

# **Teachings about Haiti**

## **A Middle School Curricular Unit**

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### **Unit Outline**

#### **Class 1**

- Introduction
- Key concepts and Haitian History
- Creole words and phrases
- What students know and do not know about Haiti

#### **Class 2**

- Introduction
- Creole words and phrases
- Concept of Deforestation, Desertification
  - Why both are detrimental to development
  - Solutions
- Songs in Creole by Wyclef Jean

#### **Class 3**

- Short clip from *60 Minutes* about Wyclef Jean and his organization, Yele Haiti
- Facts and figures about the 2010 earthquake
  - Relief efforts by the Haitian government and the international community
- History of the Haitian flag
  - Dessalines disfiguration of the French flag: myth or reality?
- Students begin construction of their Haitian flag

#### **Class 4**

- Continue Haitian flag construction
- Discuss connections between the U.S. and Haiti (focus on New Orleans)
- Class constructs a flag that unites Haiti and New Orleans
  - Flag suggestion: black and gold, with Haitian motto and a Flor de Lis

#### **Class 5**

- Haitian geography
- Locate Haiti on the globe
  - Emphasize proximity to the United States
- Using Google Earth explore Haiti's geography
- Locating the two principle cities, Port-au-Prince and Cape Haitian, using Google Earth

#### **Class 6**

- Review Creole terms and phrases
- Review of key issues affecting development

- Corruption, Crime, High HIV rates, Deforestation, Mudslides, Environmental Catastrophes, Food shortages, Shelter shortages
- What is the Haitian Diaspora?
- How does this affect development?

### **Class 7**

- Review the colors of the Haitian flag
- Start jewelry project
  - Construct Haitian themed bracelets and necklaces
  - Talk about charities to which to donate the proceeds of jewelry project
  - Discuss problems which can be addressed with donations

### **Class 8**

- Restavek: Child slavery/indentured labor
- Discuss the construction of La Citadelle La Fierra near Cape Haitian:
  - Who was Emperor Henri Christophe?
  - Why did he build the Citadel?
  - How many people died in its construction?
  - View a slide show of the citadel and find it using Google Earth

### **Class 9**

- Finish construction of Haitian necklaces and bracelets
- Review all material discussed
- Take a small 3 question quiz about material discussed