
Essay title: What does independence of SVG means to me

Name: Caleb McLean

Age: 10 years old

Word count: 504

“Saint Vincent, Land so beautiful,

With joyful hearts, we pledge to thee,

Our loyalty and love, and vow

To keep you ever free”

These words above are part of the national anthem of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It defines what the Independence of SVG should mean, and that is Freedom. The Cambridge Advance learner’s Dictionary 3rd Edition defines independence as “freedom from being governed or ruled by another country. SVG gained independence on the 27th of October, 1979. This day is celebrated every year as our Independence Day. So, in this essay, the independence of SVG means the following points: Freedom, Rights and Privileges and Culture.

Firstly, the Independence of SVG means freedom from our colonizers the British. Gaining Independence meant we were able to have a government that can make decisions for our country without being ruled by Great Britain. We became able to partner with other countries to build and develop SVG without solely relying on our mother country. Having our own government also means that Vincentians can elect the people they want to serve and represent them. No longer is the government chosen by Britain. So each person over the age of 18 years can vote. With independence, we can have our own national symbols like the flag, A National Anthem, a Coat of Arms and The Pledge.

Secondly, as an independent nation, Vincentians can have different rights. A right is considered morally good and acceptable (Cambridge, 2008). With these rights, we can express

ourselves by being creative and worshipping or serving the God of our choice, without judgment. Also, our rights give us freedom of speech which we can do through a protest. A protest is a vital social communication of how you can share and obtain more rights. Other rights and privileges we have as an independent nation are the right to an education, to work where we desire and to choose our own dress code.

Lastly, Independence in SVG means we get to create a culture that is unique to SVG. Festival is a big part of our culture. Carnival is one of the biggest celebrations for Vincentians. It helps to showcase the many talent and creativity of our people through song, dance and costumes. It was through independence this festival could have been practiced openly. Other festival includes the Easter regatta which takes place in Bequia and Nine mornings during the Christmas season. Last but not least the INDEPENDENT PARADE. How is the parade important? It is a time when our nation gathers together to celebrate our FREEDOM as a Country. It is a time of reflection for some while for others it is a time to await the date for the concession on Christmas barrels. However, the National colours are displayed in various dress codes.

Independence of SVG means that as a nation we are free to choose a government to represent us, we have rights and privileges that cannot be taken away from us and we can use our culture to express our freedom.

Reference

Cambridge University press (2008), Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary 3rd Ed,

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Education

WHAT DOES THE INDEPENDENCE OF
SVG MEAN TO YOU?

Name: Caleb Smith

Age: 9

Word count: 510

We enter this world as small, fragile, trusting babies, completely dependent on mommy, daddy or another caregiver to provide our needs. As infants we cannot prepare our own meals, choose our friends, walk on our own or make our own decisions. However, as time rolls on we grow and mature into independent individuals. We develop our own identity, make our own decisions based on our needs or wants, choose our allies, determine our priorities and assert our independence. The independence of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (S.V.G) means the same to me. St. Vincent and the Grenadines as an independent state is able to determine its own destiny.

The French were the first Europeans to occupy S.V.G. However, after a series of wars and peace treaties, the Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1783. This meant that S.V.G was under British rule. From 1783 until October 27th, 1979, S.V.G was dependent on Britain to provide all its needs. As a dependent country, Britain decided how the country was governed, the finances, resources and trading.

On the 27th October, 1979, S.V.G gained its independence from Great Britain. This was cause for great celebration. The country was now free to govern its own affairs. The government people were able to develop trade with countries other than Britain. Under British rule the country produced cotton, sugar and coco. After independence the main export was banana, our green gold. For many years the country was able to sustain the banana trade. However, in recent years the products include provisions, seafood and manufactured products traded to other Caribbean Islands, the United States and Britain for example.

The country also established diplomatic ties with other countries who became allies in various forums. Some of our allies include Taiwan, Russia, Venezuela, Cuba and Turkey. These country provides support in education, agriculture, medicine and many other aspects. Independence made it possible for S.V.G to form diplomatic ties with these countries receive the benefits gained by these ties.

The independence of S.V.G ensured that the government and people could preserve the traditions and culture of the people. This country is rich in culture due to the many settlers. The food, religions, customs, and festivals have all given S.V.G a unique cultural identity. For me this means that we are free to practice our culture without any interference.

S.V.G and its rich culture is a melting pot of beliefs, most of which was passed down by our African ancestors. Our ancestors for ill-treated to ensure the profit of a larger nation. They were victims in the grand scheme to ensure that the Britain gained its wealth. Independence meant we were no longer victims. The people of S.V.G had a voice to speak out against injustice. No longer would citizen take whatever was handed out, we could speak up.

The independence of S.V.G means that we are strong resilient people that can accomplish anything we put our minds to. A nation of over one hundred and ten thousand (110,000) resilient people who will only continue to grow from strength to strength.

References:

Niddrie, David Lawrence , Tolson, Richard and Fraser, Adrian. "Saint Vincent and the Grenadines". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 8 Sep. 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Saint-Vincent-and-the-Grenadines>. Accessed 6 November 2022.

Ruby Richardson

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Age: 11

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**What does Independence
mean to you?**



You might have been wondering what exactly does Independence mean and more specifically, what it means to you. Some of us might know that to be Independent can mean to have the freedoms to live your life without being dependent on someone or thing else. But, is that really all to it? To me, Independence is mostly about a few important things like: national freedoms, our heritage and togetherness.

St. Vincent was a part of the British Commonwealth and had received its coat of arms in 1912, when it was granted a royal warrant by its British ruler and by 1969 it had attained an internal self-government. Ten years after that they finally obtained Independence on the 27th of October 1979, becoming the last windward island to become an independent nation. This now means that the British no longer have sole control over the governing of our nation and it will now be up to US THE PEOPLE to elect a government party to become the locally elected cabinet.

We proudly changed our flag. Our existing flag is actually the second flag to proudly represent Our SVG. The first flag was found to be too hard to be easily reproduced and was then changed to what we see today. The new flag was launched October 21st 1985 and had the basic colors of blue, green and gold. The blue to represent the sky and sea, the gold to represent the warm spirit of the people and the golden sands of our sister islands, and the green to represent the lush vegetation and agriculture that runs through our hills and mountains and the vitality of our hard-working people. We also sing our national anthem to show love and respect for our nation on special occasions and functions like Independence Day celebrations and Sporting Events and Carnival pageants.

On Independence Day, families and friends can get together and visit places like:

- Fort Charlotte, which sits high on the hill guarding Kingstown's port of entry
- The Botanical Gardens, founded 260 years ago and has a wide variety of flora and fauna.
- Trinity Falls, a three-level waterfall located on the Leeward end of the island.
- Vermont Nature trails, where you can hear and see our national bird flying peacefully through its natural habitat.
- Walilabou Heritage Park, where the Pirates acted part of the all too famous 'Pirates of the Caribbean' movie.

Some other fun places to visit are either the Rawacou, Brighton or Owia Salt Ponds, River 14 in South Rivers or any of our beautiful beaches along the shore line. These are among many other beautiful national or historic landmarks or nature parks around the island you can visit for a day filled with food, fun and family to celebrate this important holiday.

This year I want to go to the E.T Joshua Airport, which is now the E.T Joshua Shopping Center and Food Court, where I can have fun and eat after a day at the Indian Bay beach nearby.

I look forward to seeing all the creativity as I prepare to take in the parade and all the blue, green and gold decorations and fashions that will be showcased and where we can see all of our regimental corps and officers representing proudly on the parade grounds of Victoria Park. The local crafts that sport the flag everywhere you turn are fun to collect each year. Then to later go to visit our elders and enjoy the local foods from my relatives as they walk down memory lane telling us old people tall tales of times before.

So, our Independence to me is not ONLY about owning and acting on our Freedom to use our voice to encourage and motivate others or offer strength where needed and defend basic human rights or freedom to vote governments into power and remove them as well. And neither is it ONLY about the freedoms to express ourselves openly, honestly and freely or to reflect on the struggles our nation has faced in its fight to free itself from former ownership.

Independence Day is most importantly a Day of togetherness where we as a people can come together and celebrate our achievements and encourage each other.

In conclusion, to me, Independence is all about how we show our love of our nation and its people by proudly showing our national pride in different and unique ways, by cooking, making crafts, by singing and dancing to the rhythms left by our ancestors. Enjoying each other's company and joining as one to unite and celebrate that we are proud Vincentians and Proudly Independent!

REFERENCES- - [HTTPS://WWW.CARIBBEANELECTIONS.COM](https://www.caribbeanelections.com) , 'Independence in St. Vincent and the Grenadines'

Essay is 766 words without references and head page included, 814 with it.