What's going on, on the water?

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word "Guyana" comes from an indigenous language and means "Land of Many Waters". Navigable waterways in Guyana extend 1,077 kilometres or 669 miles.

In Guyana, the coastal main road system is not continuous. There are gaps whenever it intersects the Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice Rivers. People and goods move across these gaps by ferry systems as well as the Demerara Harbour Bridge (DHB) and the Berbice Bridge.

The four longest rivers are the Essequibo at 1,010 kilometres (628 mi) long, the Corentyne River at 724 kilometres (450 mi), the Berbice at 595 kilometres (370 mi), and the Demerara at 346 kilometres (215 mi). The Corentyne river forms the border with Suriname. At the mouth of the Essequibo are several large islands, including the 145 km (90 mi) wide Shell Beach along the northwest coast, which is also a major breeding area for sea turtles (mainly leatherbacks) and other wildlife.

The chief majority (about 90%) of Guyana's 773,000 population lives along a narrow coastal strip which ranges from a width of 16 to 64 kilometres (10 to 40 mi) inland and which makes up approximately only 10% of the nation's total land area.

Vocabulary Definition

Sovereign: A nation which is independent, governed by its people, and one that controls its own affairs.

Biodiversity: The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.

Assemblages: A collection or gathering of things or people.

Export: A commodity, article, or service sold abroad.

Import: A commodity, article, or service brought in from abroad for sale.

Port: A town or city with a harbor where ships load or unload, especially one where customs officers are stationed.

Wharf: A level quayside area to which a ship may be moored to load and unload.

Berth: A ship's allotted place at a wharf or dock.

Vessel: A ship or large boat, or a hollow container, especially one used to hold liquid.

Found Objects: Art created from undisguised, but often modified, objects or products that are not normally considered materials from which art is made.

Ornaments: A thing used to make something look more attractive but usually having no practical purpose, especially a small object such as a figurine.

Satire: The use of humor, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in politics and other current issues.

Recognition: Acknowledgment of something's existence, validity, or legality.

Boat / Ship: The primary difference between boats and ships is the size; the U.S. Naval Institute classifies boats as being small enough to be carried aboard a larger vessel, and a vessel capable of carrying a smaller one is a ship. Essentially, you can put a boat on a ship, but you can't put a ship on a boat.

Quay: A concrete, stone, or metal platform in water used for loading and unloading ships.

## BATTLE FISH

### Example Set-Up

Rules:

This game is played on four grids. Each player will need two grids per game.

The "Clear Water" grid keeps track of your own fish, and the "Murky Depths" grid keeps track of your opponents fish.

On the "Clear Water" grid, the player arranges their own fish, and also keeps track of the "Lines Cast" by their opponent.

On the "Murky Depths" grid, the player records their own "Lines Cast" and where they believe the opponent's fish are.

Before the game begins, each player secretly puts their own fish, in different locations, in the "Clear Water" grid.

Each fish occupies a number of squares on the grid. The shape of the squares for each fish is determined by the type of the fish. The fish cannot overlap (meaning, only one fish can occupy any given square in the grid). Fish can be rotated to face any direction.

After the fish have been positioned, players flip a coin or play rock paper scissors to determine who starts. The winner goes first, and their opponent goes second. Play continues with each player alternating "Cast" until the end of the game.

On your turn, "Cast a Line" by naming one square where you believe one of your opponent's fish is located.

The opponent then announces, whether or not the square that was called out, is occupied by a fish, by saying either "Bite" (when it is occupied by a fish), or "Miss" (when it is not occupied by a fish).

If it is a "Bite", the player who "Cast the Line" marks the location on the "Murky Depths" with an X. If it is a "Miss" the player who "Cast the Line" marks the location on the "Murky Depths" with an O.

If an opponent "Cast the Line" and gets a "Bite" on one of your fish, mark the location with an X on the "Clear Water" grid.

When all of the squares that make up a single fish have been "Bitten", the fishes owner announces it as a "Catch", or "Caught".

Once all of a player's fish have been caught, the game is over and their opponent wins.

Have fun and good luck!
Setting the stage: Facts about Guyana

1. Guyana is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north, Brazil to the south and southwest, Venezuela to the west, and Suriname to the east. With an area of 215,000 square kilometres (83,000 sq mi), Guyana is the third-smallest sovereign state on mainland South America after Uruguay and Suriname.

2. Guyana gained its independence from Britain on May 26, 1966.

3. There are nine indigenous tribes residing in Guyana: the Wai Wai, Macushi, Patamona, Lokono, Kalina, Wapishana, Pemon, Akawaio and Warao.

4. Guyana has one of the highest levels of biodiversity in the world. With 1,168 vertebrate species and 814 bird species, it boasts one of the richest mammalian fauna assemblages of any comparably sized area in the world. The Guiana Shield region is little known and extremely rich biologically. Unlike other areas of South America, over 70% of the natural habitat remains pristine.

5. Virtually all exports and imports are transported by sea. The main port of Georgetown, located at the mouth of the Demerara River, comprises several wharves, most of which are privately owned. In addition, three berths are available for oceangoing vessels at Linden.

One of the artists featured in Displaced is Hew Locke.

Hew Locke was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1959. He spent his formative years in Georgetown, Guyana and ultimately moved back to the UK where he is now based (London).

Locke uses a variety of different media to create his art, including found objects, cardboard, beads, fake flowers, and more. In some of his work he is known for decorating photographs, of statues of famous historical figures, with ornaments, plastic toys, and jewelry. These pieces indicate a balance of critical satire and genuine recognition for the influence of certain political figures.

These images reflect the duality in Locke’s personal life having lived in both the colonized country of Guyana and the colonizing country of the United Kingdom. This experience of having seen both sides allows Locke to acknowledge the historical importance of these famous figures, while pointing out their flaws and the historical injustice that accompanies their legacy.

Locke’s works not only deal with images of historical figures, but also that of transportation, history, and trade. In the exhibition “Displaced”, small scale boats with beautiful and elaborate decorations hang just above eye level; reminding viewers of the opportunities that lay ahead for each of us just beyond the “horizon”.

Columbus, Central Park
C-type photograph with mixed media
72 x 48 inch
2010

J. Marion Sims, Central Park
C-type photograph with mixed media
72 x 48 inch
2010
**DIY Art Assignment**

Create a small boat, vessel, or ship out of recyclable materials. Use things like cardboard tubes, plastic bottles, popsicle sticks, etc. Make sure the material you use has been cleaned first of any food or chemicals. Glue, tape, string, and staples make good adhesives for binding materials together. For an added challenge be sure that your ship has a sail with a logo or design on it.

Practice learning perspective in two dimensions by drawing your boat from multiple angles. Perspective drawing is about recording the exact angles that make up a form. Doing so creates the illusion that the object is receding back in space towards the horizon.

This exercise teaches the most when you make at least three drawings. One drawing should be set up so the boat is down below you and you have to draw it from above. Another drawing should be set up with the boat arm’s length from you but about the same height as your eyes. The final drawing should be set up so that the boat is resting above you and you are drawing from below the boat.

Making these drawings will be much easier if you have a strong light source aimed at your boat.

To really make your drawing look strong be sure to also draw the things that make up that background of your boat.

A good trick to measuring the angles of something you are looking at can be done with only a pencil and your arm. Without moving your seat, hold the pencil at arm’s length. Use the long side of the pencil to visually match the angle of the part of the thing you are looking at. Without bending your elbow or moving your wrist, move the pencil to your drawing and compare the angle of the pencil with the angle in your drawing.