

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