

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

GRADE SEVEN (7)
WEEK NINE LESSON TWO (2)

SOCIAL STUDIES

Topic: The Cooperative Movement

Sub-Topic: The Cooperative Movement

Objectives: Students will:

- Explain ways our ancestors cooperated at a national level
- List benefits of cooperation
- State ways you could show others how to cooperate

Concept:

The act of cooperation helped our ancestors to achieve many goals. Once we cooperate we could also achieve many goals.

Content:

Early Forms of Co-operation at the National Level

The early inhabitants of Guyana all practised some form of co-operation. Their successors recognised its importance for development and continued the practice. The Amerindians worked together to clear the land, construct benabs and cultivate the land. When they were hunting they went out in groups and when they were organising attacks on other villages, the men were expected to do the fighting while the women prepared the meals.

After emancipation, the ex-slaves were determined to be free from plantation labour. They pooled their resources and bought abandoned sugar plantations. This demonstration of a spirit of co-operation saw the development of villages such as Victoria, Friendship and Buxton. Because wages were inadequate, villagers depended on family and friends to assist with communal activities.

One way of augmenting their income was by “throwing box”. Each box member would throw a hand (sum of money) into the box and in turn, one member would draw all the hands.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

GRADE SEVEN (7)

SOCIAL STUDIES

This would give the member a large sum of money to finance a project. After drawing his/her box money, the member continued to throw his/her hand until every other member was able to draw. The box was then closed and another may be reopened with the consent of the members. At this point, new members may be allowed to join.

The East Indians were contracted to work on the plantations for a number of years. After their period of indentureship, many of them settled in the colony and developed themselves

and their villages through co-operation. Cooperation occurred during planting, harvesting and selling of crops as well as during special ceremonies, they used various forms of co-operation. Their effort was referred to as “Lend a hand” or “Give a day”.

The Portuguese and Chinese did not remain long on the sugar plantations. They settled in villages and became businessmen and traders. In these activities the practice of co-operation was very evident.

Some benefits of Co-operation

- It reduces workload and gives individuals more time for other pursuits.
- Resources are shared. As members share what they have, they receive what they need from others.
- There is a feeling of goodwill and satisfaction as members work voluntarily.
- Involvement in activities is motivated by an interest in a particular goal.
- Rules are observed to avoid exploitation.
- Economic and social gains that accrue are shared.
- Problems are solved and services are provided.
- The standard of living of the poor can be improved.

People who cooperate realize:

- We can do more working together than I can do alone.
- Every person has a unique contribution to make to the group.
- Success is gained when everyone works together.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

GRADE SEVEN (7)

SOCIAL STUDIES

—Two heads are better than one.

—Things in life come easier if you know how to get along and cooperate with others.

People show others how to cooperate by:

- Listening to other people's opinions and including others' ideas.
- Being supportive of other persons' ideas, even when you might not agree with them.
- Cheerfully working with any partner you are assigned, so as to not hurt their feelings.
- Greeting visitors and making them feel welcome.
- Staying out of cliques.
- Taking only your fair share, when offered something.

Activity

1. Draw a picture showing one benefit of cooperation.
2. Write a short description of your photo.

Homework

1. List 3 other ways you could show others how to cooperate.

Reference

1. http://www.mlhsss.gov.gy/how_to_establish_a_Co-op_Society.pdf
2. <https://www.ica.coop/en/cooperatives/what-is-a-cooperative>
3. Ministry of Education Social Studies teacher's guide level 7 pages 51 to 52
4. Ministry of Education Curriculum guide page 7
5. <https://www.polk-fl.net/staff/resources/documents/keystocharacter/November2011.pdf>