



# Haiti

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Chandler Phillips





# Geography

- Haiti is on the island of Hispaniola sharing half of its land with the Dominican Republic.
- It has a rather hot and tropical climate, and hurricanes occur in spring and summer.
- Haiti is also known as a “mountainous land” for its mountain filled terrain. It is the location of the largest mountaintop fortress in the western hemisphere - The Citadelle.



# Haiti's History

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- Haiti was the first independent black republic in the world.
- They achieved their freedom by defeating Napoleon and the French colonists, who were holding slaves hostage to grow profitable crops on the island.
- The Haitian people managed to overthrow the French at the Battle of Vertières at the end of 1803 and became a free country unruled by the French during the start of 1804. This made them the first country known to get rid of slavery and one of the first known slave revolts in world history.
- Haiti is the poorest country in the world, but was once one of the richest. The country's wealth was gone after paying off debts to the French.

# Culture

- **Music**- the people of Haiti created the merengue musical style, which incorporates a slow African drum beat and 1800s European dance music. It has become with many people in the Latin Americas and in the Caribbean; They also enjoy other music styles such as "Voodoo Beat", Kompa, Twoubadou, and may others.
- **Literature** - Most of the books and literature written in Haiti are written in French, although some are written in creole. French and creole are the most common language spoken in Haiti.



# Culture

- Cuisine – Food in haiti was orginally a mix of cuisines from the french, the spanish, the africans, and the taino (first settlers on haiti which later went extinct around the 1550s due to diseases brought by the spanish).
- Spirituality - With a population just over 11 million people, Haiti is the the first country to hold voodoo as high as other more common religons such as Roman Cathlocism (a religon transported and taught in haiti by the french people) and protestant Christianity. As of 2020, about 2.1% of Haiti's people practice voodoo.





# Best Things About Haiti

- Resorts – Haiti is home to some of the world's most beautiful beaches.
- Mountain Ranges – Haiti has many mountain ranges stretching from east to west; some of the largest include Massif du Nord, the Cordillera Septentrional, the Matheux Mountains and the Massif de la Selle.

# How can Fishers benefit?

The City of Fishers and FJH have an abundance of ways they can learn from the people of Haiti, but most importantly they can get a new perspective on a different way of life outside of our community and the U.S.

With Haiti being the poorest country in the world, it can be hard for people to even find food to put on their tables. Knowing that these people could have been struggling back in their home country, it would be great to hear their personal stories of overcoming poverty to come to the U.S.

Haiti's culture is so different from our own that we should embrace what makes them unique, and what we have in common.



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