

CARIBBEAN HISTORY- CORE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS

CSEC Caribbean History: A Glossary of Core terms, people and events of the Caribbean Past

The CSEC Caribbean History syllabus consists of a Core of *ten topics* and *nine* Themes that cover the extent of Caribbean history from the arrival and settlement of the region by the indigenous people, to the formation and establishment of Independent Caribbean nation-states that arose from centuries of European colonisation and oppressive systems of labour.

The Core topics include the following:

- ❖ The Indigenous Peoples of the Americas
- ❖ The Europeans
- ❖ The Economic Revolution and the coming of enslaved Africans
- ❖ Slave Resistance
- ❖ Emancipation and Apprenticeship
- ❖ The coming of the Chinese, Europeans (Madeirans, Germans, French), Indians and Africans
- ❖ The Establishment of the Peasantry, 1838 to 1900
- ❖ The United States' influence in the Caribbean
- ❖ Popular Protests in the 1930s
- ❖ Movements towards Independence *and Regional Integration* up to 1985.

The Themes are arranged in Sections from **A to C** and include the following:

- ❖ Section A
 - The Indigenous People and the Coming of the Europeans
 - Caribbean Economy and Slavery
 - Resistance and Revolt
- ❖ Section B
 - Metropolitan Movements Towards Emancipation
 - Adjustments to Emancipation, 1838-1876
 - Caribbean Economy, 1875-1985
- ❖ Section C
 - United States in the Caribbean, 1776-1985
 - Caribbean Political
 - Caribbean Society 1900-1985

THEME 1: THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE EUROPEANS

SECTION A: THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS

- Migration of indigenous peoples to the Americas and to the Caribbean territories (through North, Central and South America) and their interactions.
- Geographical location of Taino (Arawak), Kalinago (Carib) and Maya.
- Social, religious, political and economic organisation of Taino, Kalinago and Maya.

KEY TERMS

- **Animism** – believing that there were god-like spirits in natural objects such as plants, rocks, water and some creatures/the belief that every natural object has a soul.
- **Chac** – the Mayan rain god.
- **Shaman** – a priest who claimed to be the only being in contact with a god.
- **Yocahu** – the masculine spirit of fertility/god of cassava.
- **Yum Kaax** – Mayan God of corn.
- **Agouti** – wild animal hunted by the Tainos Amerindians.
- **Altalt** – a special spear used by the Aztecs to hunt and also in times of battle.
- **Arieto** – ceremonial dance among the indigenous peoples.
- **Barbacoa** – barbeque.
- **Batabob** – Mayan name given to the Chief of a town or village who assisted the hula-ch uinic.
- **Bohio** – Taino house was made of a single piece of wood, which could be folded up for easy relocation/a Taino hut.
- **Boyez** – Kalinago priest.
- **Batos** – Taino ball game.
- **Batey** – playing field for batos game.
- **Cacique** – Taino chief.
- **Cahoba** – powerful herb used by the Taino shaman/powdered tobacco leaves snuffed by the shamans/priests to induce trances and visions, to communicate with the gods and even foretell the future.

SECTION A: THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS

KEY TERMS

- **Carbet/karbay** – Kalinagomale meeting house.
- **Cenote** – Mayan's main water source, it is where the Mayan God of Rain visit.
- **Chultune/Chultuns** – underground storage pits built by the Mayans.
- **Conuco** – was a large mound of earth which was formed especially for farming. It would be packed with leaves which improved drainage and protected it from soil erosion (Taino).
- **Couliana** – a small raft used by the Kalinago for fishing / a smaller Kalinago canoe or fishing craft usually up to 20 feet long and pointed at both ends, used for fishing close to the shore and could only hold a few people.
- **Coyaba** – Taino's heaven- a place of free from evil forces.
- **Duho** – a Taino's ceremonial chair/ceremonial seat of the Taino's chief.
- **Equatorial Currents** – an ocean current flowing westward just north or just south of the equator.
- **Guanin** – metal alloy of gold, copper and silver used by the Indigenous Peoples to make various objects.
- **Haab** – a Maya lunar calendar of 18 months with 20 days in each month and 5 vayeob days to give 365 days.
- **Hamacas** – hammock (Taino).
- **Hulach Uinic** – Mayan Chief.
- **Hutia** – wild animal hunted by the indigenous peoples.
- **Lappe** – wild animal hunted by the indigenous peoples.
- **Maboya** – small idols that the Kalinagos wore around their necks to ward off evil spirits/evil spirits for the Kalinago.
- **Mahoe** – tree used to build canoes/ropes used to tie down the palm fronds used to thatch roofs.
- **Maize** – corn.
- **Manicou** – animal hunted by the indigenous peoples.

SECTION A: THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS

KEY TERMS

- **Matapi** – a hanging basket used by the Kalinagos to squeeze the juice out of cassava and sweet potato/a long tube of basket work used to squeeze poisonous juice out of cassava (used by the Tainos too).
- **Matoutou** – a stool made by the Kalinago/four legged table of basket work.
- **Metate** – a ground stone used to process grain and seeds for food preparation/a grinding stone.
- **Milaps** – a crop growing system where planters plant a number of crops at once eg. melon, tomatoes, squash, sweet potato/is it milpas? It is a field planted with corn but with squash, beans, melons or peppers, sweet potatoes, etc.
- **Mortar and pestle** – tool used by the Indigenous peoples for pounding and grinding herbs and spices.
- **Nacom** – Maya priest who performed human sacrifice.
- **Naharlene** – Kalinago commander of the canoes.
- **Nitayanos/Mitayanos** – oldest males in the society who assisted the Cacique.
- **Ouboutou/Ubutu** – Kalinago Chief.
- **Ubutu Maliarici/Ouboutou Maliarici** – Kalinago lieutenants.
- **Pepper pot** – Taino dish which included pieces of fish, red pepper and food from the fields.
- **Pok-a- tok** – Maya religious ball game where the winners were heroes and the losers were sacrificed/Mayan ball game similar to basketball where the players try to get a ball through a ring but without using their hands (can use hips, elbows or knees).
- **Pploms** – Mayan political officials who were also part of the military/Mayan merchants who traded their goods by land and sea and had a role in Mayan foreign affairs as diplomats and would spy on other territories and report suspicious military activities of threats to their ruler.
- **Pre-ceramic** – relating to an age or culture prior to the period to when pottery making appeared.
- **Roucou** – a small fruit that the indigenous peoples used as a dye.

SECTION A: THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS

KEY TERMS

- **Slash and burn** – a method of farming where vegetation is cut and burn off before new seeds are sown/an agricultural method of cutting down vegetation and burning it to clear the land for planting. The ash would be a good source of fertilizer.
- **Terracing** – a method of growing crops on sides and hills of mountains which resembles steps.
- **Tibutuil** – Captain of the Kalinago crew.
- **Vayeb** – Mayan word for weeks / 5 unlucky days in the Mayan haab calendar.
- **Yopo** – a tree used in healing ceremonies and rituals/ powerful narcotics from a plant.
- **Zemis** – made from wood, bone or shell in the shape of a human or animal and was kept in the Taino homes for protection and was a representation of their gods.

Sources:

Caribbean History: Foundations Book 1 - William Claypole, John Robottom

Caribbean History for CSEC - Study Guide - Oxford University Press

Liberties Lost - Caribbean Indigenous Societies and Slave Systems - Hilary McD Beckles, Verene A Shepherd

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