

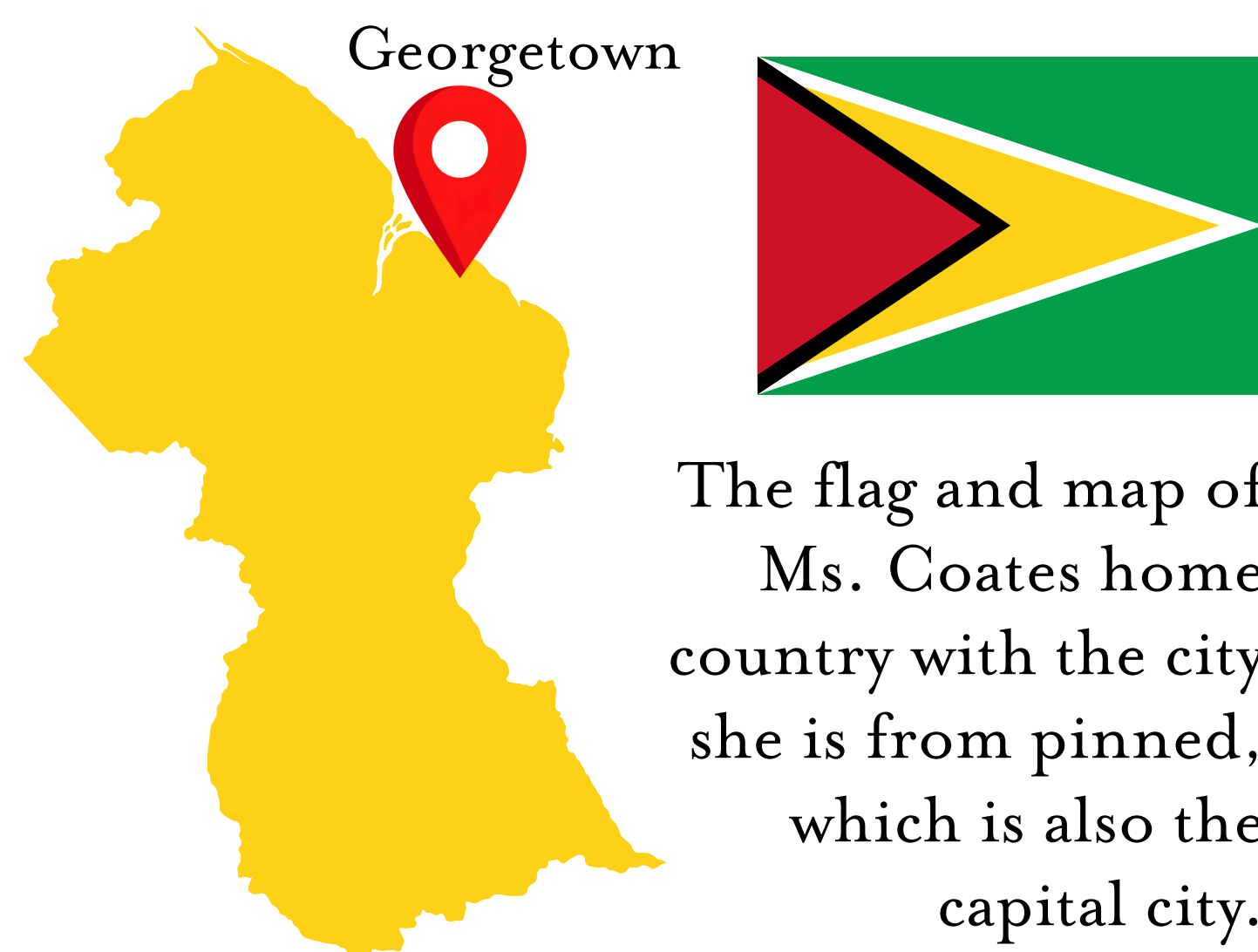
An Oral History with Ms. Kay Coates

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A photograph of our interviewee
Ms. Kay Coates.

“You have to give yourself
permission to learn and be
yourself to grow.”



The flag and map of
Ms. Coates home
country with the city
she is from pinned,
which is also the
capital city.

“Who’s going to do it for you, if you
don’t do it for you”

COMMUNITY STORY

Ms. Kay Coates

Ms. Kay Coates is a strong, independent woman from Guyana, South America (Land of Many Waters). She is a librarian instructor, and a College of Education liaison. She has traveled to many places, including England, Japan, Panama, the Caribbean, and more, before settling in Georgia, the United States of America, in the early 2000s. Despite the ignorance and arrogance of those who are quick to judge and the conflicts she has faced, she has grown through it all and risen to be a person she is confident in.

Ms. Coates explained a lot of things about Guyana and the differences between the United States and Guyana. Although a large difference that stood out to her is that the United States isn't as close socially; we as people are closed off and isolated, whereas in Guyana, people tend to thrive on being social and working together. Ms. Coates described how Guyana has many cash crops such as peanuts, coconuts, and rice. Another large part of Guyana is that it is multicultural, and despite having “6 races” speaking many languages, they often primarily speak English.

REFLECTION: FUNDS OF KNOWLEDGE

The cultural and linguistic assets Ms. Coates possess are ones of diversity, in giving a unique perspective about the area. A teacher could draw on their funds of knowledge to support learning for individuals like Ms. Coates by integrating their culture into the environment, creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all students regardless culture.

PRIMARY SOURCES



From left to right. Wood pen holder of home country’s map, flag and name painted, certificate from her first time hot air ballooning at a conference (top), certificate of appreciation for being a conference speaker (bottom), wooden ball made from coconut.

WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS

From engaging in this project we learned that people, forget that everyone is human and deserves to be treated fairly, no matter their culutral background.

We could use this in our future teaching by intergrating diverse cultures into curriculum, and even have students conduct an interview with someone we know as teachers.

ORAL HISTORY



REFERENCES

LGuyana Directory. (2026, September 15). 5 profitable cash crops small farmers are growing across Guyana’s regions.
<https://www.guyanadirectory.gy/blog/5-profitable-cash-crops-small-farmers-are-growing-across-guyanas-regions>