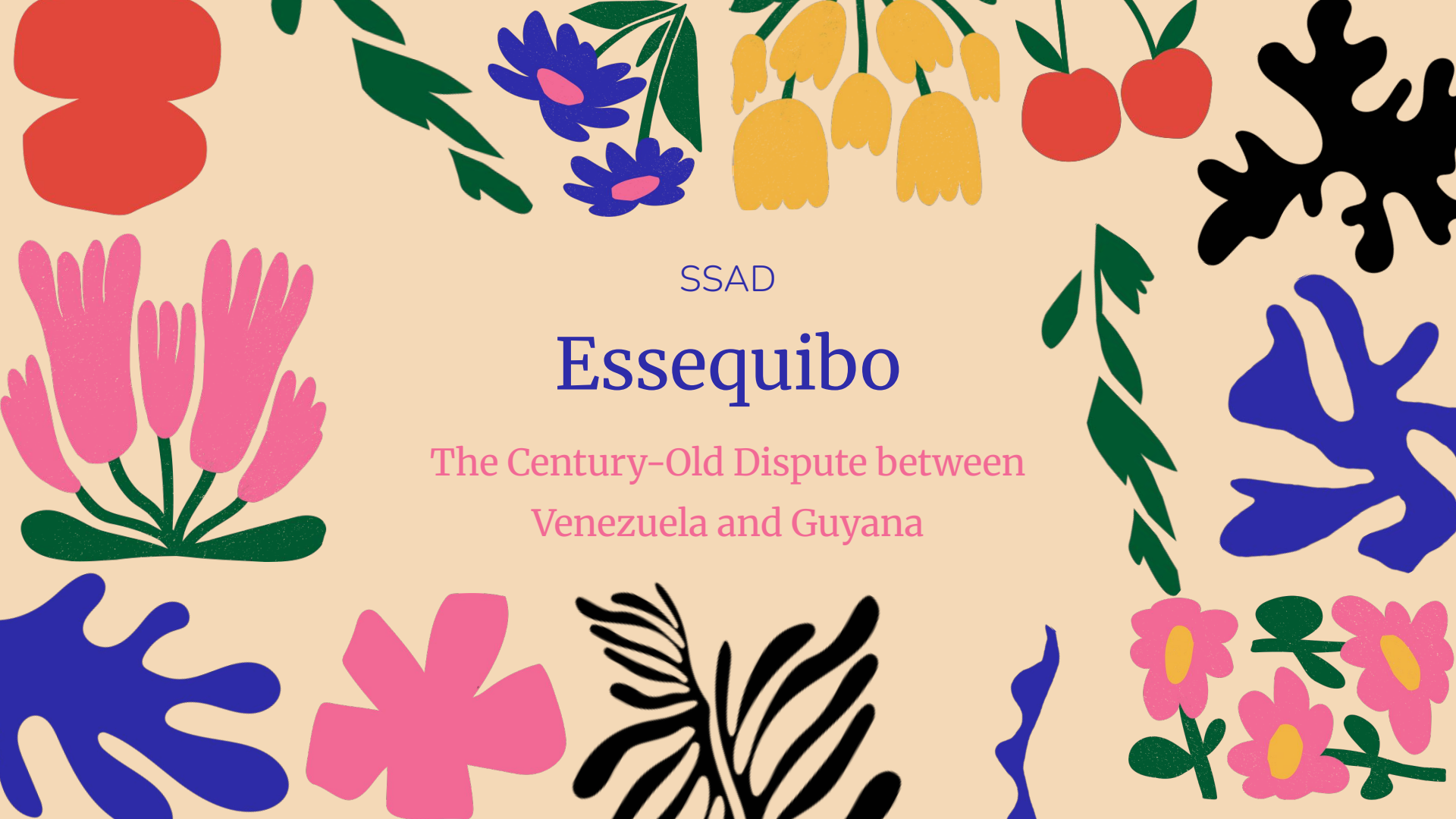




SSAD

Essequibo

The Century-Old Dispute between
Venezuela and Guyana

What is Essequibo?

- Oil-rich region in Guyana, Venezuela's neighbor
- Makes up $\frac{2}{3}$ of Guyana's total land
- In 1899, this land belonged to the British, who was at that time a colonial ruler of Guyana



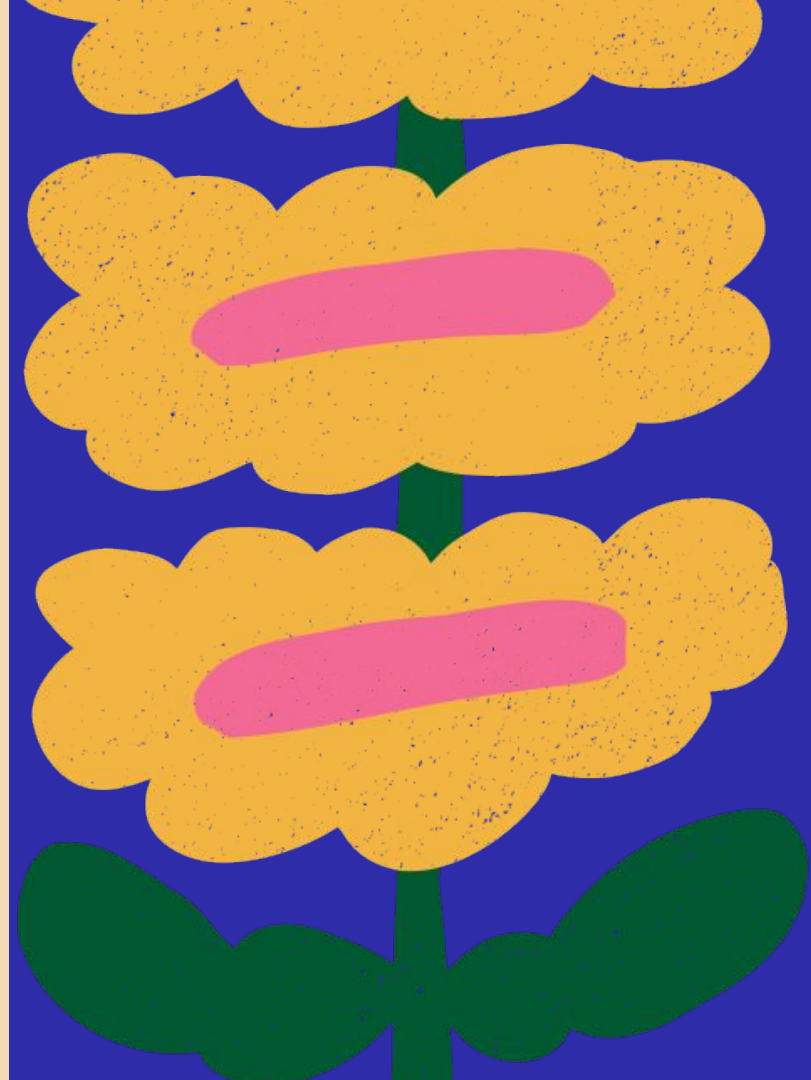
Why is Venezuela involved?

- Venezuela has claims on Guyana land
- 1966 agreement between Britain and Venezuela for Guyana to have land representatives and to reconsider who owned that land
- However, 60 years later, they still have not settled the dispute.



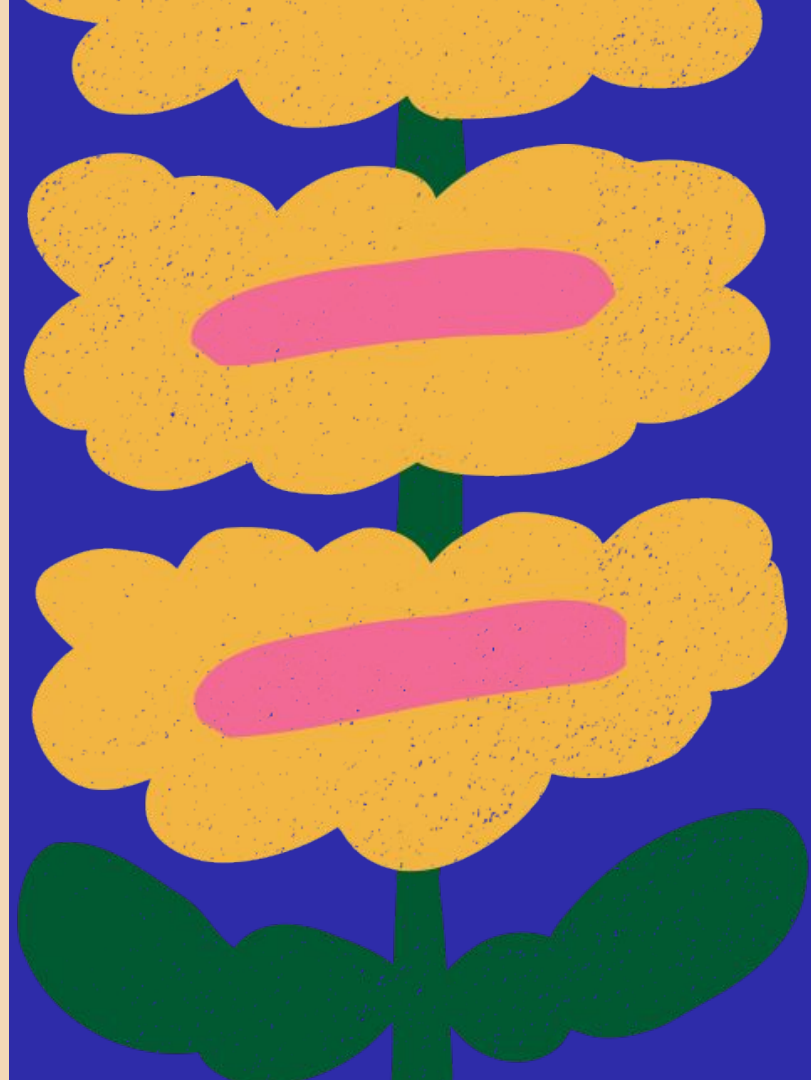
Rising Tensions

- ICJ – International Committee of Justice – has recently ruled to hear (court procedure) the issue, which could return the land to Guyana
- Because the US had imposed sanctions on Venezuela's oil, Venezuela is not keen on returning Essequibo to Guyana



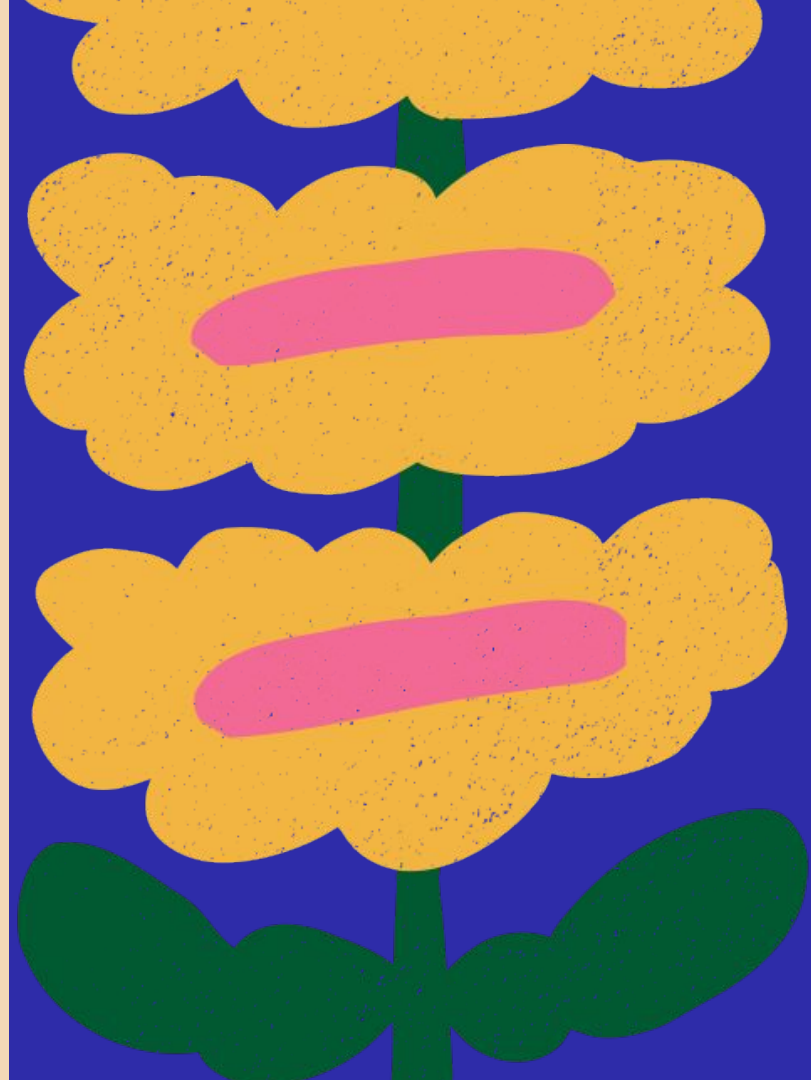
Rising Tensions

- Venezuela is planning on holding a referendum (a general vote by the electorate on a single political question) on whether it is the rightful owner
- Guyana views this as an existential threat and an attempt at annexation of the country



Rising Tensions

- Dispute gained even more fuel in 2015, after a huge amount of oil was found in the offshore waters of the Essequibo.



Currently

- Currently, the Brazilian army is on standby in case the matter escalates
- Venezuela continues to stand their ground and may threaten warfare if the referendum does not go to their plan.





Thank you!