**The Caribbean Islands**

* Physical Characteristics
  + Made up of three island groups
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* All of the islands are located in the tropics
* Greater Antilles are made up of Cuba, Jamaica, and Hispaniola
* Lesser Antilles are the other smaller islands
* Island formations
  + The Greater Antilles are the tops of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that pushed up from the ocean
  + These islands are rockier
  + The flatter islands were made from dead animal remains called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + The soil in these islands cannot support agriculture
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Climate
  + Because of the ocean winds, the islands stay cooler than other places in the tropics
  + Rainfall can also be affected by the wind
  + Sides of islands facing the wind receive abundant rainfall
  + Sides of islands facing away from the wind receive little rainfall
* Ethnic Roots
  + African Descent
  + Millions of Africans were brought to islands as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Culture has been affected by this group
* Asian Immigrants
  + Many immigrants came from Asia when slavery was abolished to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Caribbean Nations Today
  + 90% of the population live in independent countries
  + Other islands are politically controlled by other nations
* Jamaica and the Bahamas belong to the British Commonwealth
* Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands are controlled by the United States
* Economic Activities
  + Many of the islands depend on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - The Volcanic islands contain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - Many others work as laborers on plantations
  + Tourism is also very important because of the beauty of the region
    - The native people receive little benefit from tourism because most of the hotels belong to foreign corporations
    - Layoffs are common in the off-season
* Migration
  + Most people in the Caribbean move to find \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Plantation workers must move during the off-season – they move to Central America or other islands for work
* A large percentage of Puerto Ricans moved to the United States
* Political Unrest
  + Fidel Castro’s regime in Cuba was oppressive and led many to leave for the US
    - Cuba lost its financial support after the fall of the Soviet Union causing more poverty
  + Haiti was ruled by harsh dictators causing many to leave
    - A US backed leader was put into place in 1994, but his reelection was disputed, and unrest in the area continues
* Economic Benefits
  + Many emigrants send money back to the islands
  + This extra income has helped modernize the Caribbean