



Puerto Rico

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Where is Puerto Rico?

Puerto Rico is located in between the Caribbean Sea and North Atlantic Ocean. Puerto Rico is also not an island it is a archipelago. This means a string of islands.

There are three Islands that make up Puerto Rico. Though one of the islands is not inhabited.

The main island has a Mountain range called La Cordillera . At its highest point, which is the highest point in Puerto Rico, it stands at 4,389 feet tall.

Puerto Rico is a tropical habitat that is warm year long. Along with this there is also a Rain forest. This rain forest is home to 183 animal species and 225 tree species.

Puerto Rico not only has extremely diverse species it also has some that can only be found in Puerto Rico. This includes 23 Tree species and many animals. One animal is the emerald hummingbird which attracts many birdwatchers due its uniqueness.

Puerto Rico also has three bioluminescent bays called Cabezas. These are extremely rare, and occur because there are lots of tiny organisms that glow when they move, which live in them. Though you can generally only



Emerald
Hummingbird



Cabez
a

What are some interesting facts about Puerto Rico's history?

Puerto Rico has been inhabited since approximately 1200. The people who first inhabited Puerto Rico were the Taíno People and they still live there today.

Christopher Columbus' ships arrived in Puerto Rico in 1493 and claimed the string of islands under Spain's government.

Puerto Rico is its own country. It is also under the rule of the United States and has been since Spain lost the Spanish-American war in 1898.

Though in 1917 Puerto Rico became a United States territory. This made all who lived there United States citizens.

Puerto Rico becoming a territory means you can travel from the continental United States to Puerto Rico without a passport. This also makes them use United States currency. The United States Postal Service, and more



Spanish-American War

Statue of Christopher Columbus located in Puerto Rico



What are some interesting facts about Puerto Rico's culture?

Puerto Rico's culture is so unique and diverse because its inhabitants are almost all immigrants. The most common heritages you will see here are Taíno Indian, African, Spanish, and European.

Puerto Rico's rich culture is often seen in food. Their many ingredients include numerous tropical fruits such as guava, tamarind, and mangoes. Along with this yucca, plantains, rice, and meats are very popular.

Puerto Rico celebrates most of the holidays celebrated on the continental United States. They also celebrate numerous religious festivals. One is the Festival of Masks on December 28. During this time participants wear elaborate masks, dance, hold parades, and celebrate.

Music and dancing are both important to Puerto Rico's culture as well. One dancing style is called Bomba. In Bomba, two drums are being played to the same beat as the dancers feet. The song goes on until the dancer gets too tired. This is a very common form of street dancing and when walking down the street you will often see them.

Visual art is also very popular in Puerto Rico. Most art found in Puerto Rico includes extremely bright and vibrant colors . This can be seen on street murals, in galleries, and many other places.



Bomba Dancing



Guav
a



Mona Passage



Cabo Rojo Salt

Flats



Flamenco

What do you like best about Puerto Rico?

One thing that I like best about Puerto Rico is their love of sports. This is because I also love sports. Their national sport is baseball. Puerto Rico has also been a source for many US major league players. For example Roberto Clemente, Orlando Cepeda, and Bernie Williams.

Along with sports I really enjoy fishing. In Puerto Rico there are numerous options for fishing. You can go spearfishing in lagoons or even go fishing in the deep sea. There are even options to go fishing in one of Puerto Rico's bioluminescent bays.

I also love traveling, specifically to the beach. In Puerto Rico there are many different types of beaches each good for different things. My favorite that I researched was Flamenco Beach. Flamenco has white sand, crystal turquoise waters, very weak waves, and is surrounded by rolling hills.

Another one of my favorite hobbies is hiking. In Puerto Rico there are a large variety of terrains and trails to hike in. The one that interests me the most is the Cabo Rojo Salt Flats. There are many trails surrounding bright pink lakes where salt is harvested. From some trails you are also able to see views of the Caribbean Sea.

Another one of my favorite things is animals, specifically dolphin. In Puerto Rico one of the best places to see dolphin is snorkeling in the Mona Passage. Here there are crystal waters and large boulders to swim through. Locals call it The Galapagos of the Caribbean because lots of wildlife, including dolphin, love to swim in it.

How does Fishers Junior High benefit from having families from Puerto Rico as a part of our school and community?

Fishers Junior High benefits from having families from Puerto Rico as a part of our school in many ways. Having any kind of diversity in a community is extremely beneficial to all parties involved. This is because diversity can be helpful for seeing a new side of a argument, learning new or interesting stories, or even just having a friendly conversation. Being in a culturally diverse environment can not only help you become more educated but it can also help you understand and be prepared for the real world. As you get older having had the opportunities to talk to people with different experiences than your own will be a huge advantage not only in social life but in work life too. Along with this, having a diverse school can help you to break down stereotypes and give you more overall cultural awareness. While these are all extremely important having diversity in a community can also help you do simple things, for example learning a new recipe or even listening to a new genre of music. In conclusion, having families from Puerto Rico as well as other countries in our school is extremely beneficial because it increases diversity.

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