

Ministry of Education  
Secondary Engagement Programme  
September 2020

Social Studies

Grade 8

**WEEK ELEVEN**

**LESSON 1**

**Topic:** The Administrative regions of Guyana

**Sub topic:** The purpose of the Administrative system

**Objectives:** Student will:

- Differentiate between a natural region and an administrative region.
- Name and locate the ten administrative regions on a map of Guyana.
- Describe the purpose of administrative regions

**Concept:** An administrative division, unit, entity, area or region, also referred to as a subnational entity, constituent unit, or country subdivision, is a portion of a country or other region outlined for the purpose of administration. Guyana has ten (10) administrative regions and these are governed by groups of persons who carry out the functions of central government and represent the citizens. This form of managing the communities locally is known as Local Government.

**Content:**

**Administrative regions in Guyana**

On the 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1980, Mr. Authur Chung, then president of Guyana signed the Local Democratic Organs Act, of 1980.

The fourth clause authorized the Minister of Local Government to divide Guyana into ten administrative regions. It became important for Government to decentralize decision making in relation to the development of the rural communities.

Central Government found it necessary for the people at all levels to be involved in decisions about services and projects concerning their communities instead of personnel in Georgetown making decisions for them.

The following considerations helped to determine the boundaries of each region:

- Population size
- physical size
- geographic features
- economic resources and the existing and planned infrastructure of the area.

A **watershed** as well as mid-points of river channels have been used to separate one region from another.

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**Map of Guyana showing Administrative regions**

**Functions of the Administrative regions**

Central government in Georgetown has provided persons in each region with the opportunities to manage their communities. This system of administration is referred to as Local Government and is implemented through the Regional Democratic council.

The functions of the Regional Democratic council may be grouped into three board categories, these are:

- Economic
- Social
- Cultural

**You may ask, how does Local Government carry out its functions?**

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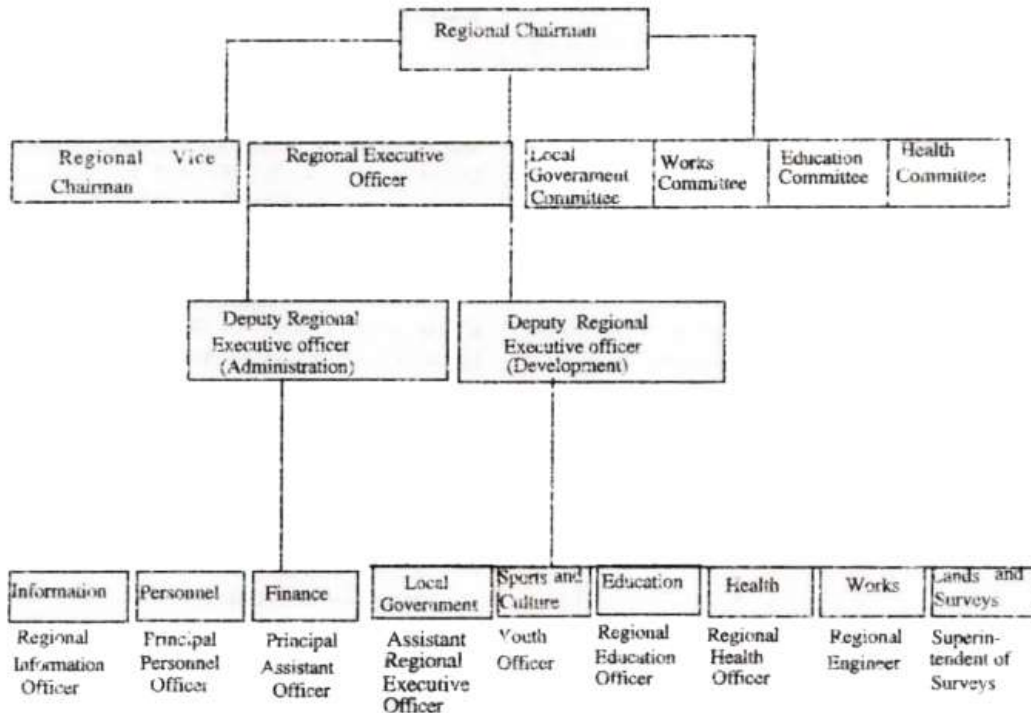


Fig. 5.11 Organizational chart of a Regional Democratic Council

**Management of the Administrative regions**

Guyana was divided into ten Administrative Regions for political supervision and administration. Each administrative region is a semi-autonomous unit with its own regional council and chairman as political and administrative head, which means that each region has its own local governing body.

Each administrative region is administered by a Regional Democratic Council (RDC), which may comprise from twelve to thirty-six elected members. The (RDC) carries out the policies of the central government and represents the citizens of the region.

The law provides for the division of the regions into Sub-Regions, Districts, Communities, Neighborhoods and People’s Co-operative Units. However the administrative structures exist only at the level of the Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC).

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These were legally established in 1990 to replace all previously existing forms of local authorities. However, all of the (NDCs) are not operating.

**ACTIVITY**

4. Define the term administrative region
5. Explain the difference between an administrative region and a natural region
6. Name the ten administrative regions
7. What is the purpose of the regional system in Guyana.

**HOME WORK**

1. Complete the chart below for each administrative region

<b>REGION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>REGIONAL CENTRE</b>	<b>TWO IMPORTANT PLACES</b>

2. Research how each function of Local Government is carried out.

**REFERENCE**

4. Ministry of education Teacher's guide grade 8 pages 84 and 85
5. Ministry of Education Curriculum Guide grade 8 page 10 and 11
6. New Horizons in Social Studies book 2 pages 91 and 92