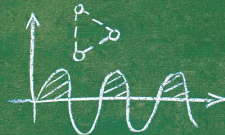




Opening The Windows Of Curiosity

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WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

GUYANA



Victoria amazonica is the national flower of Guyana. This giant water lily is named in honor of Queen Victoria.

Did you know?

According to legend, Guyana was home to the mythical city of **El Dorado**. Many explorers, including **Sir Walter Raleigh**, undertook expeditions to locate the city, but it has never been found.

Ninety percent of Guyana's people live on or near the coast. Some Amerindian villages are so remote that you can only get to them on foot or by boat.

Eighty percent of the country is covered in rainforest, much of which is still unexplored.

Guyana is home to three large rivers: the Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice River. There are also many waterfalls, the best-known of which is **Kaieteur Falls**, the largest single-drop waterfall in the world.

Despite being located in South America, Guyana has a strong cultural and historical link to the nearby Caribbean islands. Its music, food, architecture and markets have a distinct Caribbean flare.

This unassuming tropical country is located on the northeast coast of South America. It is a land of unspoiled beauty. Its virgin rainforests, pristine mountains, large rivers and dusty savannahs are home to a vast variety of animals and plants. Guyanese people are known for their diversity and friendly hospitality.



The jaguar is the national animal.

A jaguar's head is larger and more rounded than a leopard's.

Looking back

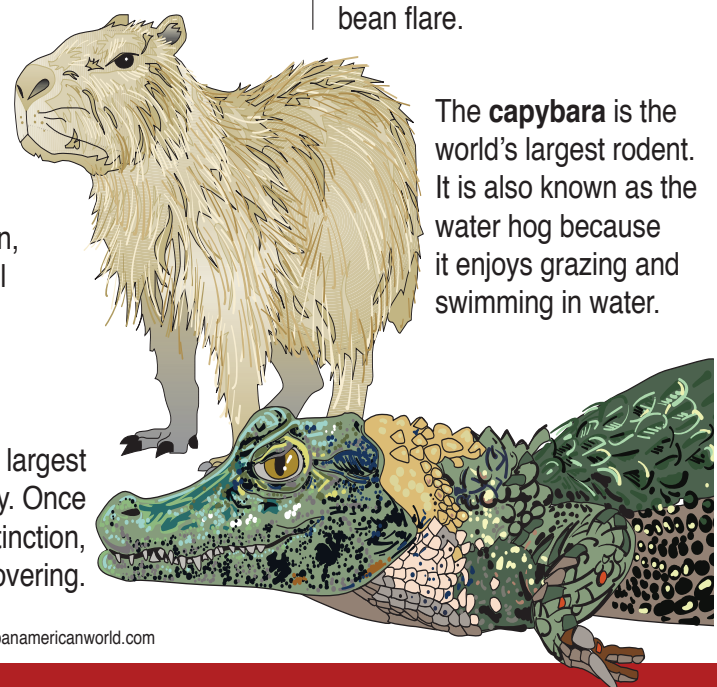
Before the arrival of Europeans, many indigenous groups made this region home. It was colonized by the Dutch before the British took control in the late 18th century. Known as British Guiana until the 1950s, the country gained independence in 1966.



Wildlife

The many river systems and dense jungles of Guyana make it home to a great variety of wildlife. The jaguar, capybara, black caiman, giant anteater and hoatzin all make their homes here.

The **black caiman** is one of the largest members of the alligator family. Once hunted for its skin to near-extinction, populations are now recovering.



The **capybara** is the world's largest rodent. It is also known as the water hog because it enjoys grazing and swimming in water.

Guyana's flag is sometimes called the **Golden Arrowhead**. The green color represents the forests and agriculture of the land. Yellow represents mineral wealth, and red is symbolic of the country's zeal and enthusiasm.

In a name

The word **Guyana** is an Amerindian word that translates as "the land of many waters."

Guyana is the only country in South America where the official language is English.

Just the facts

Area	83,000 sq. mi. (214,970 sq. km)
Population	786,552
Capital city	Georgetown
Currency	Guyana dollar
Highest elevation	Mount Roraima 442 ft. (2,762 m)
Lowest elevation	Caribbean Sea (sea level)
Agriculture	Rice, wheat, sugar, coffee, cocoa, coconuts, edible oils, fruits, vegetables, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, and chickens.
Industry	Processing bauxite, sugar, rice, timber, textiles and ceramics
Mining	Bauxite, gold, diamonds

The **hoatzin** or **Canje pheasant** is also known as the skunk bird because it has a nasty smell.



Giant anteaters have no teeth. Instead, they use long tongues to lap up ants and termites.

SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <http://www.un.org.gy/about-guyana>; Guyana Bureau of Statistics; www.guyana.org; <https://factcity.com>; <https://panamericanworld.com>

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