



Stuart Holmes, *Cayman Parrots*, c. 1980.

**Inspiration Artists: Marlena Anglin, Stewart Holmes,
Penny Clifford**

Age Range: Primary

Subject Area: Social Studies

CAYMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL SYMBOLS: FLORA & FAUNA



**NATIONAL
GALLERY** | CAYMAN
ISLANDS

DART



In This Packet

In this lesson, students will learn about Cayman's national flora and fauna. Students will start by understanding what National Symbols are, before looking at each of the unique plants and animals that have come to represent Cayman.

Students will also learn about local artists who have represented national flora and fauna in their work. Fun activities and questions are included along the way, with a follow-up art activity inspired by traditional thatch work at the end.

*Parental guidance recommended for final art activity.



What is a National Symbol?

National symbols represent a country's identity. They are a way to show national pride and express who we are to the rest of the world.

National symbols can include a country's flag or coat of arms, its national song, and the plants or animals that are unique to that country.

Today, we will learn about Cayman's National flora and fauna (plants and animals)!



The National Flower: Wild Banana Orchid



Cayman's National Flower is the Wild Banana Orchid. These flowers cannot be found anywhere else in the world!

There are two types - one is found on Grand Cayman, and the other is found on Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

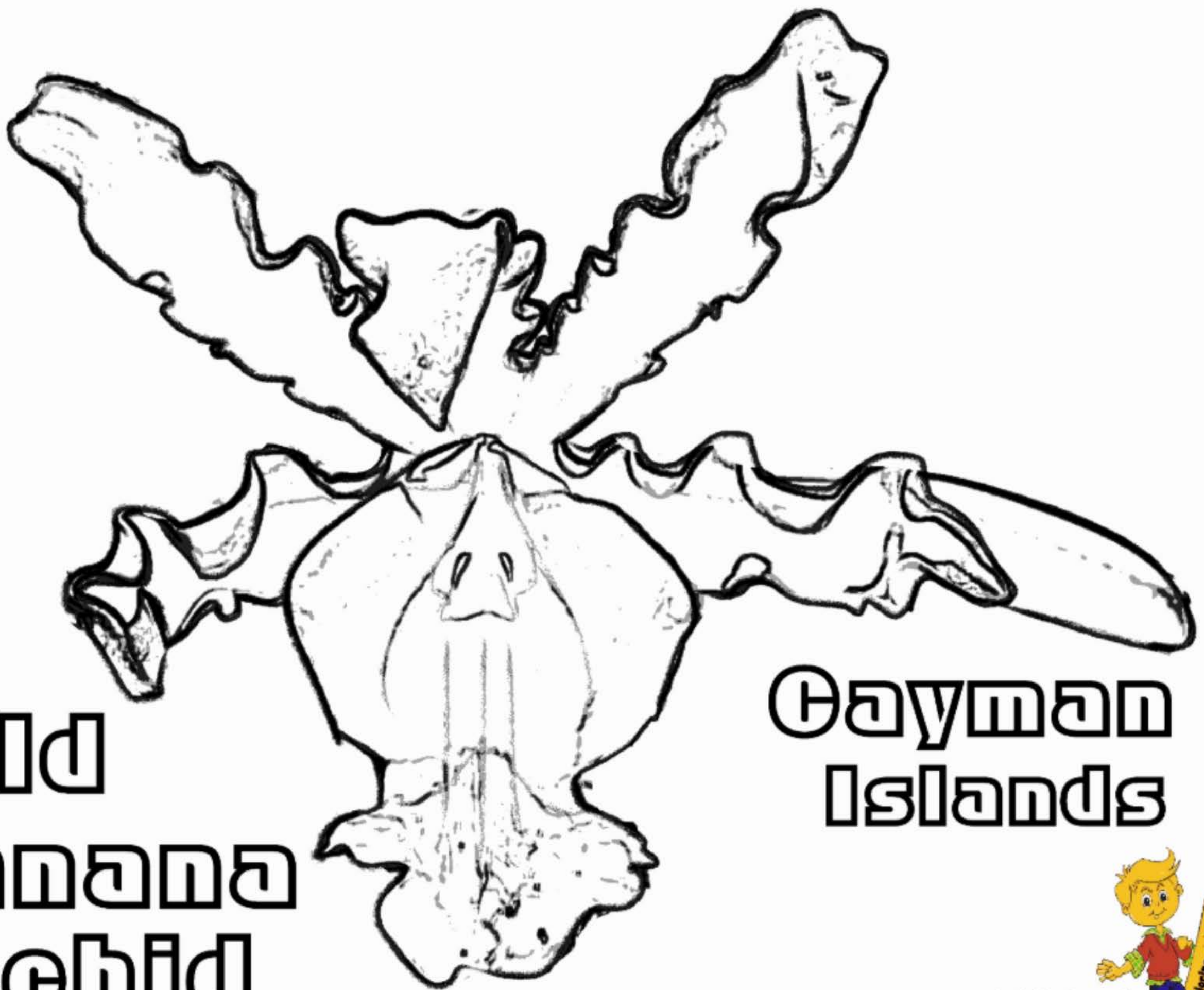
This large orchid has magnificent white and purple flowers that grow on stalks measuring up to six feet long. The Cayman Brac and Little Cayman flower has slightly smaller flowers with a yellowish colour.

The Wild Banana Orchid usually blooms from early April until June. You can see them along woodland trails or at the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park.

Colour It In!

Can you colour in this Wild Banana Orchid using the correct colours?

Look at the photograph on the page above to see what colours you should use!



**wild
banana
orchid**

**Bayman
Islands**



Colouring page from:

<https://www.yescoloring.com/free-flower-coloring-pages.html>

The National Tree: Silver Thatch Palm

The Silver Thatch Palm (*Coccothrinax proctorii*) is a type of palm tree with green leaves with a silver under-side. Like the wild banana orchid, it can only be found in Cayman.

The leaves are very strong and can be used to make many things, from roofing for houses to hats, baskets and fans. Historically, rope made from the silver thatch palm was very popular, and Cayman exported rope to other countries like Cuba and Jamaica.



Dried silver thatch can be used to make roofs, and even window coverings!

The Silver Thatch Palm in Local Art and Traditional Craft

Marlena Anglin's mother taught her how to make rope, baskets and other items out of thatch when she was young. She became very good at making thatch items herself, and now creates work for festivals and heritage days. She also teaches crafts to local school-children. Like other thatch artisans in Cayman, her work is both beautiful and practical!



Marlena Anglin, *Silver Thatch Basket and Utensils*, 2013.

Penny Clifford painted this image of a silver thatch palm after 2004's Hurricane Ivan. She has been painting and drawing Cayman Islands plants since the 1990s.

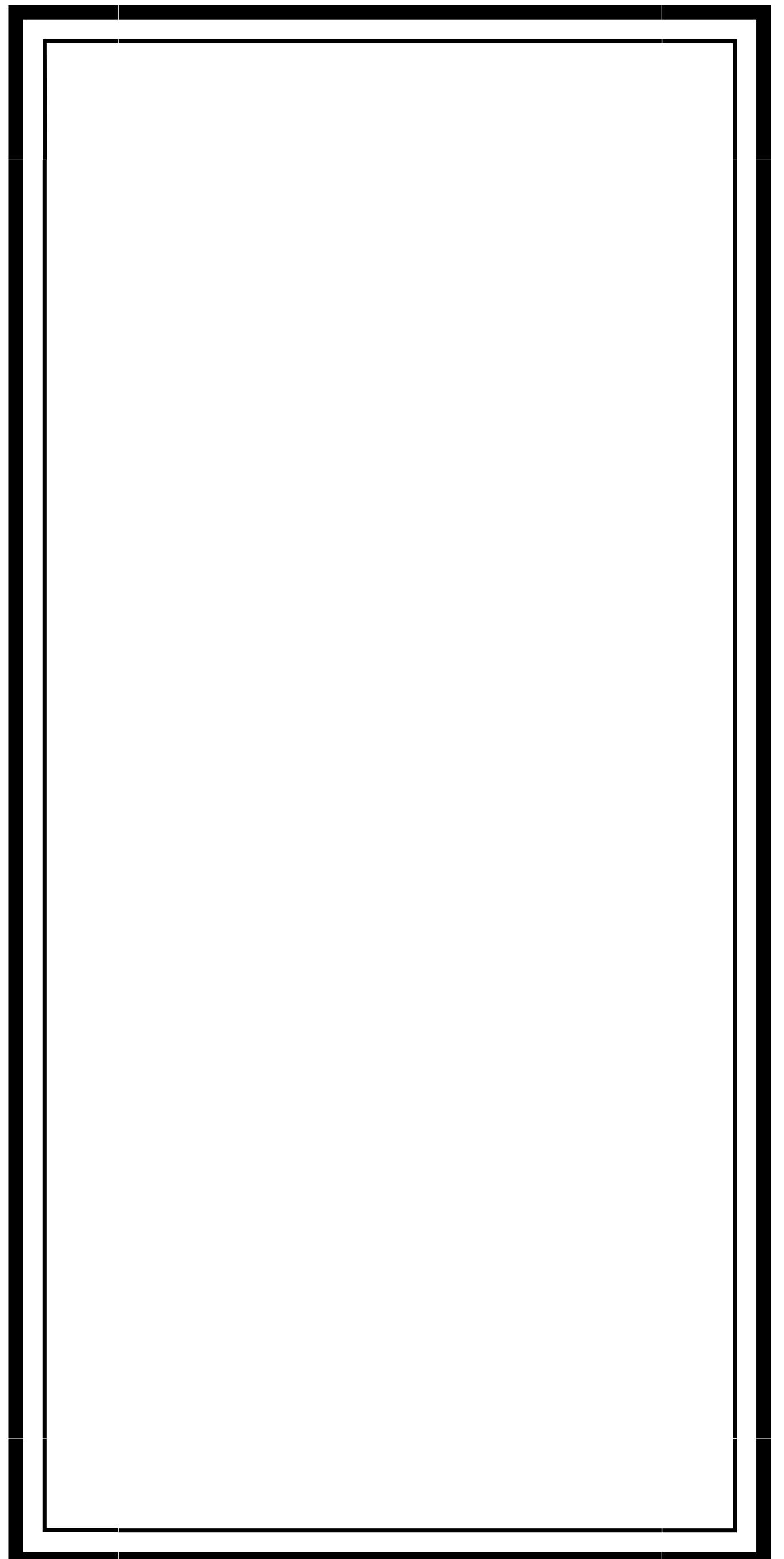


Penny Clifford, *Silver Thatch Palm*, 2005.

Draw Your Own!

Draw your own silver thatch palm like Penny Clifford!

Use coloured pencils, crayons or markers to add colour.



The National Bird: Cayman Parrot

The Cayman Islands Parrots are two species of the Cuban Parrot (*Amazona Leucocephala*).

There are two types, one in Grand Cayman and one in Cayman Brac. Both have shiny green feathers with darker edges over the body, a white eye ring, red cheeks, black ear patches and brilliant blue wing feathers which are only obvious when the bird is flying.

The Cayman Brac Parrot (*Amazona leucocephala hesternana*) is quieter and smaller with more black trim on its feathers. It has a pure white forehead with a large maroon patch on its chest.



Look at this painting by Stewart Holmes. Do you think this is the Grand Cayman Parrot or the Cayman Brac Parrot? Why?

Art Activity:

Thatch weaving with paper

Materials:

- White card or paper
- Coloured card or paper
- Cutting mat (if available)
- Ruler
- Craft knife/ Scissors
- Pencil
- Tape

Step 1: Cut your white piece of paper into a square. Measure a 4cm border along the edges of the paper. Cut vertical lines down the paper by folding the paper in half, about 1 cm apart.

Step 2: Cut your coloured strips of paper. If you do not have coloured paper feel free to colour or paint white paper. You'll need six sets of four strips.

Step 3: Start weaving. Begin by placing the strip of coloured paper over one white strip then under the other. For those who wish to branch out, try creating your own patterns like the ones in the images shown:

