ailments as asthma and bronchitis.

Water is polluted when it is mixed with waste such as decomposing animals, factory and house-hold refuse. It therefore becomes impure and is no longer safe for drinking, cleansing and for industrial purposes.

When polluted water is used by people it can result in illness and even death through gastro-intestinal diseases.

Animals and plants which live in or near polluted water are harmful to man. People can suffer from illness if the plant and/or the animal is used as food.

The Department of Health has Acts and Laws. The Public Health Department of the city, towns and villages councils and other Health Agencies have by-laws. The Acts, laws and by-laws help to control pollution and maintain a healthy environment.

For you to do

1. Write a short story 'Keeping my community healthy'.
Here are some points you may include in your story.
 - Storing litter and house-hold refuse in bins.
 - Keeping drains and canals free from refuse.
 - Planting flowers to beautify surroundings.
 - Raking up dried leaves.
 - Trimming trees.
2. Make a poster to show a 'Clean and healthy community'.

Drugs and You

Last year while you were in Grade Four, the drug called medicine was discussed. The doctor played an important role. He was the only person who decided whether you should take medicine or not. You were also advised to read the label on medicine boxes and bottles carefully before you use the medicine.

Here is the bottle of medicine given to John, when his mother took him to the doctor. Read the label on the bottle. How should John use this medicine?

Drugs which are medicines come in different forms. They may be liquids, gases, creams, pills or capsules but they are always given with instructions on how to use them. Drugs may be injected, swallowed, inhaled or rubbed on the skin.



You also learnt that medicine may be used when you are sick to make you well again. Medicine kills the germs that make you sick.

How medicine helps to make your body well

When a pill, capsule or liquid medicine is swallowed, it mixes and dissolves with fluid in the stomach. It later enters the blood in your body. It is then circulated by blood throughout your body. It arrives at the place that is hurt or causing your sickness and helps your body fight the germs. It makes you well again.

Wrong use of drugs

Now, let us find out some drugs which people use for fun but which are harmful to their bodies. These drugs are known as 'dope'. Dope can be in the form of a pill, powder or an injection. Some people use dope because they believe it makes them feel 'good'.

The dope when taken, brings about changes in the body of the user. The body that was once strong and healthy undergoes changes which make it unwell. Find out about the harmful effects of "ganga" (marijuana) and "coke" (cocaine).

Some ways in which drugs affect our bodies.

Some of these changes may be:

- The heart beats faster.
- The user becomes confused because the brains work very fast. The user may also lose his memory for a short while.
- The user may lose his or her appetite.
- The user feels stronger and bigger. This happens when the blood circulates the drug to the muscles.
- The senses as well as the sense organs, such as the eyes becomes dull.

Why do some people use dope?

People use dope because:

- They think it makes them feel better.
- They want to do what their friends do.
- They want to find out what it is like.
- They want to look important to others.
- They think it will help them escape from their problems.
- They do not know how to say 'No' to their friends.
- They have to satisfy a crave or a longing.

Other harmful substances

There are some beverages and drinks which affect our bodies because they contain harmful substances. Tea and coffee are beverages which are used as food. They contain substances which may upset your digestion, affect your appetite and even disturb your sleep.

What is worse is that these beverages cause you to develop a crave for them. It means that although you know they can be harmful, you still go on using them. This is how people develop and form bad habits.

Alcoholic beverages are also not good for us. Two of our common alcoholic beverages are beer and rum. Can you name others? I am sure you would have seen a person who became drunk because of taking too much alcohol. Was that person able to walk properly or talk sensibly? Was that person aware of what he or she was doing? Did the person remember afterwards what was said? Did the alcohol do anything good for that person? It can therefore be said that alcohol affects the normal functioning of the body and can also make the body unwell if used too often.

Tobacco smoking is another bad habit which is dangerous to our bodies. There is a substance or drug in tobacco called nicotine which causes damage to the lungs. Many people continue to smoke tobacco although they know that it makes them suffer. This may be so because they have a craving for tobacco.

Fighting against Drugs

Here is a letter a health worker wrote to a school during a 'Drug Awareness Week'.

Date

Dear Boys and Girls,

Greetings! I would like to assist you in staying healthy. During this week, your teacher may have taught you about drugs. We know there are useful drugs which we call medicine and harmful drugs which we call dope.

We should never use dope nor should we encourage anyone to use it. If you know, that one of your brothers or sisters or even classmates is using any harmful drug, you must report this to your parents or your teacher immediately.

Remember: Say 'NO' to drugs whether they be dope, alcohol or cigarettes.

Your Community Health Officer
Nurse Inniss

For you to do

1. Make a list of rules about using medicine correctly.
2. Ask your teacher to tell you what dope is.
3. Draw a poster saying “Read labels carefully”.
4. Reply to the letter sent by the health worker to your school.

Points to remember

- Medicine should be used only on a doctor’s advice.
- You must follow instructions on how to use it.
- Drugs come in many different forms.
- Dope is a drug that harms you.
- Beverages such as coffee and alcohol contain substances which are harmful to the body.
- Tobacco smoking is dangerous to your health.

'Social Studies For Our Children' comprises six books with corresponding teachers' manual. It is part of the 'Easy Path Series' of education materials for the four core subject areas in the primary school.

Each book contains exercises and activities designed to reinforce important concepts, skills, attitudes and values and to help evaluate pupil's progress and teachers' competencies.

The emphases in the various levels are:

- Book 1 and Book 2 - The Home, School and Family
- Book 3 - The Community
- Book 4 - Guyana our Homeland
- Book 5 - The Caribbean Community
- Book 6 - Guyana in the World

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