



Haiti and Her People: A Curriculum Unit

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Welcome to *Haiti and her People*

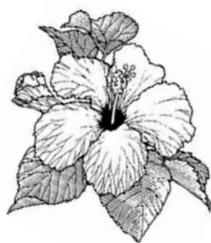
In 1804, Toussaint L'Ouverture led the only successful rebellion by enslaved Black people over their oppressors in the world. Did you know that this insurgence happened in Haiti, making that country the first Black independent republic in the Western Hemisphere? Detailing these and other historical events, *Haiti and her People* is an interdisciplinary curriculum guide. Written with teachers and students in mind, *Haiti and her People* provides rich information about an exceptional Caribbean nation. With emphasis on Haitian people and culture, *Haiti and her People* will replace misperceptions with affirming facts.



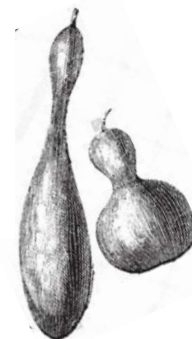


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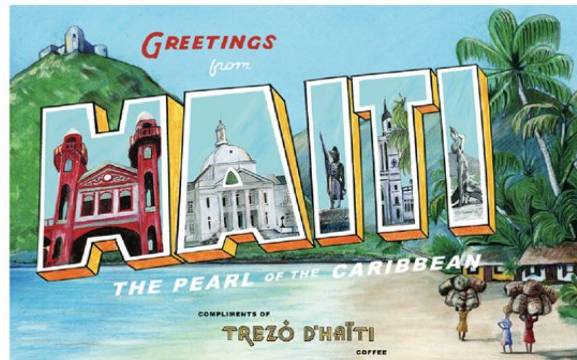
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The Hibiscus (left) is the national flower of Haiti. The gourd (r) is a common crop in Haiti. With the letter "e" at the end, the gourde is the name of Haitian currency.



Fun Facts about Haiti



1. Haiti is a small Caribbean country near the island nations of Jamaica and Cuba.
2. Haitian spaghetti with hot dogs is a familiar breakfast meal.
3. J'ouvert—pronounced joovay—and Rara are two street festivals celebrated annually by many Haitians.
4. The “tap-tap” is a brightly decorated pick-up truck or bus that plays loud music while transporting people around Haiti.
5. Jonathan Demme, Wesley Snipes, and Denzel Washington are collectors of Haitian art.
6. “Crick-crack” is an expression used at the beginning of Haitian storytelling.
7. Pumpkin soup is a popular Haitian dish eaten to commemorate freedom, political independence, and cultural solidarity.
8. "Sak pase," which means “what’s up,” is a common Haitian Creole greeting.
9. Soccer is the most popular sport in Haiti.
10. Haiti derives its name from the Arawak-Taíno Indians who called the region Ayiti meaning land of high mountains.
11. Actress Garcelle Beauvais and Singer Wyclef Jean are Haitian.

Haiti: A Brief History

Haiti, officially known as the Republic of Haiti, is the second largest country in the Caribbean. Port-au-Prince is the capital of Haiti and its largest city. Haiti is located in the Western Hemisphere and occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola. Haiti shares its border with the Spanish speaking country the Dominican Republic. The Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea surround Hispaniola.



Although Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492, “Ayiti,” so called for its “mountainous land,” was originally inhabited by the indigenous Taino-Arawak Indians. The Taino-Arawak people were hunters and gatherers who lived in small villages along Hispaniola’s coasts. Believing that there was an abundance of gold on the island, Columbus and his crew forced the indigenous people into hard labor, raping and massacring any resistors. By 1542, the Taino-Arawak people ceased to exist. To replace the Taino-Arawak labor, the Spanish captured and brought people from West Africa to Hispaniola. There, the Africans were enslaved and forced to search for gold on the island. Unsuccessful in their quest for gold, the Spanish eventually abandoned Hispaniola and the Africans brought there. In 1697, France took possession of the island and renamed the region Saint Domingue, the French equivalent of Santo Domingo.

Under French rule, Saint Domingue became a wealthy colony. The wealth grew from the forced labor of the enslaved Africans still on the island. Enslaved Blacks harvested sugar, coffee, cotton, and indigo crops for the French crown. Many of the Africans died from the harsh conditions and brutalities administered by French officials. However, the active Transatlantic Slave Trade would bring enslaved Africans to forcibly harvest Saint Domingue plantations for another 100 years.

On August 22, 1791, the enslaved people in the north, near Cap-Français (now Cap Haïtien), rose against their French oppressors. Toussaint L’Ouverture, a freed Black, would join an insurrection that ultimately led to Haiti’s independence. The Night of Fire was a major impetus. On this night, enslaved Africans in Saint Domingue set fire to plantation houses, fields, and killed their French oppressors. This conflict would

last through 1794. Eventually the French triumphed. They liberated the enslaved Africans on the island, granting French citizenship. Through 1802, L'Overture served as Saint Dominique's political and military leader. Operating the country as an independent nation, he drafted a constitution, reiterated the abolition of slavery in the country, and appointed himself leader for "the rest of his glorious life." While liberation was granted only to the people and not the country. Saint Dominique was a French colony and therefore under the ostensible power of France. L'Overture's leadership actions did not sit well with France's leader, Napoleon Bonaparte. In 1803, Bonaparte regained control of Saint Dominique. L'Overture would be captured—some suggest with the help of his own men. That same year he died of pneumonia while imprisoned in France. True independence for Saint Dominique—Haiti—came a year later in 1804. After L'Overture's removal the year before, Jean-Jacques Dessalines resumed the battle with France to victory. Political turmoil is long-standing in Haiti. However, the country's constitution declares Haiti's official leadership to include a president, recognized as the head of state; a prime minister who leads the government; executive and legislative bodies as well as a judiciary.

Nearly 95% of Haiti's population is of African descent with the remainder an ethnic mix of Spanish, French, and/or Taino-Arawak people. Despite its initial colonization by Spain, subsequent French rule has made French one of Haiti's official languages. The other is Haitian (Ayisyen) Creole consisting of French and African dialects. Because Haiti shares Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, many Haitians also speak Spanish.

Religion is an entrenched aspect of Haitian culture. The majority of Haitians are Christians with Roman Catholicism the most popular denomination followed by Protestantism. During the Transatlantic Slave Trade, enslaved Africans brought varied spiritual beliefs and practices to Haiti, ultimately forming a new supernatural belief. Called Voudon, Voudou, or Voodoo, this religion fuses West African and Catholic beliefs, practices, and icons. Although Islam was introduced to Haiti in the 20th century, less than 1% of the population is Muslim.

At one point, Haiti thrived in rich agriculture. Long after the abolition of slavery, Haiti grew and exported raw goods such as coffee, sugar, cacao and bananas. While geopolitical instability is confirmed, there is disagreement about the extent and impact of environmental mismanagement in Haiti especially regarding deforestation. The aftermath of hurricanes and earthquakes often create economic devastation. However, political partisanship and individual self-interest—within and beyond Haiti's borders—are known to hasten negative commercial opportunities.

Unfortunately, many people in Haiti live in poverty. Haiti is currently the least commercially advanced country in the Western Hemisphere. Approximately 59% of the country's population lives in poverty. More than two-thirds of the labor force is unemployed or underemployed. Average annual incomes for many families is under \$500.

Haiti's education system faces challenges. The enrollment rate for primary school is approximately 75%. Although primary school is free, families must buy uniforms and school supplies. Many school-age children work instead of attend school. The average Haitian, 25 years or older, has less than five years of schooling. In addition, the literacy rate is approximately 61% for people 15-years-old and older. Quality education is a concern, as nearly 80% of teachers are without professional training.

Despite prevailing social, political, and economic woes, Haitian culture is chock-full. Storytelling and folktales are enjoyed by everyone. Unique French and Creole expressions are spoken by youth and elders. Beans, rice, and spicy meats are commonplace. Festivals and faith are endearing to Haiti's people. The arts' vibrancy is portrayed on myriad surfaces, while music and songs play the soundtrack of the Haitian people—resilient, proud, and imaginative.



This iron statue is on public display in Haiti. It is a tribute to unknown Haitian freedom fighters. Called the Negre Marron or Black Maroon, the man blows the Caribbean's Conch shell as a call for freedom. As an icon of Haiti, the Negre Marron is viewed as one of the Caribbean's most important art pieces. What do you notice about the statue? Why do you think it is significant?

A Timeline of Haitian Events

A timeline is a chronological listing or sequencing of events.



- **1492** Christopher Columbus lands and claims the island of Hispaniola for Spain. The Spanish build the New World's first settlement at La Navidad on Haiti's north coast.
- **1697** Spanish control over the colony ends with the Treaty of Ryswick, which divided the island into French-controlled St. Domingue and Spanish Santo Domingo.
- **1791-1803** A rebellion led by enslaved Africans in Haiti is launched by the Jamaican-born Boukman. What ensues is a protracted 13-year war of liberation against Saint Domingue's colonists and later, Napoleon's army. General Toussaint L'Ouverture becomes leader of the country but is eventually betrayed by his officers Jean-Jacques Dessalines and Henri Christophe.
- **1803** The Haitian blue and red flag is devised in the region of Arcadie, by taking the French tricolor, turning it on its side and removing the white band. The Battle of Vertières marks the ultimate victory.
- **1804** The Republic of Ayiti, or Haiti, which means mountainous country, is declared.
- **1807-20** Civil war racks the country, which divides into the northern kingdom of Henri Christophe and the southern republic governed by Alexandre Pétion. Faced with a rebellion by his own army, Christophe commits suicide, paving the way for Jean-Pierre Boyer to reunify the country and become President of the entire republic in 1820.
- **1821** President Boyer invades Santo Domingo following its declaration of independence from Spain. The entire island is now controlled by Haiti until 1844.
- **1838** France recognizes Haitian independence in exchange for a financial indemnity of 150 million *francs*. Over the next few decades, Haiti is forced to take out loans of 70 million *francs* to repay the indemnity and gain international recognition.
- **1862** The United States grants Haiti diplomatic recognition sending Frederick Douglass as its Consular Minister.
- **1915** President Woodrow Wilson orders the U.S. Marines to occupy Haiti and control its customs-houses and ports.
- **1934** The U.S. withdraws from Haiti leaving the Haitian Armed Forces in place throughout the country.
- **1937** Thousands of Haitians living near the border of the Dominican Republic are massacred by

Dominican soldiers under the orders of President General Trujillo.

- **1957** After several attempts to move forward democratically ultimately fail, military-controlled elections lead to victory for Dr. François Duvalier, who in 1964 declares himself President-for-Life. He creates the paramilitary *Tonton Makout*.
- **1971** "Papa-Doc" Duvalier dies in office after naming his 19-year-old son Jean-Claude "Baby- Doc" his successor.
- **1972** The first Haitian "boat people" fleeing the country land in Florida.
- **1976** Widespread protests against repression of the nation's press.
- **1970s-1980s** "Baby-Doc" Duvalier exploits international assistance and seeks to attract investment leading to the establishment of textile-based assembly industries. Attempts by workers and political parties to organize are violently crushed by *Tonton Makout*.
- **1983** Pope John Paul II visits Haiti and calls for change.
- **1986** Widespread protests against "Baby Doc" lead the U.S. to arrange for Duvalier and his family to be exiled to France. Army leader General Henri Namphy heads a new National Governing Council.
- **1987** In March, the people of Haiti approve a new Constitution. General elections in November are aborted hours after they begin with dozens of people shot by soldiers and the *Tonton Makout* around the country.
- **1990** U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle visits Haiti and tells Army leaders, "No more coups." Assistance is sought from the Organization of American States (OAS) and the United Nations (UN) to help organize general elections in December.
- Democratic elections occur on December 16, 1990. Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a parish priest and friend of the poor is elected president of Haiti.
- **1991** On February 7, President Aristide is inaugurated. René Préval is appointed Prime Minister. The international community promises Haiti over \$500 million.
- In September, President Aristide addresses the UN General Assembly. Three days after his return, military personnel with financial backing from neo-Duvalierist sectors and their international allies lead a coup d'état, ousting President Aristide. Over 1,000 people are killed the first day.
- The OAS calls for a hemisphere-wide embargo against the Haitian coup régime in support of deposed leaders.
- **1992** U.S. President George Bush exempts U.S. factories from the embargo and orders U.S. Coast Guard to intercept any Haitians departing the country in boats and to return them to Haiti.

- **1993** In July, President Aristide and General Raoul Cédras sign the Governors Island Accord, which *inter alia* calls for the early retirement of Gen. Cédras, the formation and training of a new civilian police force, and return of President Aristide on October 30, 1993. Representatives of political parties and Parliament sign the New York Pact pledging support for Aristide's return and the rebuilding of the nation.
- **1994** On September 15, U.S. President Clinton declares that all diplomatic initiatives were exhausted and that the US with 20 other countries would form a multinational force. On September 19, troops land in Haiti after the coup leaders agree to step down and leave the country.
- On October 15, President Aristide and his Government-in-exile return to Haiti.
- Haiti opens its first Mosque in Dalmas 18
- **1995** In June, Haiti hosts the annual OAS General Assembly at Montrouis. Legislative elections occur.
- In December, former Prime Minister René Préval is elected president of Haiti.
- **1996** President Préval is inaugurated in February. Rosny Smarth is appointed Prime Minister. Agricultural production, administrative reform, and economic modernization are announced as the Government's priorities.
- **2000** Aristide is elected President for a second non-consecutive term in allegedly fraudulent elections.
- **2004** An uprising against President Aristide takes place, and he is forced to flee the country in February. U.S.-led armed forces arrive in Port-au-Prince to help stabilize the situation, while also overseeing the installation of a new interim government. In June, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) arrives and assumes security duties from U.S.-led forces.
- **2006** In February, the first general elections since 2004 coups to oust Aristide, take place. Rene Preval wins and appoints Jacques-Edouard as Prime Minister.
- **2007** President René Preval appoints famed international artist Wyclef Jean as “roving” ambassador to Haiti.
- **2008** In April, unrest occurs over rising food costs. The Senate dismisses Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis, replacing him with Michele Pierre-Louis, the first female prime minister of Haiti, who takes office in September.
- Multiple storms and hurricanes hit Haiti, killing almost 800 people.
- **2009** In October, the Senate dismisses Prime Minister Michele Pierre-Louis, criticizing her for doing little to improve Haiti's living

standards. She is replaced by Jean-Max Bellerive.

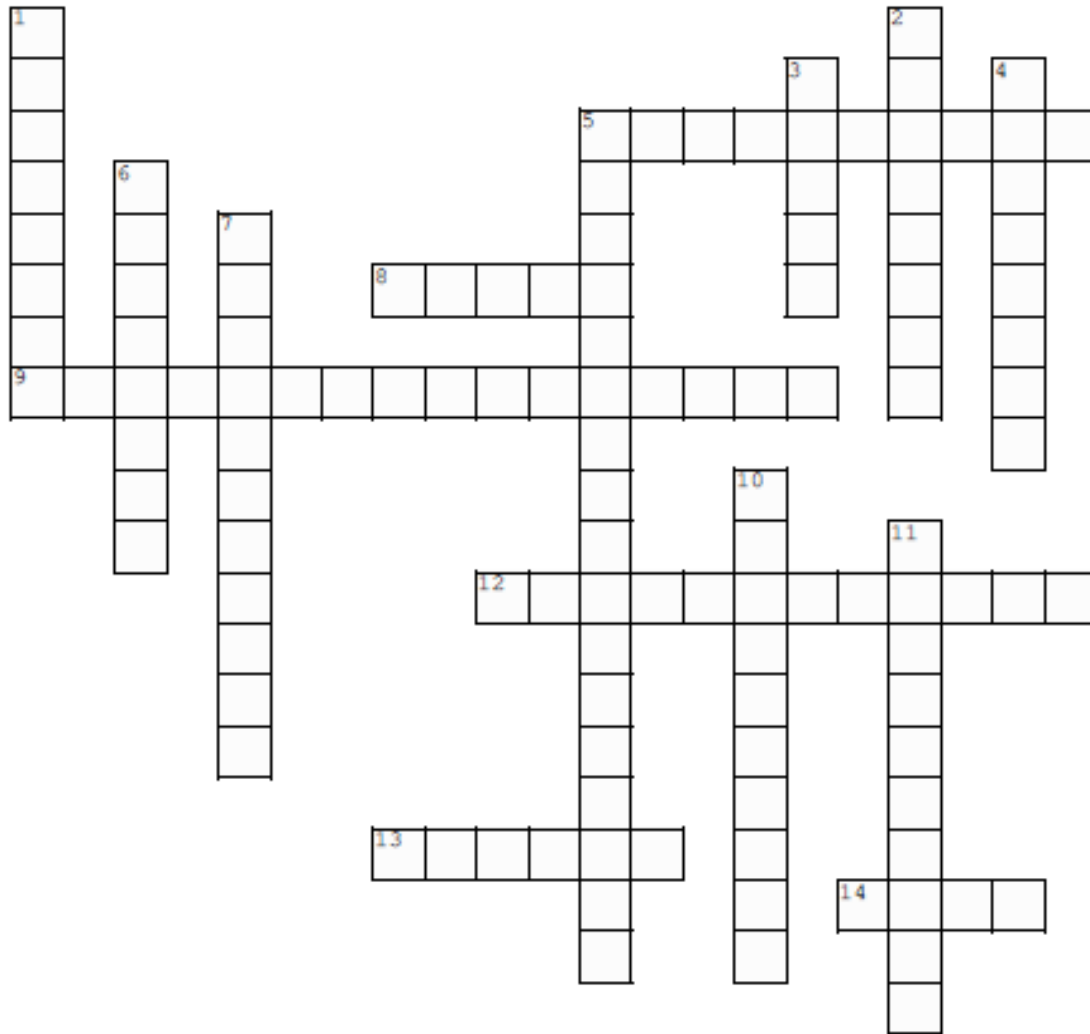
- **2010** On January 12, Haiti is struck by a magnitude-7.0 earthquake near Port-au-Prince. Approximately 220,000 people are killed, over 300,000 are injured, with an estimated 1.5 million people suddenly homeless. Nearly 4,000 schools are damaged or destroyed, with as many major government buildings, hospitals, and roads.
- In October, a cholera epidemic, attributed to foreign aid workers, hits Haiti. Thousands die. There is widespread protest.
- In November, presidential elections occur but no candidate receives a majority of votes.
- **2011** In March, a second round of presidential elections is held. Michel Martelly is declared the new president of Haiti, appointing Garry Conille Prime Minister.
- President Michel Martelly awarded Wyclef Jean the title of Grand Officer of National Order of Honor and Merit.
- **2012** Prime Minister Conille resigns and is replaced by Laurent Lamothe.
- Hurricane Sandy strikes Haiti in October. Dozens of people die in floods and landslides. Property damage is extensive. The cholera epidemic worsens.
- **2013** Street protests take place in Port-au-Prince and other major cities. People are concerned about delayed elections, unemployment and corruption.

- In September, the Dominican Republic's (DR) highest court ruled that residents unable to document proof of DR citizenship, dating back more than 80 years, would be denied citizenship. The ruling targeted more than 210,000 people of Haitian descent.
- **2014** More anti-government protests take place in Haiti, leading to the resignation of Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe in December.
- **2015** In June, the DR began denying residency to Dominicans of Haitian descent. More than 210,000 people born in DR or raised there without documentation would be deported to Haiti. Most were native Spanish speakers, having never been to Haiti prior to deportation.
- **2016** In February, President Michel Martelly steps down after the presidential election was postponed indefinitely due to allegations of fraud. The Haitian Parliament elects a new interim president, Jocelerme Privert.
- In October, Hurricane Matthew strikes the southwestern region of Haiti, killing hundreds of people and destroying thousands of homes.
- A presidential election occurs in November.
- **2017** In January Jovenel Moise is declared winner of the November 2016 presidential elections and takes office in February.
- Haiti's population is nearly 11 million people.

Name: _____

The History of Haiti

Using the clues given, fill in the answers that unlock the past of a great people.



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net [Crossword Puzzle Generator](http://www.theteacherscorner.net/CrosswordPuzzleGenerator/)

Across

- 5. Proclaimed Haiti's independence
- 8. 'Mountainous Land'
- 9. State religion
- 12. The capital of Haiti
- 13. One of the official languages
- 14. The purpose of Columbus' second voyage

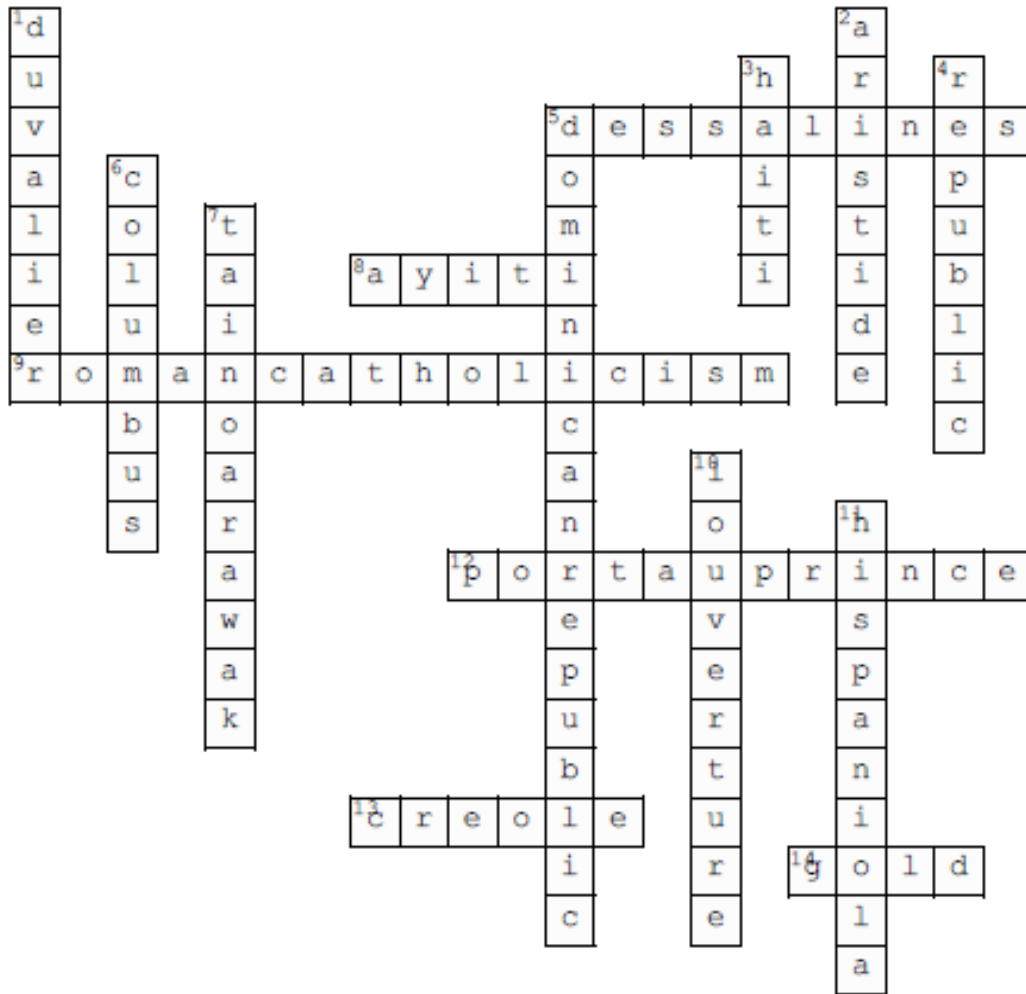
Down

- 1. Elected president in 1957 & declared himself president for life in 1964
- 2. First democratically elected president
- 3. The first independent black republic (1804)
- 4. Haiti's government
- 5. Shares the island with Haiti
- 6. Arrived in Haiti in 1492
- 7. First inhabitants of Haiti
- 10. Leader of the Haitian Revolution
- 11. Island in the West Indies; Haiti and the Dominican Republic

Name: _____

The History of Haiti

Using the clues given, fill in the answers that unlock the past of a great people.



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net [Crossword Puzzle Generator](http://www.theteacherscorner.net)

Across

5. Proclaimed Haiti's independence (**dessalines**)
8. 'Mountainous Land' (**ayiti**)
9. State religion (**romancatholicism**)
12. The capital of Haiti (**portauprince**)
13. One of the official languages (**creole**)
14. The purpose of Columbus' second voyage (**gold**)

Down

1. Elected president in 1957 & declared himself president for life in 1964 (**duvalier**)
2. First democratically elected president (**aristide**)
3. The first independent black republic (1804) (**haiti**)
4. Haiti's government (**republic**)
5. Shares the island with Haiti (**dominicanrepublic**)
6. Arrived in Haiti in 1492 (**columbus**)
7. First inhabitants of Haiti (**tainoarawak**)
10. Leader of the Haitian Revolution (**louverture**)
11. Island in the West Indies; Haiti and the Dominican Republic (**hispaniola**)

Haitian Creole

Creole is formed when speakers of distinct languages—usually two—develop another primarily spoken language or pidgin. The new language is created to facilitate cross group communication. Haitian Creole is a mixture of French and West African influenced dialects spoken in Haiti. Haitian Creole is one of Haiti's official languages, along with French. Below, are some key Haitian Creole words and phrases with English translation. Challenge yourself to say and write Haitian Creole.

Months of the Year	
January	Janvye
February	Fevriye
March	Mas
April	Avril
May	Me
June	Jen
July	Jiyè
August	Dawon
September	Septanm
October	Oktòb
November	Novanm
December	Desanm

Key Words and Phrases	
Yes	Wi
No	Non
Good morning	Bonjou
Good afternoon	Bonswa
What's your name?	Kouman ou rele?
My name is...	M rele...
How are you?	Kouman ou ye?
What's up?	sak pase
Doing good!	N'ap boule!
I'm sorry	Mwen regret sa
Please	Souple
Thanks	Mesi
Excuse me	Eskize mwen

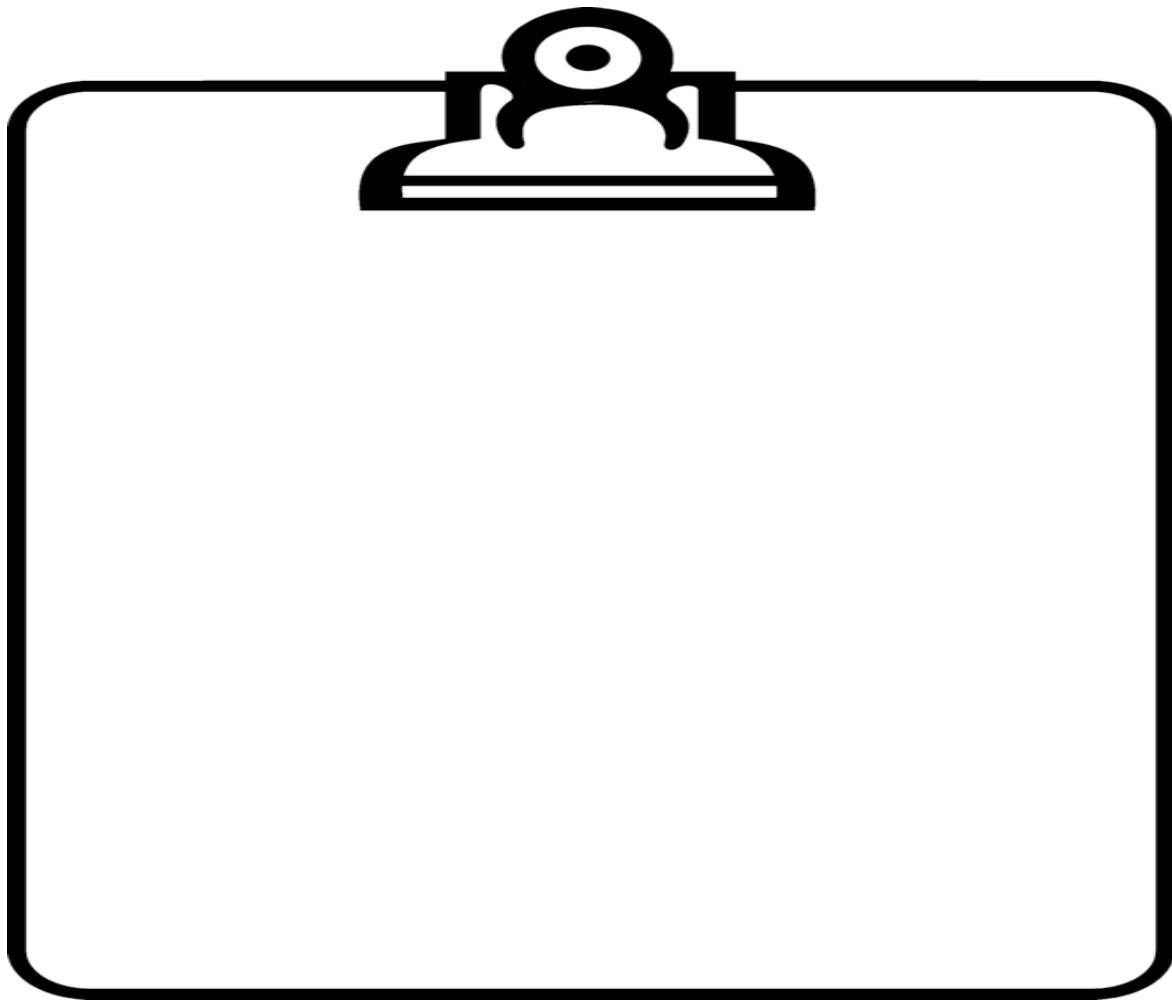
Days of the Week	
Sunday	Dimanch
Monday	Lendi
Tuesday	Madi
Wednesday	Mekredi
Thursday	Jedi
Friday	Vandredi
Saturday	Samdi

Numbers 1-10		
One	1	Youn
Two	2	De
Three	3	Twa
Four	4	Kat
Five	5	Senk
Six	6	Sis
Seven	7	Set
Eight	8	Uit
Nine	9	Nèf
Ten	10	Dis

Haiti's Departments and Regions

What is Haiti's geography? Geography is the study of the Earth's surface and its interrelated features. Movement, regions, human/environment interaction, location, and place (MRHELP) are five themes of geography. Below is a list of sixteen cities and rural locations in Haiti. Pick one to research. Gather information by searching the Internet, reading texts from the Children's Literature listed in the end of this document, or visiting some of the links on the Web Sources page. Write your sources in the clipboard template. Use the maps on pages 15 and 16 unit to locate your areas.

Môle St.-Nicolas_	Port-de-Paix	Cap-Haïtien_	St. Marc
Fort-Liberté	Hinche	Gonaïves	Île de la Gonâve
Port-au-Prince	Pétionville	Marigot	Jacmel
Les Cayes	Jérémie	Les Anglais	Île à Vache



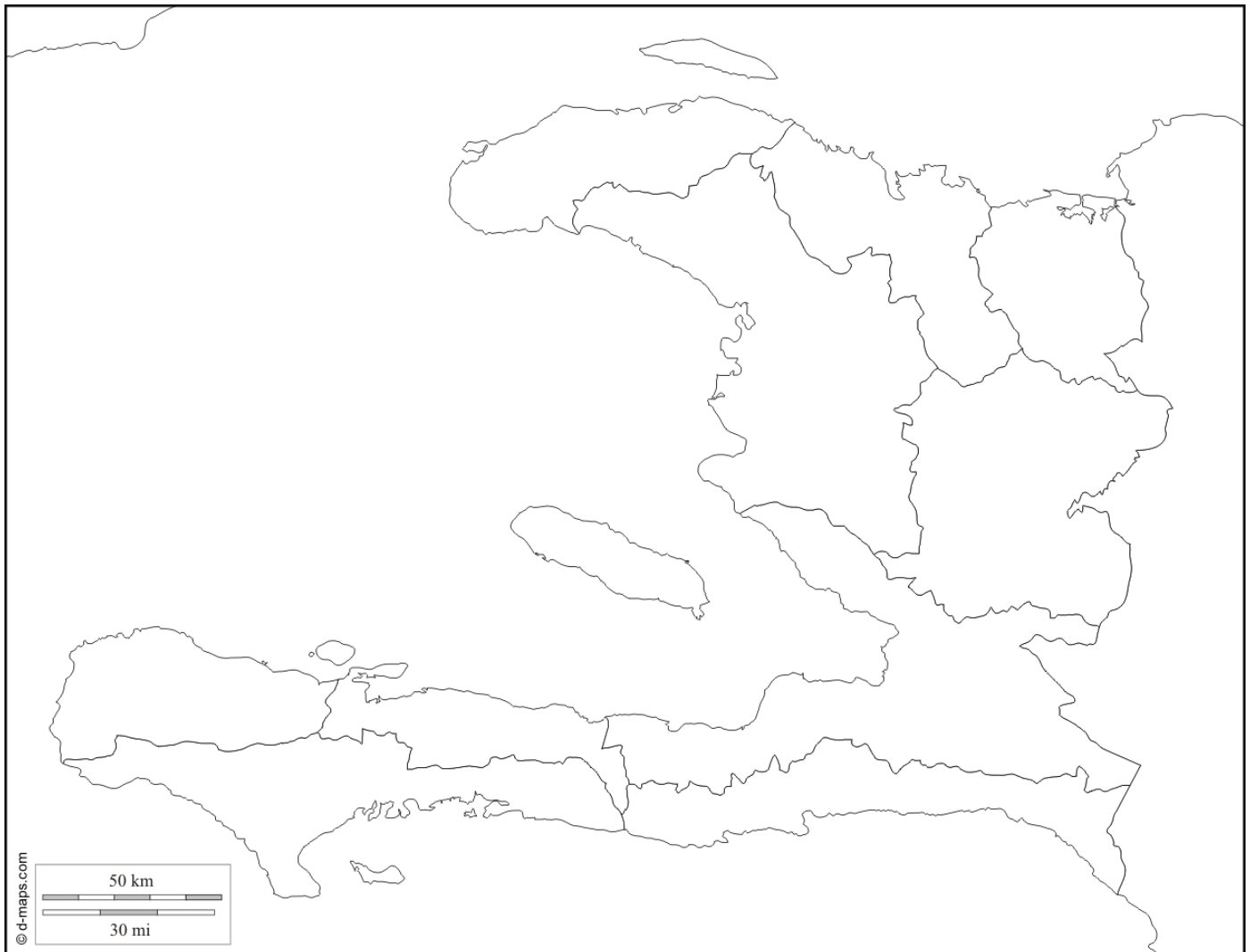
Your Name:

Today's Date:

Blank Map of Haiti

Haiti is located in the Caribbean and West Indies geographic regions. The country occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola, which it shares with the Dominican Republic to the east. About the size of the US state of Maryland, Haiti is two-thirds mountainous, with the rest of the country marked by great valleys, extensive plateaus, and small plains.

On the map below, each of Haiti's ten departments is outlined. Some countries have provinces. The United States has states. Label Haiti's capital city by name and with a star. Locate and label your researched city or rural area. Label the Dominican Republic. Use the scale to determine the distance between Port-au-Prince and your research state.



Labeled Map of Haiti



If you could visit one location in Haiti, which would you choose? Why?



My Report on Haiti

By Detective _____

Official Name of Country:

Continent:

Hemisphere:

Capital City:

Climate:

Language(s):

Religion(s):

Currency:

Population:

Title for Government Leaders:

Current President:

One Fun Fact:

Bon Voyage Post Cards



Bon Voyage means safe journey in French. Years ago, when people traveled, it was commonplace to write and mail post cards of the places and locations visited during your trip. Most post cards contained a picture of something special or unique about the place on one side. The other side would contain the sender's written message—probably in 140 characters.

Materials

- White poster board
- Markers or Crayons
- Construction Paper
- Glue
- Internet Access

Directions

1. Divide students into small groups, each group with a different city or Haitian department.
2. Provide students with information about Haiti or a specific Haitian department. Consider directing students to Kids National Geographic—<http://bit.ly/2oCjHhG>. Students can also read one of the books from the Children's Literature page.
3. Give each student a piece of white card stock, markers and crayons, in which they will design one side of the postcard with signs and symbols reflective of city/province researched.
4. After designing their postcard, have students write down five to ten interesting facts about the city/province on the reverse side of the postcard.
5. Once the design is finished, students will share their postcards.
6. After sharing the postcards, gather and send to a prominent Haitian.. Include a note or letter to indicate that students are studying Haiti and would like to know more Haitian culture. Ask the person to contact you with information about their first-hand experience, artifacts and resources. Consider inviting the person for a class visit!

Please, Malese!

A folktale is a legendary story, often created, told, and retold, by a group of people. Told mostly for entertainment purposes, sometimes folktales have moral or life lessons. In Haitian culture, folktales are part of tradition. Two popular characters in Haitian folktales are Bouki and Ti Malice. Traditionally, Bouki is portrayed as a foolish character and Ti Malese (from the French word, malice) as a trickster.

Materials

- Please, Malese! By Amy MacDonald
- Journals

Directions:

Read the book, Please, Malese! Then write a short essay or draw a picture describing how Malese was untrustworthy. While the story may not indicate the feelings of other characters, imagine Malese's behavior might make them feel. Then use words or images to describe those feelings.

Another option involves writing in your journal. If you keep one, write about a time when you were not very trustworthy. Discuss what you learned from the encounter. Still another option is writing a story about a person you trust, detailing the qualities and circumstances that make the person trustworthy.



Character Education

“In contrast to most other nations, the identity of an American is defined by shared political values, principles, and beliefs rather than by ethnicity, race, religion, class, language, gender, or national origin. These shared values and principles have helped to promote cohesion in the daily life of Americans and in times of crisis they have enabled Americans to find common ground with those who differ from them” (Center for Civic Education).

Sequencing Clothesline



Materials

- Please, Malese! By Amy MacDonald
- Old Magazines
- Textile
- Clothespins
- Card stock
- Rope/Clothesline
- Scissors

Directions

1. Have students recall the events that take place in the story, Please Malese!
2. Students will then cut pictures out of magazines to represent events from Please Malese!
3. Have students paste their cut-out pictures on card stock.
4. Using clothespins have students place pictures in sequential order on string to represent a clothesline.
5. Have students retell their story using sequencing clothesline.

Port-Au-Prince, Haiti



Port-au-Prince is the capital of **Haiti**.

Using only the letters in the city and country, above in boldface, make new words.
One syllable words are worth 2 points, two syllable words are worth 5 points, and
three or more syllable words will earn you 10 points!

1 syllable words	2 syllable words	3+ syllable words

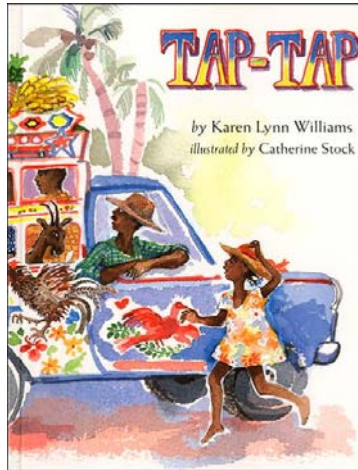
Total points =

Total points =

Total points =

🏆 Earn 25 bonus points for every three dictionary definitions that you include.

Sasifi goes to Market



Tap-Tap is a book written by Karen Lynn Williams. Set in Haiti, the book describes how a little girl named Sasifi travels, with her mother, to the marketplace to sell oranges. Sasifi proves that she is responsible enough to go to the market with her mother by selling all of her oranges.

Materials

- Tap-Tap by Karen Lynn Williams
- Markers or crayons

Directions

1. Define the word responsible.
2. Think about a time when you were responsible. Write about it on the reverse.
3. Visit <https://www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard-creator> to create a digital story about the time you were responsible.

Haitian Proverbs

Haiti is a land of great beauty and of great suffering. For centuries, people have used old sayings or expressions in the form of proverbs to comfort and guide them through their circumstances. Called proverbs, these traditional sayings help to instill confidence and self-esteem.

Directions: Below are a few popular Haitian proverbs. Read them and consider how they might give new meaning to your life. Look beyond the literal definitions towards the figurative interpretation. The first two proverbs include questions to help you get started.

“Little by little the bird makes its nest”



- Who/what makes a nest?
- What is the purpose of a nest?
- If the nest were not a place of shelter, what else could the nest be?
- Explain the phrase, “little by little”.
- Who/what could be the bird?

“The empty bag cannot stand”

- Why can't an empty bag stand?
- What conditions must be present for something to stand?
- What is the opposite of empty?
- What is your interpretation of “stand”?
- Consider yourself a bag. What makes you full/empty?



More Proverbs

“Remember the rain that made your corn grow.”

“What you do is what you see.”

“A leaky house can fool the sun, but it can't fool the rain.”

The Exchange Place

Although U.S. currency is accepted in many Haitian marketplaces, the gourde (HTG) is the official currency of Haiti. From 1912 to 1989, one gourde was the equivalent of five U.S. dollars. Today the gourde officially has an unfixed currency exchange rate but many people continue to use the old rate of exchange. For example, if you divide the gourde into smaller units, you would have centimes. Five gourde makes a “Haitian dollar” and a “Haitian penny” consists of five centimes. In many Haitian marketplaces, prices are in Haitian dollars and/or pennies and the customers have to determine how much money to give.

Directions: Pretend you have entered the same Haitian marketplace where Sasifi sold her oranges. Only gourde is accepted. You are eager to purchase items but because you have U.S. currency, you will need to convert your U.S. dollars into gourde. Use the Haitian Unit of Currency key below to convert your money and then purchase several food items for lunch.

Haitian Unit of Currency

1 Haitian Gourde = 100 centimes

5 centimes = 1 Haitian penny

5 Haitian Gourdes = 1 Haitian Dollar

1 U.S. Dollar = 38.74 Haitian Gourdes



30 Centimes = ____ Haitian pennies

10 Haitian pennies = ____ Centimes



\$1 = _____ Haitian Gourdes

2 Haitian dollars = ____ Haitian Gourdes

Decorate a Tap-Tap

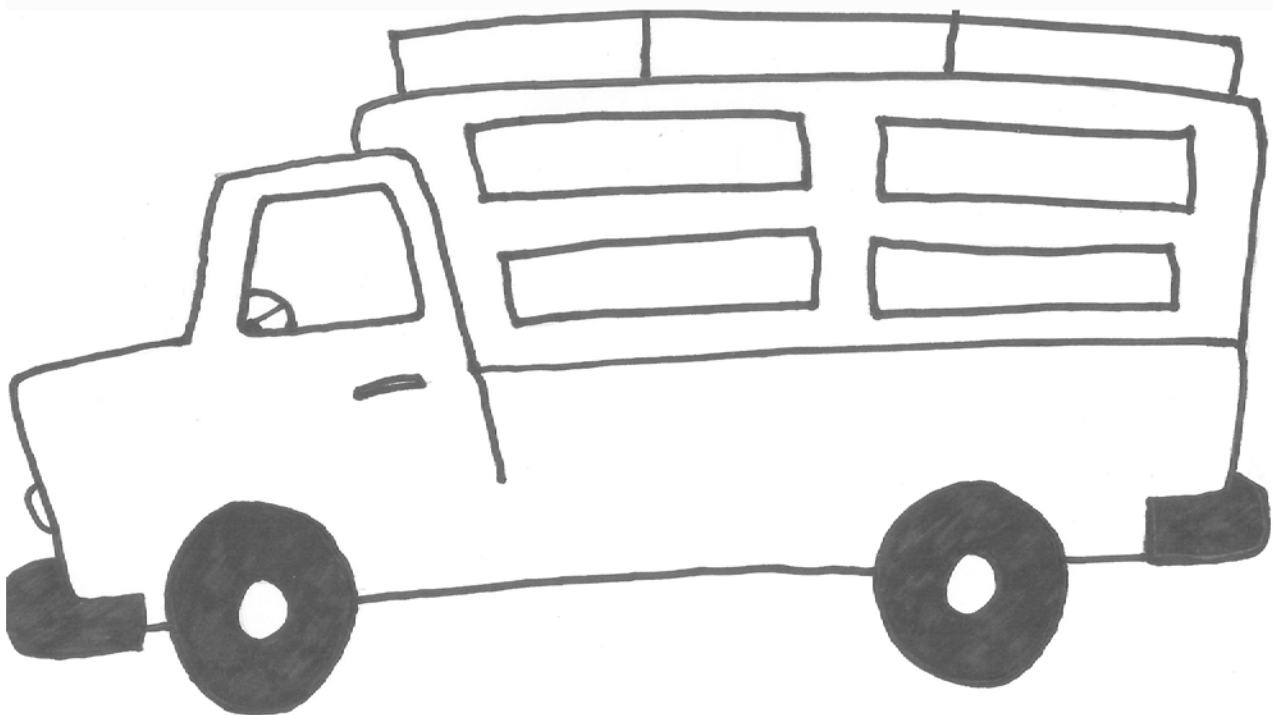
Children's experiences often shape their view of the world. In the United States, most children are familiar with public transportation in the form of buses, trains, and airplanes. In Haiti, many people travel by Tap-Tap—a vibrantly painted public van that lets passengers on and off when they tap on the vehicle's side. The Tap-Tap is an integral part of Haitian culture.

Materials

- Template of tap-tap
- Markers, crayons, colored chalk, paint.

Directions

Use colored pencils, markers, paint or chalk to decorate the Tap-Tap template. Images of famous people, flags, and symbols are commonplace on Tap-Taps.



The Beauty of Rara

Rara is a Haitian celebration that involves song, dance, and religious activities. *Rara* typically occurs during Easter Week. Below is a visual interpretation of *Rara* by Bernard Toussaint. Toussaint is a Haitian artist who specializes in paint and sculpture. Read the art elements of color, line, shape, form, texture, and space to grasp the value and beauty of *Rara*.



Rara by Bernard Toussaint

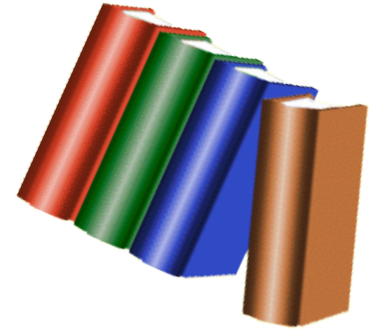
1. Haitian art includes many vibrant colors. What colors do you see in this painting?
2. Locate the straight and squiggly lines in the picture.
3. Some lines form shapes such as squares, rectangles, and triangles. Which objects in the picture form these shapes?
4. The illustration also includes circles and ovals. How many circles and ovals can you find? Which circle and oval objects can you draw?
5. In art, space refers to the surface. How would you describe Toussaint's use of the surface?
6. Discuss whether you think this painting of *Rara* is beautiful.

Web Resources

- Green Valley Media: Impressions of Haiti
<http://www.greenvalleymedia.org/haiti.php3?ticket>
- Haiti: A Slave Revolution <http://www.iacenter.org/haiti/index.htm>
- “Haitian Folktales and Proverbs”
<http://faculty.webster.edu/corbetre/haiti/literature/folktale.htm>
- “Haitian Visions”
https://www.crizmac.com/online_catalog/store.cfm?step=display&productid=2501
- Haitian Kreyol Dictionary <http://www.kreyol.com/dictionary/numbers-dates.html>
- Haitian Proverbs <http://haitianproverbs.com/>
- Haiti: Belo's Song of Peace
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuHfMq62j8c>
- In motion The African-American Migration Experience: Haitian Immigration 20th Century
<http://www.inmotionaame.org/migrations/landing.cfm?migration=12>
- Storyboardthat.com
<https://www.storyboardthat.com/storyboard-creator>



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