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### **The Impact of Electricity on the Cayman Islands**

Since electricity has been brought to the Cayman Islands, there have been many changes that have positively contributed to the growth and development of the Cayman Islands. It has helped the Cayman Islands flourish, bringing in more tourists by cruise ship or giving tourists a beautiful, cool place to stay. **Electricity had increased comfort, ease choice and efficiency, helping the Cayman Islands, as a whole, become more advanced and developed.**

Electricity had developed products that make tasks easier, helping development and advancement in the Cayman Islands. Before electricity, work was done manually, and as a result, work was more tiring and time consuming. Mixing concrete or clearing land was done manually in the construction business. Business had paper files that were easy to lose. Without electricity in the Cayman Islands, people used different resources for light, laundry and air conditioning. Before electricity in the Cayman Islands, candle light was used to see in the dark or add heat when needed. However, candles have the possibility of causing house fires, which is a dangerous risk and candles pollute the air with smoke. Now electrical light is available and is less likely to cause fires or produce smoke when it is turned off. Lights are easy and convenient to use, with just the flick of a switch providing comfort to anyone scared of the dark.

Without electricity, laundry was done by hand, soaking the clothes with soapy water and putting them outside to dry. When a major electrical company came to the Cayman Islands, in May 1966, it brought along with it certain electrical appliances such as washers and dryers for everyone to use. Washers and dryers made laundry much easier. It is quicker and more convenient, especially in families where both parents work.

Without electricity, there would be no air conditioning to keep cool. Before, the sea breeze was used to keep everyone cool; however, air conditioning gives the option of setting temperatures to make your home comfortable. This is really appreciated on the very hot days that we have in Cayman.

Electricity also makes research easier. Rather than looking up information using books, which lengthens the time of finding information, electricity has enabled the creation of tools that makes research easier. Since electricity was developed, technology was made possible, and there are many technological devices, such as computers, that can allow for an efficient search of information. Any type of process may take longer without electricity.

Electricity helps a great deal, by making daily activities a lot easier. Everyday people in the Cayman Islands communicate. Electricity has provided more ways to communicate that are faster and easier when communicating with someone from long distances. In the past, a way of long distance communication, that is sometimes still used today, was letters. However, letters take long to send and receive. Electricity provides more options like, e-mail, Skype, texting and calling on the telephone. These different methods of communication are useful to the Cayman Islands because the Islands need to import many different resources and fast and easy communication is a big part of that.

Electricity has made running a business easier, providing many different ways to advertise. Electricity provides television, electrical signs and computers which contain various websites to promote businesses. Computers also make it possible to complete tasks faster so that workers can get more done in a day.

Electricity also helps with transportation. Before trains used to be run by coal; however, that polluted the air. As a result electrically charged trains were built which do not pollute the air,

and less smoke means cleaner air. Even though the Cayman Islands do not have trains, other places we ship from definitely do. Another form of transportation is electrically charged cars which we do have in the Cayman Islands, which help people get from place to place. The electrically charged cars help make the air cleaner as they do not use gas which avoids pollution of the air, solving a problem in the Cayman Islands and worldwide.

Since electricity, the Cayman Islands have flourished getting more business and bringing in more tourists and residents. Along with the people coming to the Cayman Islands they introduced different skills. With electricity, businesses are able to reach out to more people in a more efficient way. Since electricity, the Cayman Islands have been able to advertise itself better and as a result, more tourists have been visiting the Cayman Islands bringing more profit to the government.

Electricity is important to tourists so they can stay comfortable wherever they may be staying. Running and working in a business had been made easier because of the benefit of electricity. Without electricity, the Cayman Islands may not be known for our amazing diving spots, which are an important tourist attraction, and the Cayman Islands may not be on the map. Electricity has brought the Cayman Islands a huge way from where it was with its multiple devices.

Electricity gives people in the Cayman Islands more choice by just developing different devices. As a result, electricity has brought more people to the Cayman Islands to live or just to stay temporarily. Since electricity has brought over so many residents or visitors through advertisement, different skills and ways of life were brought as well. The people brought in by electricity have brought along with them multiple things such as religion, different sports and languages. Without electricity, because communication and travel may be harder, the resident of

the Cayman Islands may not know about different religions such as Christianity, Judaism and Buddhism. As a result there would most likely not be as many religions in the Cayman Islands. People in the Cayman Islands play many different sports that originate from many different countries, such as rugby and soccer, which are two sports that have really grown in popularity in the Cayman Islands. However, without electricity there is no guarantee that the Cayman Islands would still have these sports. Along with tourists and visitors that are able to know about the Cayman Islands through advertisement, came different languages. The main language in the Cayman Islands is English; however, there are many different languages that were brought to the Cayman Islands. Languages that have been brought to the Cayman Islands over time are Spanish, French, Italian and many more. Electricity has also brought different devices to learn different languages on such as Rosetta Stone on the computer. Knowing different languages is good in a business in order to communicate with different people in different countries and enables the Cayman Islands to import resources from all kinds of places. All of these things create a nice blend of culture and bring along with them more choice.

A business used to be harder because of the lack of electricity and the ease and efficiency it brings. Without electricity on the Cayman Islands, work was manual and time consuming. Research and finding files are made easier by electricity and are beneficial to businesses. Construction used to take longer building buildings with no electric machines and communication was more tedious by long distances. When electricity first came to the Cayman Islands there were very many power outages and it was not very dependable. However, as time went by, electricity in the Cayman Islands became more and more dependable each year. Businesses may not have been able to become known by many people because without electricity there were not very many people that a business would be able to reach out to.

As a result of electricity being brought to the Cayman Islands, more comfort was brought to the Cayman Islands as well. Electricity brought electrical light and different forms of entertainment to the Cayman Islands and this brought comfort along with it. Modern day technology has developed many entertainment sources, such as using computers and television. The computers and television gives people in the Cayman Islands entertainment through television shows and computer games. When tourists visit the Cayman Islands they often stay in hotels and because of the electricity in the hotels they are able to remain cool and comfortable. Caribbean music plays a big role in the culture of the Cayman Islands and for some people sound is comforting to go to sleep in. Electricity has helped create devices that enable people to listen to music for any amount of time they want, such as a radio. With the radio, the people in the Cayman Islands could go to sleep with the comforting sound, to some, of Caribbean music.

Many people are brought comfort by knowing they are safe. In the Cayman Islands the amount of crime has been steadily increasing. As a solution, electricity has developed house and business alarms. This helps the Cayman Islands by lowering the amount of crime and increasing the feeling of safety and comfort.

Light brings comfort to many people when it is dark, especially to those who are scared of the dark. Light also makes it possible to stay up later to finish work that has a certain due date or just doing work for fun. Light also enables people to read when it is late or walk around the house without feeling for every object. The Cayman Islands has made a huge advancement in switching from candle light to electrical light, avoiding any possibilities of burning a building. Power outages used to scare me when I was younger because I used to be scared of the dark. However, by taking away the electricity the power outages taught me not to take advantage of electricity. One time, there was a power outage where the electricity was off for three hours.

During the power outage it was difficult to sleep because of the lack of air conditioning. When the power finally did come back on in the end, I was absolutely filled with gratitude that I am blessed enough to live with the comfort of electricity.

Electricity has brought refrigeration to the Cayman Islands. With refrigeration, cold foods are able to be brought to the Cayman Islands without a problem. Refrigeration, allows people to preserve food for a longer period of time giving them more options on what to eat. This is especially favorable to the people in the Cayman Islands as it means they can get a variety of food here that they may not be able to get otherwise. where they are not able to get a lot of food from the Cayman Islands.

Since the Cayman Islands have such a mixture of cultures, many holidays and occasions are celebrated such as, birthdays, Christmas and Thanksgiving. However, in these celebrations, there often includes a lot of electricity, Christmas especially. During Christmas, there are many electrical decorations and colorful lights that are used to add to the joyfulness of the holiday. Many birthdays are celebrated in different ways, whether by going on a cruise ship or simply staying home and having some cake. Electricity is used in the celebration of birthdays by people using electrical ovens to make cakes or fridges and freezers to make sure any ice cream stays cold and does not melt in heat. For Thanksgiving, because turkeys are not able to be found in the Cayman Islands, we need to ship them. In order to preserve the turkey during shipping, the ship is often refrigerated, which uses electricity as well. Some people use electrical stoves to cook turkeys or simply put them in a microwave, which lengthens the amount of time to cook the turkey. Very many people buy turkey early so they can get good meat. In order to make sure the turkey does not go expire, a lot of people refrigerate their turkey as opposed to buying it the day of Thanksgiving. However, in the Cayman Islands because of the many different mixes of

culture, there is more than one day of Thanksgiving. In the Cayman Islands, Canadian Thanksgiving, Caymanian Thanksgiving and American Thanksgiving are celebrated. With all the different blends in cultures, many choices are available to the people in the Cayman Islands as to which culture to follow.

Electricity is often used for summer break in the Cayman Islands because of the heat. People in the Cayman Islands often stay inside for air conditioning and to avoid mosquitoes. Another way of cooling down is going to the beach and relaxing in water, which is also another popular thing to do over the summer break. People often also stay inside during winter break as well to avoid the cold and stay in a more temperate area. As a result, during both breaks, more electricity is used on the Island than normal, bringing much business to the electrical companies on the Cayman Islands.

Since everything used to be done manually in the Cayman Islands, it was hard to be comfortable. Work was almost twice as hard, taking more energy out of people in the Cayman Islands. Construction used to be done manually and since machines were introduced to the Cayman Islands there has been more comfort, ease and efficiency. People in the construction businesses had to move all heavy construction tools with purely man power, making them tired and giving them less energy to work on construction. However, since electrical machines, working in the construction business is easier. It preserves more energy, enabling the many construction workers in the Cayman Islands to work harder, getting the job accomplished twice as fast.

There are certain resources not able to be found in the Cayman Islands, such as all the food needed to maintain a healthy diet. In the Cayman Islands, people are not able to grow and catch all the food needed to maintain a healthy diet. As a result, the Cayman Islands import much

food. However, some of these foods need refrigerating, which is not able to happen without electricity. Different brands of water are imported as well from different places. For example, Aquafina is one type of bottled water that is imported from another country for businesses located in the Cayman Islands to sell and make a profit. The Cayman Islands import many things, such as clothing or appliances such as microwaves. However, some items are sent using an airplane. In both options of transportation, electricity is used to power the generator, which helps the whole process of the travel. There are plenty of items that are imported to the Cayman Islands in order to produce a nicer image to visitors, such as necklaces for businesses to sell. The objects often shipped or flown to the Cayman Islands are used to better or improve the Cayman Islands in some ways such as ease, efficiency and comfort.

“Creator, himself, had electrically designed this planet just for the propose of enabling us to achieve wonders which, before my discovery, could not have been conceived by the wildest imagination” - *Nikola Tesla*. Electricity had brought more comfort, ease, choice and efficiency to the Cayman Islands in many different ways. Everything electricity brings just gives more options and as a result, more choice. Electricity has made doing daily activities much easier and more comforting, bringing more efficiency. Without electricity, certain developments and advancements we now have in the Cayman Islands may not have been possible.