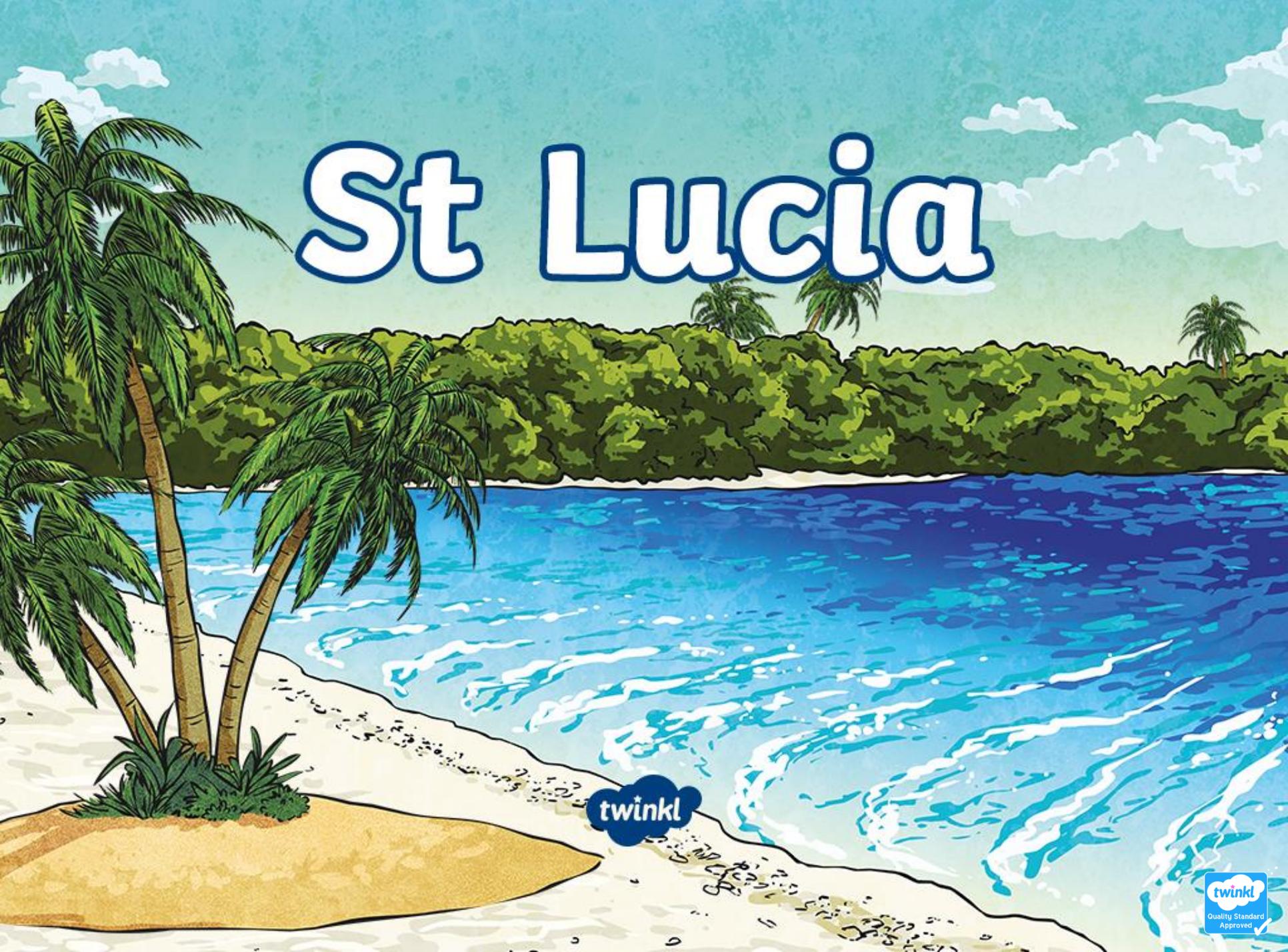


St Lucia



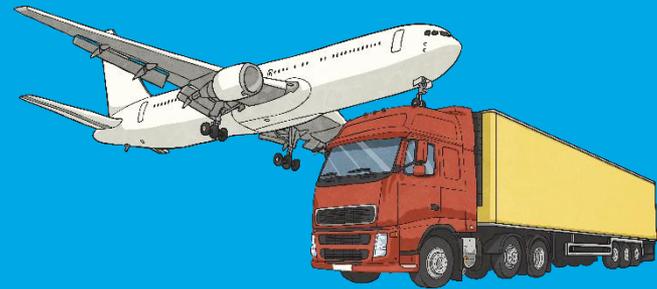
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St Lucia's Economy



The currency is the East Caribbean Dollar.

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



St 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 St 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



St 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

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

St Lucia
oriole

St Lucia
black finch

St Lucia
tree lizard



Education

- Education is compulsory in St 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 St Lucians go onto study at university.



Our Cultural Facts

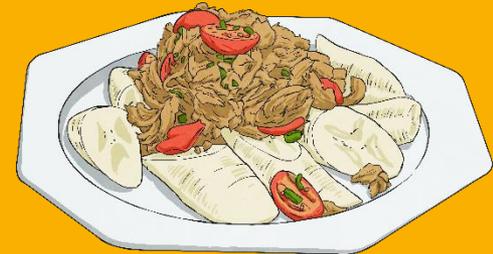
St Lucia Jazz Festival is held every year in May. Visitors and musicians visit from all over the world.



Cricket is a very popular sport in St Lucia.



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





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