

# Tommy Goes to School

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U.S. Virgin Islands Hotel & Tourism Association



## Spotlight Tourism Position.....Meeting Planner

Many companies plan meetings outside of their home state and the Virgin Islands is a much desired location for these meetings. Because we are territory of the United States, the islands offer a lot of incentives to entice companies to come to our shores. Meeting Planners are responsible for organizing all the details from booking the hotel rooms and setting up meeting spaces to scheduling parties and fun activities. While formal training isn't required, planners need to have a keen understanding of the business and the islands. Other important skills for planners include: a superior level of customer service, attention to the smallest details and exceptional creativity. Being a planner is very demanding and challenging but can be a really rewarding job. Judi Nagelberg, owner of Island Meetings & Incentives, has worked with companies such as Lexus, Chrysler, Home Depot and Verizon. Nagelberg says "this is a business where you can never say no to any requests. You need to be able to pull together a flawless event." So if this profession sounds exciting continue to learn all you can about the US Virgin Islands and perfect the art of being nice to everyone.

Hi guys,

I hope you had an inspiring summer and spent the time doing something fun or leaning something new. School has begun and I hope you're prepared to do your best. This issue of Tommy Goes to School highlights an exciting job in the tourism industry, acknowledges our Tommy Contest Winner, talks about the importance of recycling and much more. I hope you enjoy it. See you on the classroom.

Tommy Starfish

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**Did you know....** That the century plant (Agave American) takes 10 years , not a century, to blossom, and then dies. The tree grows about 10-20 feet tall and features fabulous yellow blossoms. Locals sometimes use the dried plant as a Christmas tree.

## Tommy Contest Winner



Congratulations to **Akeiba Barnard**, the winner of the Tommy Goes to School essay contest. Akeiba, a 7th grader at Addelita Cancryn Junior High School, will receive a \$250 Savings Bond and will be recognized at the annual Tommy Star Awards Gala on November 21, 2009. Akeiba submitted the following essay when she was a 6th grader at Lockhart Elementary School. "The best way for Tommy to experience the history of the Virgin Islands is to tour the historical landmarks and to experience Transfer Day. The Virgin Islands is rich with history and it can show Tommy a lot. He will learn so much if he goes to Fort Christian or even the 99 Steps.

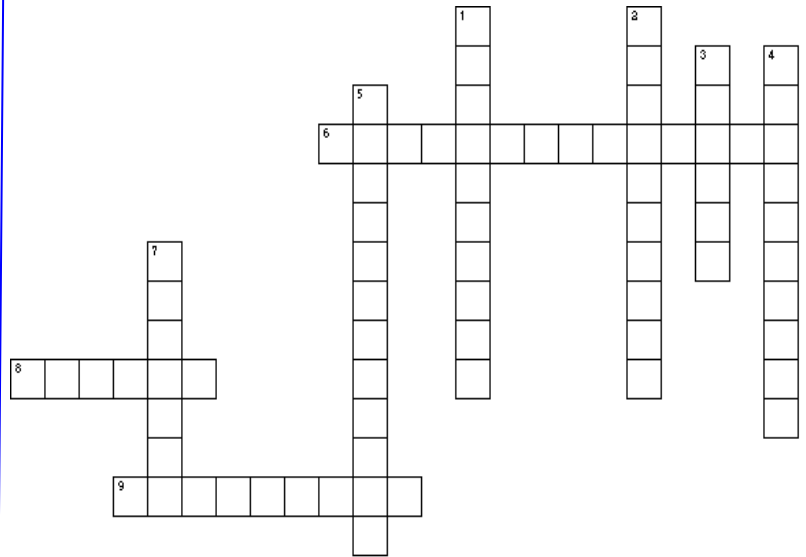
Tommy can experience the taste of the VI by tasting the local food of the Virgin Islands. One of the local favorites is the beef pate. A nice drink from the Virgin Islands is the sour sop drink. Local flavors of the Virgin Islands are something really important to experience. The people are friendly, polite and nice. The official language of the Virgin Islands is English but there are people in the islands that speak other languages. The U.S. Virgin Islands is truly a special place."

## Culture Corner—Jawbone

When you think of a locally-made candy the jawbone comes to mind. Originally called "Danish Girl," this red and white peppermint candy was renamed, and because of it's as hard as a person's jawbone, it is best either sucked on or smashed into smaller pieces. The process of making jawbone can be tough, and painful, especially since you're working with very hot sugar. But with the right equipment and practice it gets easier. What you need is a board with a nail which is used to pull the sugar, a marble board or waxed paper, and a pair of heat-resistant gloves (a modern addition to the process). Lucia Henley, talented cook and winner of many awards for her mouth-watering baked goods, candies and preserves, continues the tradition of making jawbones, something she begged a Crucian cook to teach her more than 45 years ago. Mrs. Henley occasionally teaches jawboning-making classes at community centers. If you ever have the opportunity to take her class do so and help to keep this food tradition alive.



## Solve the Tommy Puzzle



### Across

- 6 A tourism position
- 8 First name of the Tommy Contest Winner
- 9 A way of reusing an item

### Down

- 1 Another name for jawbone
- 2 One skill you need to be a meeting planner
- 3 A local cook who makes jawbone
- 4 An item you can create out of a recycled item
- 5 Locals sometimes use it as Christmas tree

## Let's Get Recycling

You hear the word recycling all the time but what exactly is it. Recycling is the process of taking an item we've used already and reusing it, either in the same way or converting into a different product. When we dump our trash, collectors pick it up and take it to the landfill. A landfill is a place where all trash is dumped, compacted and covered with dirt. All of this trash or refuse can produce gases harmful to our environment and the air we breath and this is why recycling is so important.

So how can you help? Look at what is being thrown away in your home or community. Can some of these items be reused? Of course, and there are creative ways of turning your trash into a treasure or functional item. Get your classmates and school involved. Collect aluminum cans and get paid for turning them in at the recycling center. Here's a clever idea that will have the birds chirping loudly. Completely clean a plastic milk jug. Cut two or three holes in the middle of the jug, as shown in the picture. The holes should be between two and four inches wide depending on the type of birds you want to attract. Then make smaller holes below the feeding holes for the doweling rod. Take each rod and insert it into the smaller hole for a perch. Fill the feeder with seed and hang it in a nearby tree. The birds will love you for this. Other changes you can make include: wrapping gifts in old newspapers; write on both sides of a paper; or donate used items to a charity. Remember, we can all help in some way to reduce the amount of trash we produce and send to the landfill. Our world depends on it.

