

High School Bahamian History Debate:

Lesson Duration: 1-2 weeks

Objectives:

Examine conflicting perspectives regarding European colonization of the Bahamas

Form and articulate arguments supporting or opposing European settlers' actions

Participate in a formal debate on the ethics of Bahamian colonization

Activities:

Day 1: Introduce early Bahamian history - indigenous peoples, arrival of Columbus, Spanish enslavement of natives.

Days 2-3: Research British loyalists migration to Bahamas after American Revolution. Discuss global politics facilitating European seizure of these territories.

Days 4-5: Prepare for debate - assign teams pro/con colonization, have students research evidence for arguments, write opening statements.

Days 6-7: Formal debate on the forum topic "European nations were justified in colonizing the Bahaman islands in 1490s-1780s." Follow debate structure, timed constructive/rebuttal speeches. Panel of judges determines winning team.

Day 8: Class discussion reflecting on perspectives and arguments raised during the debate.

Assessment: Participation, quality of debate arguments, judges' decision on strongest case made.