

INDEPENDENCE

FORM THREE HISTORY



Sing along to the words of this popular nation building calypso-Portrait of Trinidad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6HquEDkrls&t=7s>



Activity 1

Do you recognise these images?-What do you think is the link between these images and this activity?



HUNGER GAMES and INDEPENDENCE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Click on the button and listen



INTRODUCTION

Click on the button and listen



SCENES FROM INDEPENDENCE DAY 1962



VOCABULARY

Colonial rule- rule of a colony by a mother country. In this case Trinidad and Tobago was the colony and Britain the mother country. Colonial rule meant that we were not in charge of our political and economic affairs.

Commonwealth- a group of countries who were former colonies of Britain. All English speaking countries of the Caribbean are members of the Commonwealth

West Indies Federation- an organisation made of Caribbean territories which was formed to bring about political unity in the region. The Federation ended in 1958 but CARICOM was formed a decade later after many territories achieved independence.

INDEPENDENCE

Trinidad and Tobago was once part of the West Indian Federation and the second territory in the British Caribbean to gain its independence. What makes the country unique is the mixture of many ethnicities and cultures living together harmoniously.

Before achieving independence, there were struggles of different kinds. **Can you identify them from the video below(5.06 mins)? What was the mood like among the different groups of persons? Do you recognize any of the persons in the video? Who was the gentleman standing next to Princess Margaret when she read the message from Queen Elizabeth? What was his position then?**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0FQY252jso>

Independence Experiences

Activity 2

Read the experiences of two(2) citizens and answer the questions that follow.

Brother Valentino(calypsonian)



Carl Alfonso (Brigadier General retired)



INDEPENDENCE EXPERIENCES



Emrold Phillip

(Brother Valentino)—calypsonian:

I was 21 years old when T&T became an independent nation and I was excited, without even understanding the true meaning of Independence. There was a lot of excitement in the air and everywhere there were celebrations. I remember being with my mother in St James and the atmosphere was different, unlike any other time. There was marching down Frederick Street and fireworks throughout the night. I remember, of course, the calypsoes, but what excited me most was the anthem. We no longer were made to sing God save the Queen. We had our own anthem, and I was proud.

QUESTIONS

- Why is Brother Valentino called the “people’s calypsonian”?
- What did Independence mean to him?

Carl Alfonso

—retired brigadier:

I was approaching 18 and I was out of Trinidad on that day. I had left Trinidad at the age of five and was living in St Kitts.

I remember going out on the 30th of August and buying a red tie and making my very first national tie with some white and black ribbon that I bought. I made the tie based on information and descriptions I had gotten from the Trinidad Guardian. That night, we didn't sleep. My family and friends gathered at my house and we stayed up to welcome the Independence. It was a good feeling and it heightened my anticipation of returning to T&T. I returned seven months later and joined the T&T regiment. The feeling of patriotism and nationalism was great. We loved our flag. We loved our coat of arms. I was anxious to return home to paradise.



QUESTIONS

- Why do you think Brigadier Alfonso joined the Trinidad and Tobago regiment?
- What did Independence mean to him?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Activity 3

- When did this event occur?
- What were some of the changes that persons in the society expected to happen?
- Do you think that there were some persons who did not want Independence? Why not?
- What are the ways in which you can help to maintain our independent state?
- Having viewed the video and read the experiences of different persons. List three words to describe how you feel about your country.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

View the online exhibit from the National Archives of Trinidad and Tobago entitled **The Road to Nationhood: Crown Colony to Republicanism** to gain additional information on our Independence movement.

<https://natt.gov.tt/sites/default/files/pdfs/the-road-to-nationhood.pdf>

ACTIVITY 4

Do one of the following!

- Research the story of your favourite sports person from Trinidad and Tobago, e.g. Hasley Crawford, Russel Latapy, Melissa Aguillera
- Create/design an item that deals with an aspect of our culture

SOURCES

Kalifa Clyne. August 31 2012. Trinidad Guardian Online. Retrieved from:
<http://www.classifieds.guardian.co.tt/lifestyle/2012-08-31/memories-our-independence>

ANSWERS

Slide 9-Persons in the video include Eric Williams, Princess Margaret. The person standing next to Princess Margaret is Sir Solomon Hochoy. His position then was Governor-General.

Slide 11(Brother Valentino)

He is called the people's calypsonian because his calypsos deal with the issues that affect the "everyday" citizen in Trinidad and Tobago.

Independence to him meant that Trinidad and Tobago had its own symbols of nationhood-flag, anthem etc.

Slide 13-Carl Alfonso

Brigadier Alfonso joined the regiment to serve his country and help to protect it.

Independence was an emotional one for him. He felt that he belonged to a country that he was proud of.

Answers

- When did this event occur?-1962
- What were some of the changes that persons in the society expected to happen?-that we would be able to make our own laws, make our own decisions.
- Do you think that there were some persons who did not want Independence? Why not?-Some people felt that we would be better off as a country by remaining as a colony of Britain.
- What are the ways in which you can help to maintain our independent state?- by serving in the protective services, obeying laws, displaying patriotism and loyalty.
- Having viewed the video and read the experiences of different persons. List three words to describe how you feel about your country.-Proud, loyal, patriotic