

Saint Lucia



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Where is Saint Lucia?

Saint Lucia is an island.

Where do you think it is?



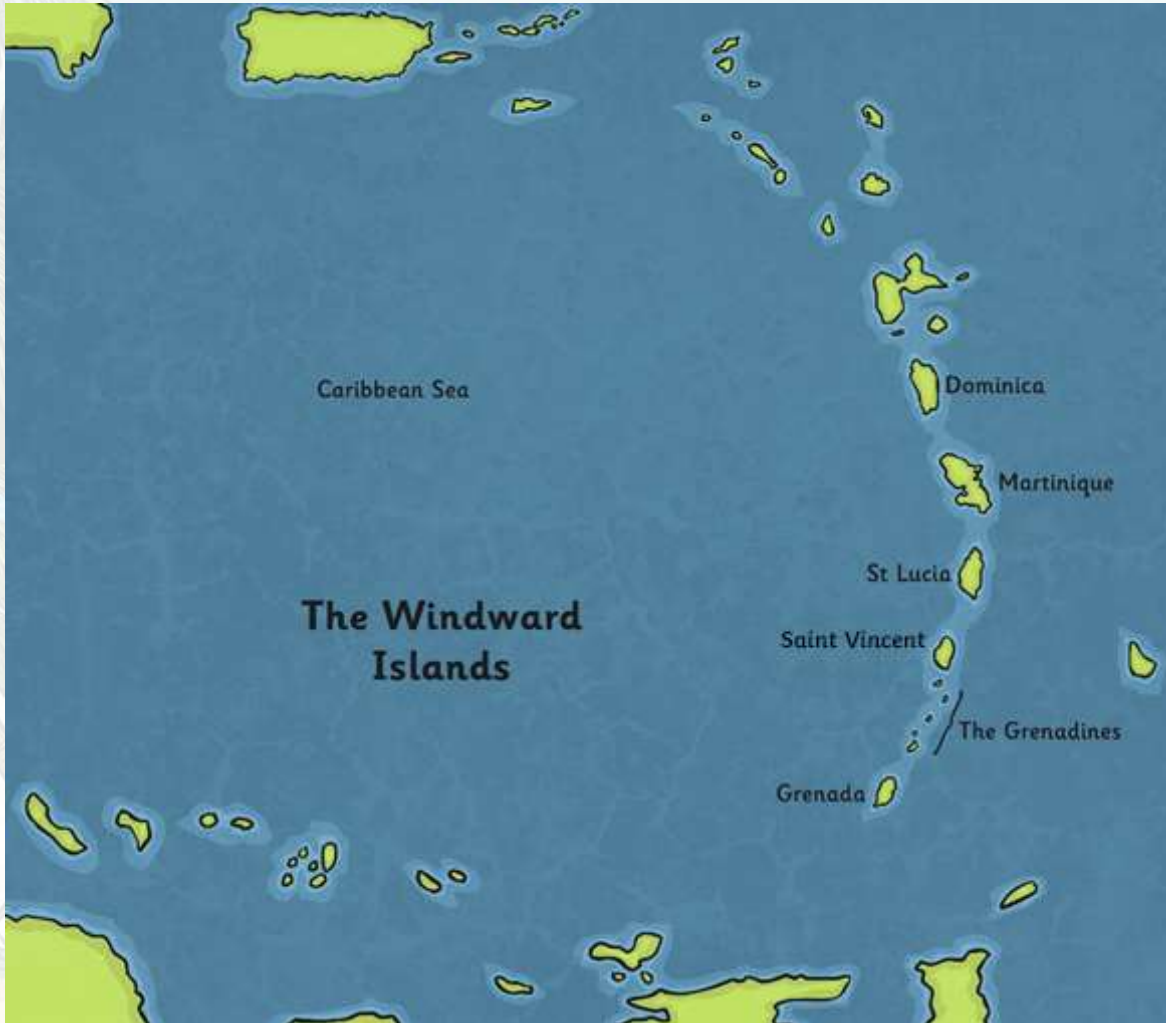
X Marks the Spot!

Which **countries** are nearest to Saint Lucia?

Which **continents** are nearest to Saint Lucia?



The Windward Islands



The Windward Islands are a line of West Indian islands.

The islands are Saint Lucia, Dominica, Martinique, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Saint Lucia

- Saint Lucia is an eastern Caribbean tropical island and belongs to the North American continent.
- The island gained independence from Britain in 1979.
- Saint Lucia has a population of over 180 000.
- The capital city is Castries.
- Mainly French patois (a regional form of French) and English are spoken there.
- The island is 43km long.
- Forests covers more than 70% of the island.



Research Task



How does the population of Saint Lucia compare with your country, nearest city and town?

Physical Features of Saint Lucia

The Pitons

The Pitons are located in the west of the island and are linked by the Piton Mitan ridge.

The larger mountain is Gros Piton (786m) and the smaller is Petit Piton (739m).

The Pitons are a very popular destination for hikers and mountain climbers.

The Pitons are represented on the Saint Lucian flag.



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Physical Features of Saint Lucia

Mount Gimie

Mount Gimie is Saint Lucia's highest peak, measuring over 950 metres tall.



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Physical Features of Saint Lucia

Sulphur Springs (Soufriere Volcano)

A road takes you through the crater of the volcano which emits sulphur and steam.

Be warned, this smells a bit like rotten eggs!

Soufriere volcano is classed as dormant as it hasn't erupted since the 18th century.



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Human Features of Saint Lucia

The Capital City of Castries

The city contains the country's main harbour.
You can find busy shops and markets here.



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Human Features of Saint Lucia

The Towns of Saint Lucia

Soufrière is a town in Saint Lucia.

It was colonised by France and was the original capital of the island.



Today, Soufrière is a popular tourist destination.

Human Features of Saint Lucia

Shanty Towns

Some Saint Lucians can't afford a safe, modern house so they build their own makeshift homes. The homes are built close together and are collectively known as shanty towns. The shanty towns are often seen on hillsides as this land isn't used to build modern houses due to the possible danger of mud slides.



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Mini Plenary

What have you learned so far?



Share 3 new facts
with a partner.

Saint Lucia's Economy



The currency is the East Caribbean Dollar.

The main exports are bananas, vegetables, cacao and clothing.



Saint Lucia is also a very popular holiday destination.

Cacao and Bananas

Cacao is the purest form of chocolate. Cacao pods, which grow on trees, contain cacao beans which can be processed in order to produce cocoa, cocoa butter and chocolate.



The soil and tropical climate are ideal for growing bananas. Bananas make up 22% of Saint Lucia's exports.

Around 30% of the island is used for growing crops.



An Unfair Deal

Bananas are the biggest profit-making item sold in supermarkets in the UK, but over the years banana prices have been pushed down.

It's the banana plantation workers and farmers who can least afford the price cuts, and their work often fails to provide them with enough money.

A huge number of plantation workers live in poverty and have few rights.



A Fair Deal

WINFA stands for The Windward Islands Farmers Association.

WINFA became Fairtrade certified in 2000 and supports over 3 500 banana farmers from The Windward Islands. WINFA campaigns and promotes the sale of Fairtrade bananas from the islands, which are then sold in supermarkets in England and other parts of Europe.

By choosing Fairtrade bananas, farmers and workers get a better deal, allowing them the opportunity to improve their lives. Today, over 85% of Windward Island bananas are Fairtrade, which ensures that farmers receive a fair price for their crop.



Fairtrade



It's not just bananas either!

Look out for the Fairtrade Certification Mark on products when you next go shopping.



The Climate



Saint Lucia has a hot, tropical climate.

Dry season usually lasts from January to April, followed by wet season which runs from May to November.

An average daily temperature is 29 degrees Celsius.

As the island is located near to the Equator, the temperature doesn't alter very much between the winter and summer.

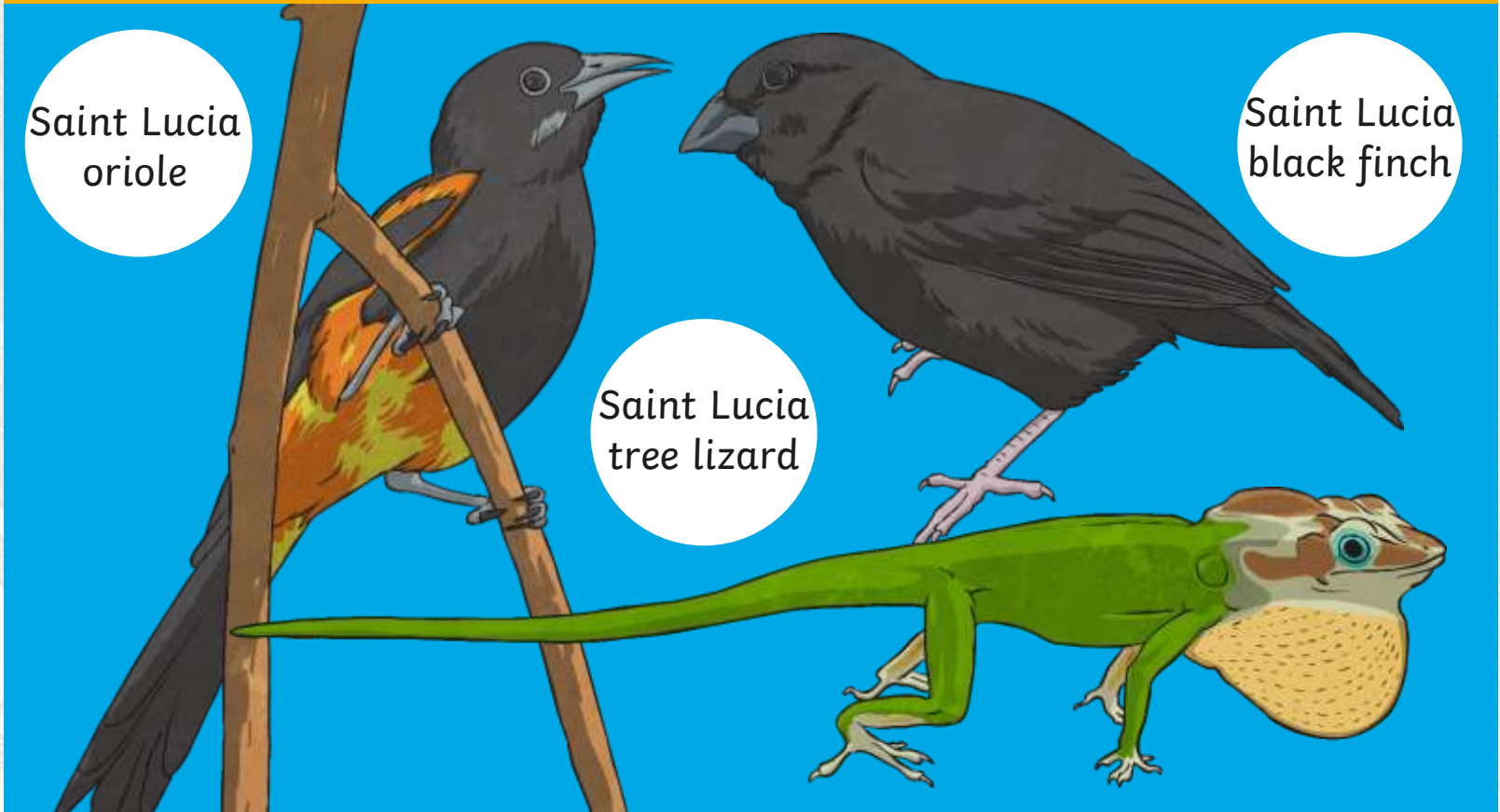
Wildlife

Saint Lucia is rich in birdlife and home to some unique species.

Saint Lucia
oriole

Saint Lucia
black finch

Saint Lucia
tree lizard



Education

- Education is compulsory in Saint Lucia.
- Children begin primary school at five years old and leave when they are twelve.
- Pre-school is available from three years of age.
- The secondary school attendance age is from 12 to 16.
- Some Saint Lucians go onto study at university.



Our Cultural Facts

Saint Lucia Jazz Festival is held every year in May. Visitors and musicians visit from all over the world.



Cricket is a very popular sport in Saint Lucia.



The national dish is green figs (banana) and salt fish.





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