

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME**

**GRADE SEVEN (7)
WEEK SIX**

SOCIAL STUDIES

LESSON TWO (2)

Topic: A Glimpse of Our History.

Sub-Topic: Symbols of Nationhood (CONT'D)

OBJECTIVES:

Students will

- List the National Symbols in Guyana
- Explain the significance of the National Symbols
- Suggest ways to promote patriotism and respect for our Symbols

CONCEPT

National Symbols are important because they represent the history, culture, values and dreams of a nation. As such, they have to be treated with utmost respect. After independence, Guyana utilized a number of new National Symbols.

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▪ **THE NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS**



Our Coat of Arms is unique. The Amerindian headdress symbolizes the Amerindians as the first people in the country. The two diamonds represent the mining industry. The helmet is the monarchical insignia. One jaguar holding a pickaxe and the other holding a stock of rice and a stock of sugar cane, symbolize labor and our two (2) main agricultural industries. The jaguar is the national animal. The shield is decorated with the national flower, the Victoria Regia Lily. Three (3) wavy lines represent the waters of Guyana and at the bottom are found the national bird. On the placement banner can be found the words of our National Motto; **ONE PEOPLE, ONE NATION, ONE DESTINY.**

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▪ **THE NATIONAL FLOWER THE VICTORIA REGIA LILY**

The Victoria Regia lily is a beautiful perennial that is found particularly in tropical America. It grows in swamps. The largest flower can measure between 25 and 30 cm in diameter. When the flower opens it is white and has a sweet scent. The colour gradually changes to a deep pink when the flower is fully grown.



▪ **THE NATIONAL BIRD- THE CANJIE PHEASANT**

The Canjie Pheasant has a crest of long feathers on its head, which gives the bird a majestic look. There is a ring of pale blue skin around its crimson eyes and it has a short beak. The bird weighs less than 1kg and is about 65cm long from beak to tail. There are reddish brown feathers

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with green streaks on its back and a pale brown breast. The bottom of the neck and the wings are edged with cream.



▪ **THE NATIONAL ANIMAL**

The jaguar on the Coat of Arms is regarded as the national animal of Guyana. It is a member of the cat family with its orange tan pelt and black spots. It is the second largest of all South American land mammals and can reach a length of 2.7 meters with a shoulder height of 80 centimeters and weighs about 160 kg. The jaguar is a solitary predator, agile and a savage fighter when cornered.

ACTIVITY

Read and answer the following questions:

1. What are the names of 5 of the national symbols?
2. Make a list of Guyana's national holidays and state the date they are celebrated.

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HOME WORK

SOCIAL STUDIES

- ✓ Give a brief history of the Coat of Arms.
- ✓ Collect pictures of national awards and for each award give the name of one Guyanese who was presented with that award.
- ✓ Collect some used postage stamps of Guyana and display them in your notebook. Identify any bird shown on the stamps.

References

-  Ministry of Education Social Studies teacher's guide level 7 pages 34 to 44
-  Ministry of Education Curriculum guide pages 5
-  New Horizon in Social Studies book 7 pages 80 to 86