



Journey to Suriname: The Greenest Country in the World

An English Language Discovery Module



The Roots:
Indigenous peoples (Arawak, Kaliña) thrive in the rainforest for thousands of years.



The Resistance: 18th Century – Maroons (escaped slaves) flee into the dense jungle. They fight a 100-year war and win their freedom.



The New Arrivals: 19th Century – Following the end of slavery, indentured workers arrive from India, Indonesia, and China.



The Conflict: 17th Century – European colonization. The Dutch and English arrive, and enslaved Africans are brought to work on plantations. In 1667, the Dutch trade New York for Suriname!



The Resolution: 1975 to Present – Suriname becomes an independent, peaceful, multicultural society.





Indigenous Peoples
 Deep connection to the land.
Status: The First Inhabitants.



The Dutch
 Left behind the official language
 and unique architecture.
Status: Former colonizers.



Maroons
 Fierce, independent forest tribes who
 kept African traditions alive.
Status: Descendants of escaped slaves.

Modern Suriname

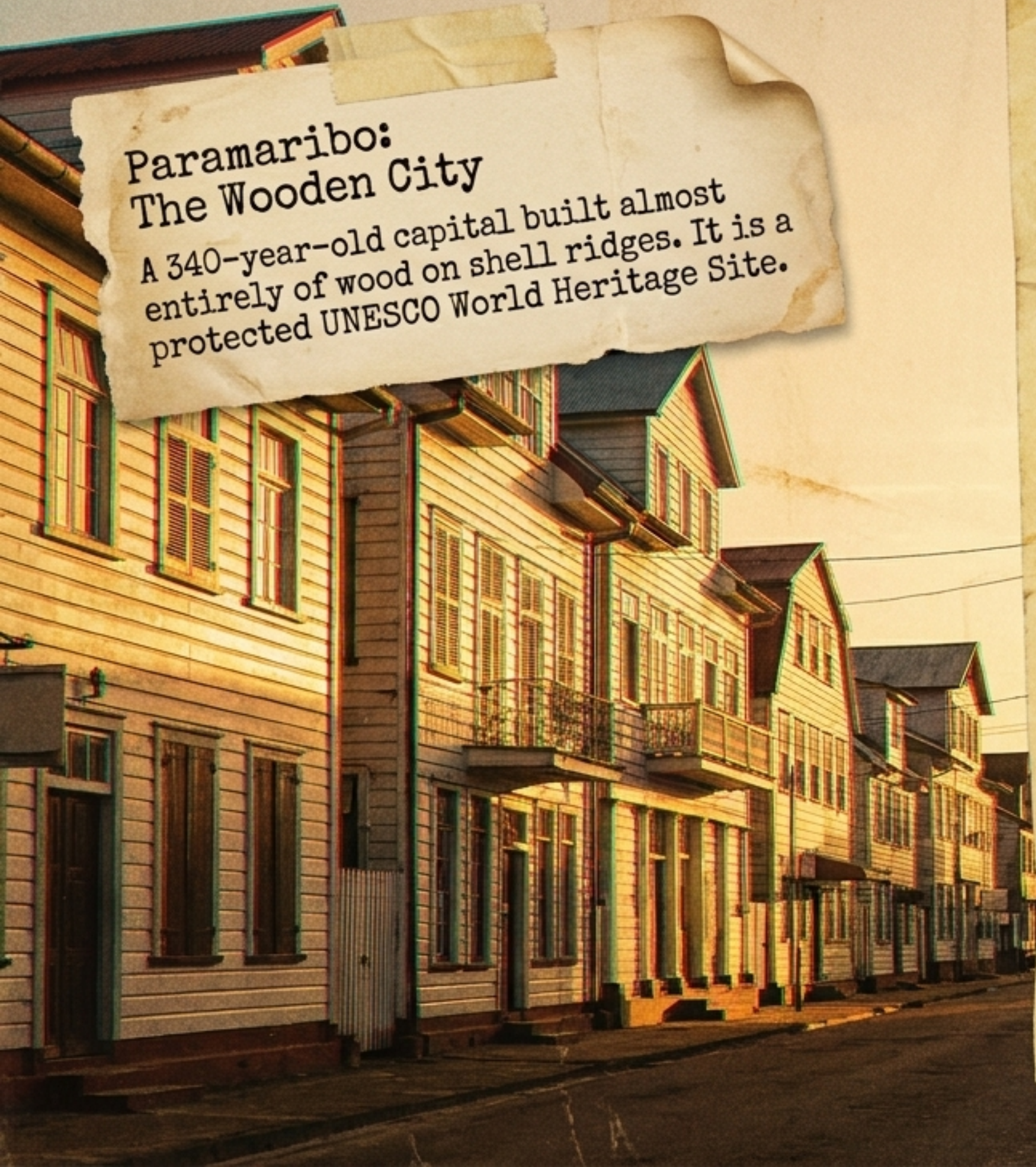
*A true community: In Paramaribo, the
 Mosque Keizerstraat and the Neveh
 Shalom Synagogue stand side-by-side
 as peaceful neighbors.*



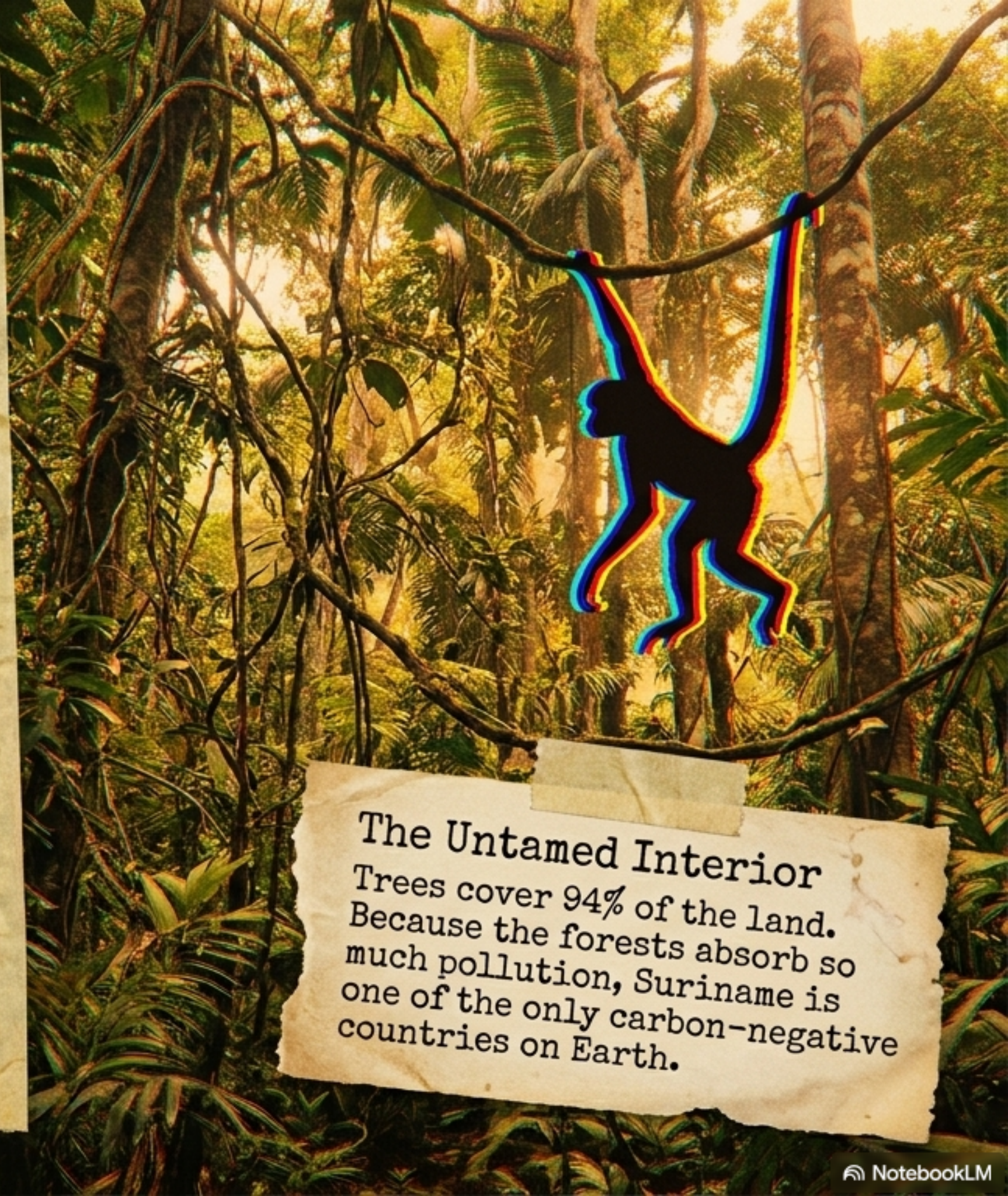
Asian & Indian Communities
 Brought new spices, recipes, and religions.
Status: Descendants of indentured laborers.

Paramaribo: The Wooden City

A 340-year-old capital built almost entirely of wood on shell ridges. It is a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site.



The Untamed Interior
Trees cover 94% of the land. Because the forests absorb so much pollution, Suriname is one of the only carbon-negative countries on Earth.





Untamed (Adjective)

Definition: Wild; not controlled by humans.

Example: You can explore the dense and untamed interior jungles.



Indentured (Adjective)

Definition: Bound by a contract to work for someone else for a set time.

Example: Workers arrived as indentured servants from Asia.



To set in stone (Idiom)

Definition: To make something permanent and impossible to change.

Example: In 1674, a treaty was made to set the arrangement in stone.



Carbon-negative (Adjective)

Definition: Absorbing more carbon dioxide than a country produces.

Example: Because of its massive forests, Suriname is a carbon-negative country.

Painting with Words: Metaphors in the Text



The heart of Paramaribo

Literal: The organ that pumps blood.

Figurative: The most important, central part of the city.



A watery labyrinth

Literal: A maze made of walls.

Figurative: A complex, confusing network of swamps and canals.



A tapestry of cultures

Literal: A thick, woven cloth with pictures.

Figurative: A beautiful mix of different people and traditions woven together.



Culinary Fusion: Where History Meets the Plate



African & Caribbean Roots

Ingredients: Cassava, plantains, sweet potato, okra.

The Story: Created by enslaved Africans on plantations. Today, it is eaten to remember their strength and celebrate the end of slavery.

Vibe: Rich, filling, comforting one-pot meals.



Asian & European Influences

Ingredients: Noodles, curry, soy sauce, long beans.

The Story: Brought by Indian and Javanese indentured workers looking to recreate the tastes of home.

Vibe: Spiced, aromatic, savory, and sweet.

Let's Recap!

Location. Suriname is a small, incredibly green country in South America, covered almost entirely by untamed rainforest.



History. Its history involves Indigenous peoples, European colonizers, enslaved Africans, and Asian workers.



People. Today, these diverse groups live together peacefully, creating a unique mix of languages, religions, and traditions.



Culture. This mix is best seen in its delicious fusion food and its historic wooden capital city, Paramaribo.



Your Turn: Let's Discuss!

1. Suriname is famous for keeping its capital city made of wood. What is a famous historical building or style in your country? Should we always try to preserve old architecture?
2. The text describes Suriname as a tapestry of cultures where different religions share the same street. What are the benefits and challenges of living in a highly diverse society?
3. Surinamese food is a mix of African, Caribbean, and Asian flavors. What is a traditional dish from your culture, and what history does it tell?

Check Your Understanding

Q1 (True/False): Suriname produces more carbon pollution than its forests can absorb.

Q2 (Multiple Choice): Who were the Maroons?

A) Dutch architects

B) Indigenous farmers

C) Descendants of escaped slaves

Q3 (Short Answer): Why is the location of Mosque Keizerstraat unique?

Q4 (True/False): The capital city, Paramaribo, is famous for its tall concrete skyscrapers.

ADMIT ONE

ANSWERS

How did you do?

Check Your Understanding

Q1 (True/False): Suriname produces more carbon pollution than its forests can absorb. *False. It is a carbon-negative country; its forests absorb more carbon than the country produces.*

Q2 (Multiple Choice): Who were the Maroons?

A) Dutch architects

B) Indigenous farmers

C) Descendants of escaped slaves

C. They are the descendants of escaped African slaves who formed independent tribes in the untamed jungle.

Q3 (Short Answer): Why is the location of Mosque Keizerstraat unique?

A3: It is unique because it shares a street and a peaceful neighborhood with the Nevah Shalom Synagogue.

Q4 (True/False): The capital city, Paramaribo, is famous for its tall concrete skyscrapers. *False. It is famous for its historic, 340-year-old wooden buildings.*

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