

Welcome to St. Kitts & Nevis

Lesson Objective & Summary

Objective: Students will learn about the basic history, geography, and cultural heritage of St. Kitts & Nevis. Students will use a map to locate St. Kitts & Nevis and its capital (Basseterre), as well as identify some of the unique aspects of this Caribbean nation.

Summary: Students will identify St. Kitts & Nevis's location on a world map, and will explain some of the major geographic features of St. Kitts & Nevis. Students will read the [Welcome to St. Kitts & Nevis blog](#) and watch the episode, [A Quick History of St. Kitts & Nevis](#). Students will share their observations and questions about St. Kitts & Nevis. Finally, students will watch episodes on Caribbean cuisine ([Four Facts about the Coconut](#); [Food Finds: Nevis Edition](#); [Stewed Salt Fish with Fungi](#)) to learn more about some of the local crops and ingredients found in St. Kitts & Nevis.

Grade Level:
Upper Elementary

DURATION:
1 - 2 Lessons

SUBJECTS:
English Language Arts,
Social Studies, Geography

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Standards & Benchmarks

From the Common Core Standards for Language Arts in History / Social Studies

- Students will quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. (*Key Ideas and Details, Grade 5*)
- Students will draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently. (*Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, Grade 5*)

From the New York State Social Studies Standards, Standard 3: Geography

- Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the geography of the interdependent world in which we live - local, national, and global - including the distribution of people, places, and environments over the Earth's surface.

Background Information for Educators

The islands of St. Kitts & Nevis are located along the southeastern chain of the Caribbean's Leeward Islands, known as an "archipelago." Originally called "Liamuiga" and "Oualie," respectively, by the indigenous Kalinago Indians, St. Kitts & Nevis were renamed by Spanish explorers in honor of patron saints: St. Kitts is a shortened name for St. Christopher, and Nevis was shortened from Nuestra Senora de las Nieves (Our Lady of the Snows).

St. Kitts, the larger of the two islands, was the site upon which Spanish, British, and French settlers all tried to gain dominion. Although the local Kalinago people showed no opposition to their island's colonization by the British and French, the European settlers brutally massacred them in 1626. Despite ongoing agreements between the British and French, the British ultimately gained territorial control over St. Kitts in 1713. In 1967, St. Kitts, Nevis, and the nearby island of Anguilla were united under one government and given autonomy. However, Anguilla later rebelled in 1971, exercising its own autonomy, and St. Kitts & Nevis were formally recognized as a sovereign nation in 1983, but within the British Commonwealth.

St. Kitts & Nevis were formed by volcanic activity, and both boast nutrient-rich soil for growing crops such as sugarcane, which was introduced to the islands by British settlers. However, in 2005, the state-owned sugar industry was closed, and St. Kitts & Nevis' main source of income today is through tourism.

Large populations of slaves were brought to St. Kitts & Nevis from West Africa to work the sugar cane plantations, and when the British abolished slavery in 1834, many former slaves remained in St. Kitts & Nevis. Today, more than 75% of the local population is of Africa descent.

Guiding Questions	Key Vocabulary
<p>Where is St. Kitts & Nevis located?</p> <p>What is the capital of St. Kitts & Nevis?</p> <p>What languages are spoken in St. Kitts & Nevis?</p> <p>What are some of St. Kitts & Nevis unique geographic features?</p> <p>What type of government does St. Kitts & Nevis have? How does it differ from your home country?</p>	<p>Settlers</p> <p>Archipelago</p> <p>Island Chain</p> <p>Caribbean</p> <p>Colonization</p>

Lesson Plan

1. Using a world map, ask students to locate St. Kitts & Nevis. Ask students to locate St. Kitts & Nevis's capital city (Basseterre). How do they know it is the capital? What usually happens in a capital city?
2. Have students look at some of the geographic features of St. Kitts & Nevis (coastline; island chain; archipelago; volcanic springs). Have students locate and identify some of the countries nearby. Ask students to think about how the geography of St. Kitts & Nevis might influence how the local people live, or what their occupations may have traditionally looked like (i.e.: fishing, farming, etc).

3. Distribute the St. Kitts & Nevis Worksheet (pages 6 & 7) to students. Ask students to complete the information they have already discovered about St. Kitts & Nevis.
4. Read the [Welcome to St. Kitts & Nevis blog](#) and watch the [A Quick History of St. Kitts & Nevis episode](#). Ask students to write what observations they made from the video. Encourage students to consider what other nations may have influenced the culture of St. Kitts & Nevis (i.e.: British, French, African slaves).
5. Briefly explain the history of St. Kitts & Nevis. Ask students to consider what makes St. Kitts & Nevis different from some of its neighboring countries. Have students make comparisons between St. Kitts & Nevis and their home country.
6. Share with students the [Caribbean Cuisine chapter](#), having them watch the episodes entitled [Four Facts about the Coconut](#); [Food Finds: Nevis Edition](#); [Stewed Salt Fish with Fungi](#). Challenge students to consider why some of these ingredients are used. How do these meals compare with food from their local community? Which of these meals would students want to try?
7. Have students reflect on what they have learned about St. Kitts & Nevis so far. Write down additional questions students may have and encourage them to think about how St. Kitts & Nevis compares with their home country. Have students think about what they would like to see and do if they were to visit St. Kitts & Nevis.

Challenge Questions / Lesson Extension

- Compare St. Kitts & Nevis with some of the other British Commonwealth nations. How is it similar? Different?
- How does St. Kitts & Nevis's status as a British Commonwealth nation affect its culture?

Assessment / Evidence of Understanding

- Student will identify the location of St. Kitts & Nevis and its capital city, Basseterre, using a world map.
- Student will identify the geographic features of St. Kitts & Nevis and make inferences about how the people of St. Kitts & Nevis live and what natural resources they have.
- Student will identify some of the major features and facts about St. Kitts & Nevis

Assessment Rubric	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Geography Skills	<p>With assistance, student can locate country and capital city on a map.</p> <p>Student may be able to identify some geographic features, but may require guidance to make inferences about people's daily life due to the geography.</p>	<p>Student can locate country and capital city on a map. With assistance, student can identify the longitude/latitude coordinates of the country. Student can identify some of the specific geographic features (i.e.: archipelago, islands, nearby nations) independently. Student can make basic inferences about how people's daily life is shaped by their geography.</p>	<p>Student can locate country and capital city on a map. Student independently identifies the longitude/latitude coordinates of the country, and can identify numerous specific geographic features (i.e.: archipelago, islands, nearby nations) independently. Student makes clear observations and inferences linking the geographical landscape with the way local people live their lives. Student may also be able to share other observations about how bordering nations may influence the local people, culture, and way of life.</p>
St. Kitts & Nevis Worksheet	<p>With assistance, student is able to complete the St. Kitts & Nevis Worksheet, completing all required sections.</p> <p>With assistance, student can identify several interesting facts about the country.</p>	<p>Student is able to complete the worksheet independently, using available resources in the classroom & online (i.e.: Atlas, CIA Fact Book, ProjectExplorer.org).</p> <p>Student uses observations and resources to identify interesting facts about country. Student makes connections and asks questions that are grade-level appropriate.</p>	<p>Student completes the worksheet independently, using available resources in the classroom & online (i.e.: Atlas, CIA Fact Book, ProjectExplorer.org), but student may make connections with other countries or with prior knowledge. Student uses observations and resources to identify interesting facts about the country while also making insightful inferences that reflect higher-level connections and thinking. Student makes connections and asks questions that exceed grade-level expectations.</p>

Additional Resources

CIA World Fact Book, St. Kitts & Nevis

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sc.html>

Tourism Board of St. Kitts & Nevis

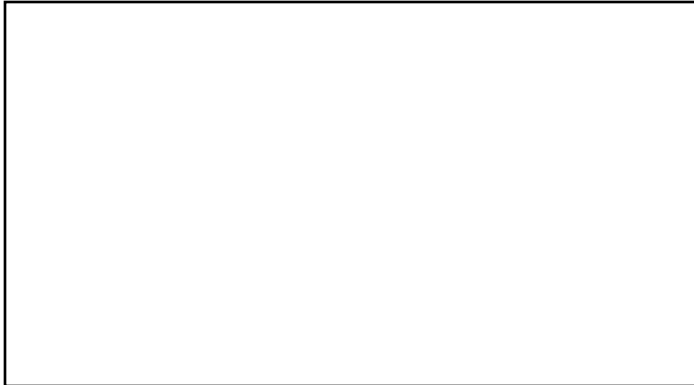
<http://www.stkittstourism.kn/>

Lonely Planet: St. Kitts & Nevis

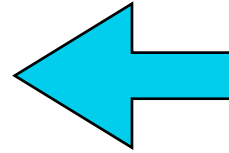
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/st-kitts-and-nevis>

***** St. Kitts & Nevis Worksheet follows on next page *****

St. Kitts & Nevis Worksheet



Draw the flag of St. Kitts & Nevis



CAPITAL CITY:	
CONTINENT:	
MAP COORDINATES:	
LANGUAGE(S):	
GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES:	
BORDERING COUNTRIES:	
NATURAL RESOURCES:	
TYPE OF GOVERNMENT:	
INTERESTING FACTS:	

What do I think I know about St. Kitts & Nevis?

What would I like to know about St. Kitts & Nevis?

What do I think I will learn about St. Kitts & Nevis from the ProjectExplorer.org team?

What other questions do I have St. Kitts & Nevis that I may need to research further?

If I visited St. Kitts & Nevis, I would like to see...