

Inspiration Artists: Marlena Anglin, Harvey Ebanks

Age Range: Primary

Subject Area: Social Studies

CAYMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL SYMBOLS: THE FLAG AND COAT OF ARMS



**NATIONAL
GALLERY**

CAYMAN
ISLANDS

DART

**MINDS
INSPIRED**

In This Packet

In this lesson, students will continue the lesson on National Symbols begun in National Symbols Part 1: Flora and Fauna. In Part 2, students will look at the Cayman Islands flag and coat of arms.

Students will also learn about local artists who have represented important symbols of the Cayman Islands (which are part of the coat of arms) in their work. Fun activities and questions are included along the way, with a follow-up art activity inspired by the Coat of Arms 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 flag and coat of arms!



The Cayman Islands Coat of Arms

A Coat of Arms is a unique design often made up of several images and words to represent a country, family or group.

The Cayman Islands Coat of Arms was adopted as an official symbol of the country in 1958. It shows a shield with a gold lion on a red background, representing our ties to the United Kingdom. Underneath the lion are three green stars in a field of water, which show our three islands in the sea. Above the lion is a pineapple, representing our ties to Jamaica, and a turtle and rope, showing our long history of seafaring and thatch trades.

At the bottom of the Coat of Arms is our motto, "He Hath Founded It Upon The Seas" from Psalm 24, showing Cayman's Christian heritage.



Coat of Arms Pop Quiz!

Can you say what these parts of the Coat of Arms stands for?



Pineapple: _____

Turtle: _____

Rope: _____

Lion: _____

Stars: _____

Elements of the Coat of Arms in Local Art



Marlena Anglin, *Thatch Rope Cart*, 2012.

As you have learned, the rope on our Coat of Arms symbolises our traditional thatch industry. From the 1800s until the 1960s, rope making was a major source of income in Cayman. In 1964, 1.3 million fathoms of rope were exported to other countries!

This rope-making cart by Marlena Anglin is typical of the traditional devices used to twist silver thatch rope. *Thatch Rope Cart* highlights the everyday practical use of rope in Caymanian culture as well as its wider significance to our Islands' national identity.

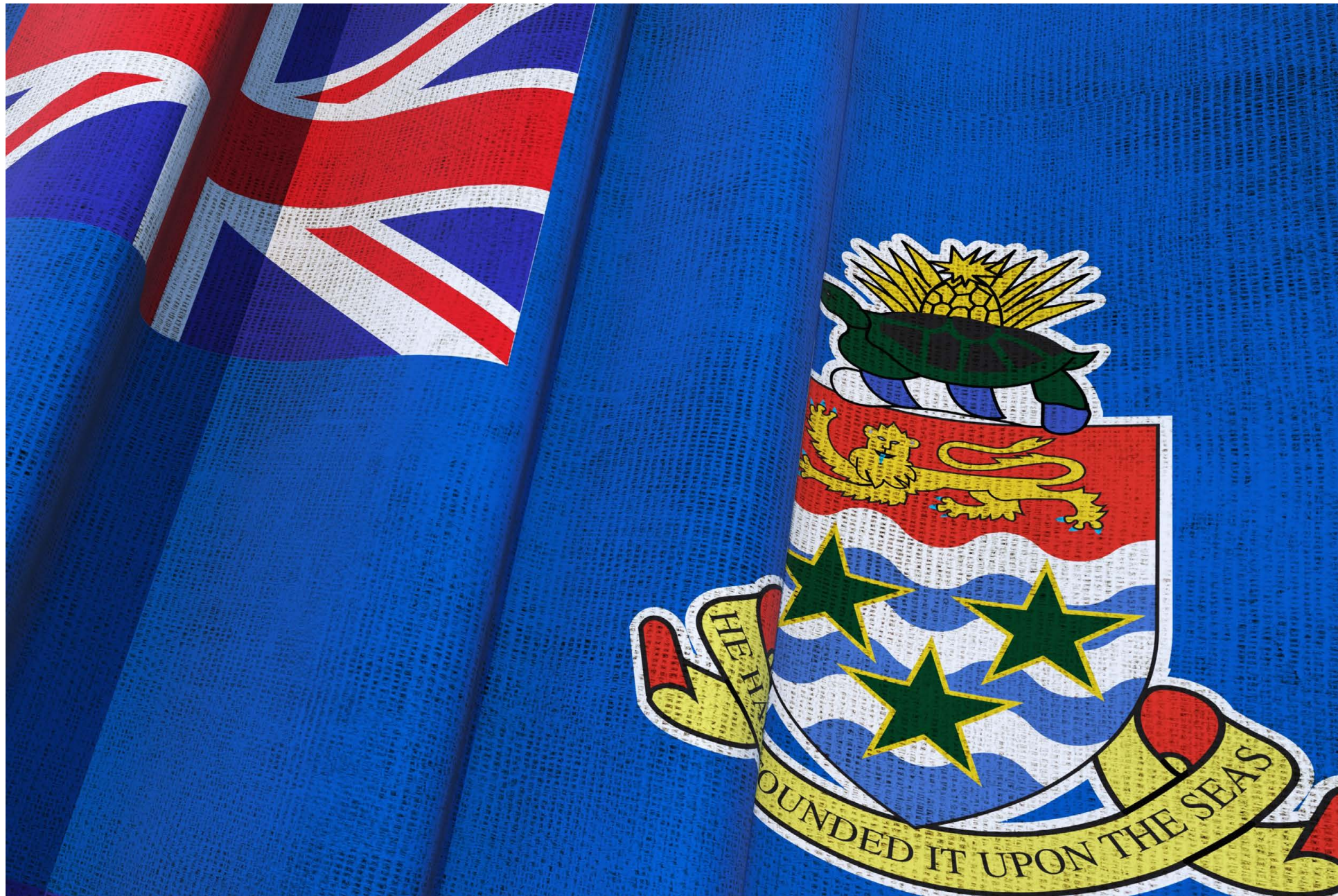
The turtle on our Coat of Arms stands for our turtling and seafaring heritage. Along with the thatch industry, turtle fishing was once the islands' economic mainstay before tourism began.

Turtles in the Sound by Harvey Ebanks shows a group of turtles in the North Sound, referring to our traditional turtling heritage. To learn more about Cayman's maritime history, catboats and the importance of turtles to Cayman, read our [Maritime Heritage lesson](#).



Harvey Ebanks, *Turtles in the Sound*, c. 1997.

The Cayman Islands Flag



The Cayman Islands Flag became an official symbol of the Cayman Islands in 1959.

There are two versions of the flag: one with a deep blue background which is used on land, and one with a red background which is used at sea.

In the upper left corner of the Cayman Islands Flag is the Union Jack. The Union Jack is the official Flag for the United Kingdom. This honours our ties to the UK. To learn more about the Union Jack, visit <https://www.royal.uk/union-jack>.

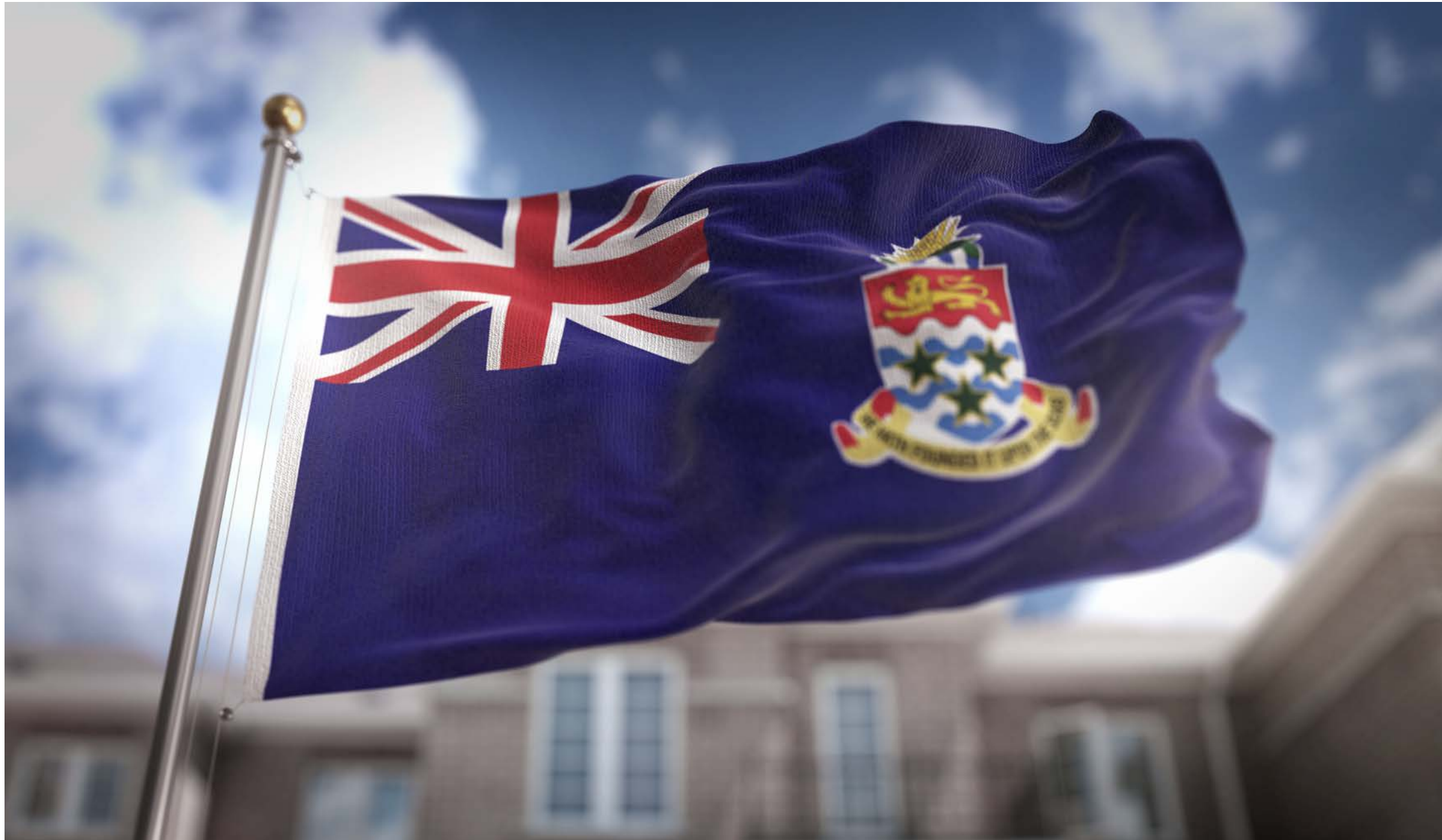
Our flag also includes the Coat of Arms, which you read about on the last page.

There are many rules for taking care of, and showing respect to our Flag. The Flag should never touch the ground, be torn or damaged on purpose, flown at night or used for any reason other than as a flag.

Source, and for more information:

<http://gov.ky/portal/page/portal/cighome/cayman/islands/nationalsymbols/flag>

Cayman Islands Flag Pop Quiz!



1. What is the name of the image at the top left of the Cayman Flag?

2. When do we use a red background on the Flag instead of blue?

3. What year did the Flag become an official symbol of Cayman?

Draw The Flag

Can you draw the Cayman Islands Flag in the box below?

Don't forget to colour the background depending on whether you are flying your flag on land or at sea!



Art Activity:

Create a personal Coat of Arms

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Pen
- Coloured pencils, markers or crayons
- Scissors (optional)
- Glue (optional)
- Old magazines (optional)

Step 1: On a piece of paper, sketch a shield shape with a flat top rounding to a point at the bottom. You can look at the Cayman Islands Coat of Arms for reference.

Step 2: Think about what represents you. What is your name? What are some of your favourite things? Your favourite colour, animal or cartoons. Is there anything you enjoy doing? Maybe you like sports, drawing or reading.

Step 3: Start to sketch some of your favourite things into your shield. Try to group them by theme, like the three stars together on the Cayman Islands Coat of Arms. Use a pencil first until you like the look of your personal Coat of Arms, then you can go over it in pen and add colour. You can also layer symbols on top of the shield, like the pineapple, turtle and rope in the Cayman Islands Coat of Arms.

Step 4: At the bottom of your shield, draw a banner - you can make it any shape you want - curvy like our National one, straight or diagonal. Write your name or a personal motto inside the banner.



Optional Steps: Instead of drawing every part of your personal Coat of Arms, try cutting out images from old magazines (with permission from your parents) and gluing them on.

You can also divide your shield into four parts to help you decide how many images to include inside.