



Seychelles National Day



The Seychelles

The Republic of Seychelles is an archipelago country that is situated in the Indian Ocean and includes 115 islands. It proclaimed its independence from the United Kingdom in 1976.

The Seychelles are quite famous for their breathtaking landscapes, beaches, and wildlife which have turned them into a major tourist hotspot.

When these islands were uninhabited, they were used as a hiding place for pirates until the French took control of the islands in the second half of the 18th century. Some local legends even say that treasures are still hidden somewhere! The island of Mahe is said to have a pirate treasure buried underneath its soil. It was supposedly left there by the infamous pirate Olivier Le Vasseur in the 18th century.

Did you know that the oldest animal on Earth lives in the Seychelles? Jonathan is a tortoise which hatched c. 1832 and is now approximately 190 years old. He lives on the grounds of Plantation House, the official residence of the governor of Saint Helena. The Seychelles are one of the major leaders in nature conservation. As the islands' flora and fauna suffered greatly when humans began settling, its population managed to repair the damages by introducing strong ecological policies. About 42% of the territories are now dedicated to conservation, one of the highest percentages in the world.

Teaching ideas

★★★ **CYCLE 4** - Divide the class into several teams and assign each of them a major island of the Seychelles. Make them list the important characteristics of their island and then ask them to discuss with other groups to gather some information about other islands. They will have to find the most inhabited island, the largest one, the smallest one, the one with the highest mountain, the one with the most hotels, etc. After this, each group can create a poster for each island to describe its specificities.