Haiti – this place just can't seem to get a break...

Video: Haiti's Indigenous People

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmh53KxKj14
  - 29 minutes

Flag of Haiti

Where is Haiti?

I'm the map...

Pre-Columbus

- Est. 500,000 Arawaks on the island
- Generally peaceful, but feared the warlike Caribs who lived on Puerto Rico
- Farming/fishing culture

When Columbus Arrived…

- Dec. 5-6, 1492
- Named island Hispaniola
  - "Little Spain"
- Found Arawaks living there
- Arawaks greeted him with gold

When Columbus Arrived…

- Hispaniola does not actually have much gold
- But the Spanish didn't understand that
- Once that was clear, Spanish made Hispaniola the "bread basket" of the Caribbean
  - Feeding the people on all the other islands

When Columbus Arrived…

- All this agriculture required slave labor

- All Arawaks extinct on Hispaniola by mid-1600s

- Spanish started importing African slaves

Hispaniola – "Little Spain"

- Haiti is the western 1/3 of the island
- Today the other side is Dominican Republic
- They do not get along well

Hispaniola Plantations

- Sugar
- Coffee
- Tobacco

Spain loses interest

- Eventually Spain abandons Hispaniola except for 1 settlement on SE corner of island
  - Santa Domingo

Pirates!!! 1600s

- Island of La Tortue (Turtle Island) just north of Haiti

- West side of Hispaniola very fertile, & many animals left over from Spanish settlements

- Roasting game over an open flame (boukan)

Some pirates decided to stay

- Sent to France for women

- Spain didn't appreciate the French presence, but didn't really push it either

1697 Treaty at Rystwik

- To settle some disputes, Spain split Hispaniola in ½, giving the west side to France
  - San Domingue in the west
  - Santo Domingo in the east

San Domingue flourishes

- Agricultural economy based on slave labor
  - Sugar cane
  - Coffee
  - Indigo
  - Spices
  - Cotton

French colonial system especially brutal

- Very violent, oppressive system
- French foolishly allowed slaves to outnumber them 10:1
- Free black people could also own slaves
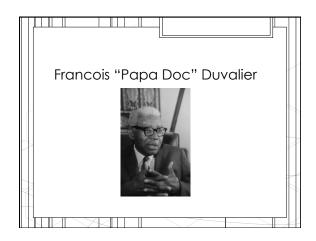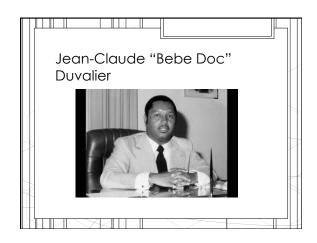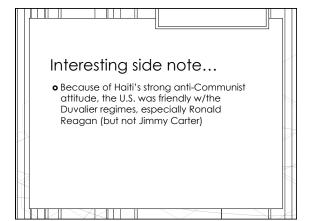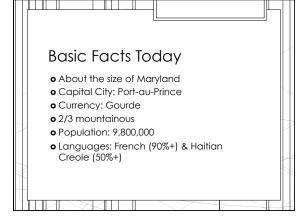 - Mainly ran the coffee industry

Revolution 1791-1804

- People of color rose up against France

- Notice this is at the same time period as the French Revolution and the American Revolution

Who takes power?

- The black slave-owning class rises to power

Haiti's Independence

- World's 1st independent black republic as of 1804

Haiti's Struggles

- Corrupt goverments
- Poor ag practices
  - Slash-and-burn
  - No crop rotation
- Land inheritance practices
- Deforestation (leads to landslides)
- Top soil washes away

Duvalier dictatorships

- 1957-1986
- Francois & his son Jean-Claude (Papa Doc & Bebe Doc)
- Human rights abuses
- Notoriously lavish lifestyles
- Involvement in drug trade

Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier

Jean-Claude "Bebe Doc" Duvalier

Interesting side note…

- Because of Haiti's strong anti-Communist attitude, the U.S. was friendly w/the Duvalier regimes, especially Ronald Reagan (but not Jimmy Carter)

Haitian Earthquake

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3l9B1dvfT-o

- Jan. 12, 2010
- 7.0 magnitude
- 10 mi. West of Port-au-Prince
- No real construction standards in Haiti

Basic Facts Today

- About the size of Maryland
- Capital City: Port-au-Prince
- Currency: Gourde
- 2/3 mountainous
- Population: 9,800,000
- Languages: French (90%+) & Haitian Creole (50%+)

Basic Facts Today

- Poorest country in Western Hemisphere
- 80% of population under poverty line
- Most make under $2 a day

President Michel Martelly since May 2011

Haitian Dance

- **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XU2QFdJ9t98**

- **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rBDvKyhFQXY**

- **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMKCB-MJRHc**

Modern Haitian Music Video

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2nJzDgQpWk

Kric? Krac!

- Haitian folktales explain why things are the way they are and teach life lessons.

- When an elder wants to tell a story, he calls "Kric?" Those who want to hear respond, "Krac!"
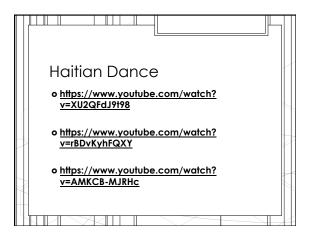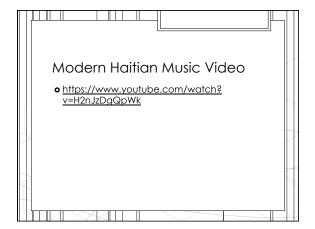
Assignment...

- You will be assigned a Haitian folktale
- You will create a story book that tells the tale incl. illustrations
- You can paraphrase or use direct words as you see fit
- Must have a cover page with a title and your name on it: "Retold by Your Name"