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