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