

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

GRADE SEVEN (7)
WEEK 10 LESSON ONE (1)

SOCIAL STUDIES

Topic: Our ancestors

Sub-Topic: The six ethnic groups from which Guyanese have descended

Objectives: Students will:

- Identify the ancestors of the Guyanese people
- State the continent from which our ancestors came
- On a map of the world locate where the different groups of ancestors came from.

Concept: Even though our ancestors came from different countries we are still one as we are all Guyanese.

Content:

In Guyana, we have six main ethnic groups. These ethnic groups are:

- The Indigenous People (Amerindians)
- The Europeans
- The Africans
- The East Indians
- The Portuguese
- The Chinese

The continents and countries our ancestors came from are displayed in the table below.

<u>Ancestors</u>	<u>Continent</u>	<u>Country</u>
The Indigenous People	Asia	Mongolia
The Europeans	Europe	The Netherlands, Spain, France and England
The Africans	Africa	Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

GRADE SEVEN (7)

SOCIAL STUDIES

The East Indians	Asia	India
The Portuguese	Europe	Madeira and Portugal
The Chinese	Asia	China

Why did our ancestors come?

The Amerindians-

Most Amerindians came in search of food as their homeland was very cold as a result of the Fourth Ice Age. Their home was extremely frozen and the animals had nowhere to graze, as a result, some animals died while others began to move away. The Amerindians knew the animals were moving to find food, so the Amerindians followed the animals.

The Europeans-

1. To search for El Dorado, the Golden City.
2. To obtain products such as annatto, indigo, cotton, coffee, hides, etc. by trading with the natives.
3. To spread European culture – language, religion, dress, etc.
4. To acquire new lands.
5. To seek adventure.
6. To prove the accuracy of geographical theories.
7. To test the newly invented equipment.
8. Population growth resulting from the economic expansion in Europe created competition for space.

The Africans-

Most of the Africans were brought to Guyana as slaves. A small number came during the 1630s–1640s when the Dutch changed to sugar cane cultivation as the Amerindians no longer proved to be an effective source of labour due to their small population.

The Portuguese-

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

GRADE SEVEN (7)

SOCIAL STUDIES

With the withdrawal of slave labour from the sugar plantations, it was thought that immigrant labour would supply the additional labour needed to compensate for the loss created by emancipation.

The East Indians-

By the end of the Apprenticeship System, the labour situation on the sugar cane plantations in Guyana was in crisis. The first batch of 396 East Indians arrived in Demerara and Berbice on 5th May 1838.

The Chinese-

The first Chinese immigrants came in 1853 in an attempt to correct the labour problem on the plantation after emancipation.

The Portuguese, East Indians, Chinese and some Africans came as indentured servants.
--

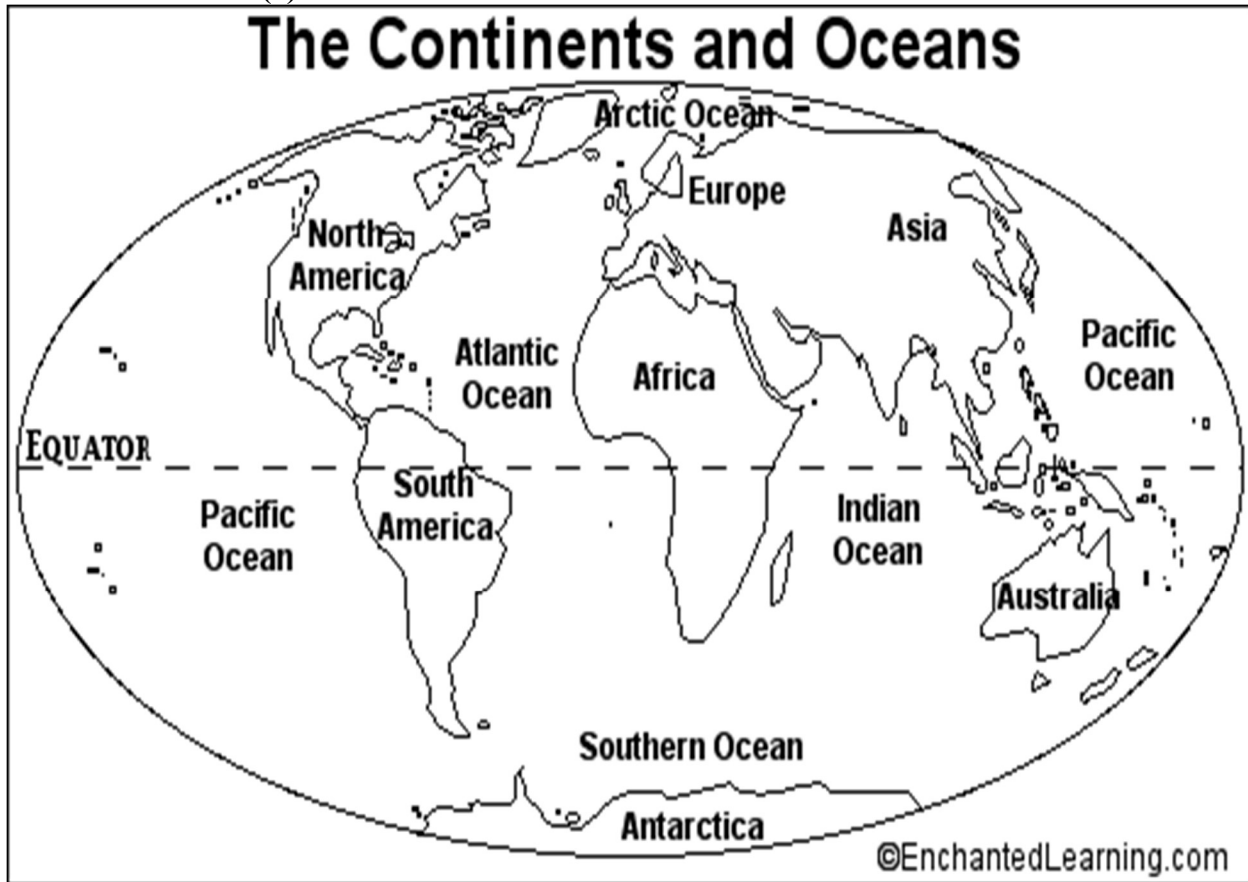
Activity

1. The world map below shows the different continents and oceans in the world. Study the map to identify the continents our different ancestors came from.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
SECONDARY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

GRADE SEVEN (7)

SOCIAL STUDIES



Homework

1. Use your Atlas, globe or any other resource you could find a world map and try to locate the different countries our ancestors came from.

Reference

1. Ministry of Education Social Studies teacher's guide level 7 pages 73 to 85
2. Ministry of Education Curriculum guide page 8 and 9
3. New Horizon in Social Studies book 7 pages 63 to 72
4. http://www.guyana.org/features/guyanastory/guyana_story.html
5. <https://www.enchantedlearning.com/geography/label/world/>