

Our Caribbean Neighbours

What's a Neighbour?

Neighbours are persons who share common interests. These common interests may be shown through social behavior such as helpfulness, co-operation, loving, sharing and caring for each other. Neighbours can also be those who share common religious beliefs, political beliefs, similar physical location or nationality.

Your neighbour can be the person who sits next to you in class. It can also be someone in a school three miles away.

The following song is used by the **United Nations** to assert that people need each other – we cannot exist independently from others or interactions. The United Nations is an organization which allows representatives of the government of the entire world to meet together. They work together to prevent disease, poverty and environmental destruction. They work to improve conditions of health and education around the world. Did you know that Jamaica is part of this organization?

No man is an island,
No man stands alone,
Each man's joy is joy to me,
Each man's grief is my own.

We need one another,
So I will defend,
Each man as my brother,
Each man as my friend.

I saw the people gather,
I heard the music start,
The song that they were singing,
Is ringing in my heart.

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No man is an island,
Way out in the blue,
We all look to the one above,
For our strength to renew.

When I help my brother,
Then I know that I,
Plant the seed of friendship,
That will never die.

The Commonwealth Caribbean

Britain and the countries of the Caribbean have strong historical ties which were formed centuries ago. The **Commonwealth Caribbean** consists of 17 countries within the Caribbean. These countries were once part of the British Empire. Today, 12 of these seventeen countries are independent territories.

As members of the Commonwealth, we have a shared history and goals. Therefore, we come together to encourage unity and diversity. We do this in the following ways.

1. Celebration of Commonwealth Day on March 8 each year.
2. Literature competitions.
3. Multi-sports championships called the Commonwealth Games.

These games are held every four years, two years after the Olympic Games.

The Commonwealth Works to promote many kind of freedom, for example:

Freedom to express oneself

- This means that individuals have the right to say what they think and do what they believe in as long as they respect the rights of other people.
- Everyone has the right to live without fear or prejudice or the threat of persecution.

Freedom to develop

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- Sustainable economic development and freedom to trade allow individuals to earn a living and take care of their families.

Freedom to participate

- By participating in political processes and decision-making, individuals can shape the society in which they live and help its development.

Freedom to learn

- Being able to attend school gives young people the chance to develop the skills they need to lead fulfilling lives.

Freedom to Aspire

- Everyone can actively work towards their goals regardless of gender, race, colour, creed or political belief.

Freedom to choose

- People have the right to elect their leaders, vote for justice and say no to crime and corruption.

Can you think of others?

The National Symbols of Some Caribbean Countries

The national symbols of a country include:

- Its Coat of Arms
- Its National Flag
- Its National Bird
- Its National Tree
- Its National Flower

Each **symbol** represents something outstanding about each country. Each country has its own set of national symbols. Keep an eye out for any similarities or differences but you may observe among the symbols of different countries.

Trinidad & Tobago

The National Birds

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The National Birds which appear on the Coat of Arms of Trinidad and Tobago are the Scarlet Ibis and the Cocrico. The Scarlet Ibis is popularly called the “flamingo” and represents Trinidad while the Cocrico represents Tobago.

The National Flower

The National Flower is a wild forest flower called the Chaconia, also known as the “Pride of Trinidad and Tobago” and Wild Poinsettia. The Chaconia is an indigenous flower. Do you remember what the word indigenous means? This flower blooms on the anniversary of Trinidad and Tobago’s Independence. Do you remember in which month and year Trinidad gained independence? If you said August 31, 1962, then you are correct. To the Trinidadians, the Chaconia represents the “imperishability of life and a continuity of the nation.” Discuss with your teacher what you think this means

The National Anthem

Forged from the Love of Liberty,
In the fires of Hope and Prayer,
With boundless Faith in Our Destiny,
We solemnly declare,
Side by side we stand
Islands of the blue Caribbean Sea,
This is our Native Land,
We pledge our lives to Thee,
Here every creed and race find an equal place,
And may God – Bless our Nation,
Here every creed and race find an equal place,
And may God – bless our nation.

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St. Lucia

The National Flag

On the St. Lucian national flag, there are two triangles. These are in the colours black and yellow. The black triangle represents the volcanic peaks while the yellow triangle represents the golden beaches and sunshine. The colour blue which forms the background represents the sea.

The Coat of Arms

The coat of arms is representative of the island's cultural heritage, its native flora and fauna along with its culture and history. The different objects on the coat of arms represent the various peoples who are part of the nation's heritage – the Tudor Rose - England, Fleur de Lys - France, the African stool - Africa, the St. Lucian Parrot (*Amazona Versicolor*) - the National Bird and the Torch which represents a beacon of light to their path.

The National Bird

The national bird of St. Lucia is the St. Lucian parrot (*Jacquot Amazona Versicolor*). It is an endangered bird and it is found only on the island of St. Lucia where it lives in the central mountain rainforest.

The National Flower

The National Flower of St. Lucia is the Rose. St. Lucia's motto is: "The land, The People"

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Barbados



The National Anthem

In plenty and in time of need
When this fair land was young
Our brave forefathers sowed the seed
From which our pride has sprung
A pride that makes no wanton boast
Of which it has withstood
That binds our hearts from coast to coast
The pride of nationhood

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Chorus

*We loyal sons and daughters all
Do hereby make it known
These fields and hills beyond recall
Are now our very own
We write our names on history's page
With expectations great
Strict guardians of our heritage
Firm craftsman of Our Fate*

The Lord has been the people's guide
For past three hundred years.
With Him still on the people's side
We have no doubts or fears.
Upward and onward we shall go,
Inspired, exulting, free
And greater will our nation grow
In strength and unity.

The National Pledge

I pledge allegiance to my country Barbados and
to my flag,
To uphold and defend their honour,
And by living to do credit to my nation,
wherever I Go.