

The Black Atlantic

In this lesson, students will examine the impact of the transatlantic slave trade on the island of Hispaniola, the first Caribbean island to import enslaved people from Africa, and how it was eventually divided into the countries of Dominican Republic and Haiti. Students will see examples of the impact of the history of the slave trade and migrations upon the cultures, people, and government of both the Dominican Republic and Haiti. In addition, students will expand their awareness and their understanding of the scope of the slave trade by watching a two-minute animation of the 315-year slave trade.

1. Ask your students to watch the PBS film *Black in Latin America: Haiti and The Dominican Republic: An Island Divided*:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/black-in-latin-america/featured/haiti-the-dominican-republic-an-island-divided-watch-full-episode/165/>

2. As they watch, have your students find evidence to answer the following questions:
 - a. What are some of the major differences between the two countries?
 - b. How did travel and trade impact the development of each country?
 - c. How is race experienced in each country?

3. Show the following resource, a two-minute animated video of the transatlantic slave trade: *The Atlantic Slave Trade in Two Minutes: 315 years. 20,528 voyages. Millions of lives.* By Andrew Kahn and Jamelle Bouie

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the_history_of_american_slavery/2015/06/animated_interactive_of_the_history_of_the_atlantic_slave_trade.html

4. Ask your students to pay close attention to how the trade route influenced the island of Hispaniola, and then ask them to consider how the slave trade differently influenced the histories of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
 - a. What do they experience as they watch the dots move across the screen?
 - b. How does watching the animation differ from reading about the transatlantic slave trade or watching movies about it?
 - c. The image is labelled a “haunting animation.” Explain what this means.

5. Reviewing and reflecting on knowledge: Students will write 2-3 paragraphs reflecting on the PBS film *Black in Latin America: Haiti and The Dominican Republic: An Island Divided* and the animated video of the transatlantic slave trade: *The Atlantic Slave Trade in Two Minutes*. Ask students to include at least three new details they have learned about Hispaniola, and two new reflections on the impact of the transatlantic slave trade.