Cuba and The Caribbean

- Map: Cuba
- Map: In the Caribbean Sea
- KidsPost Reprint: “Cuba welcomes baseball players who left country illegally”
- Student Activity: Faces of Cuba
- E-Replica Activity: Meet the People | Americans with Cuban Roots
- Student Activity: Sea and Name
Cuba is a tropical island inhabited by 11 million primarily Spanish-speaking individuals. The blood of indigenous people, Spanish conquerors, African slaves, Chinese workers, and American and European entrepreneurs make Cubans an ethnically rich people. Young people between the ages of 0 and 14 years compose 16% of the population.

This resource guide provides maps and a flag of Cuba for geography and social studies lessons. The KidsPost article introduces the Cuban love of baseball, the disruption of families due to travel restrictions imposed between the U.S. and Cuba, the impact of the embargo and steps toward change. “Sea and Name” is a game to check students’ knowledge of Caribbean people, geography and marine life.

Photographs capture the daily life, environment and culture of Cuba. The native bee hummingbird, ground iguana, land crab, painted snail and the trogon, Cuba’s national bird, can be found in Cuba’s forests, valleys, gardens and coastline. Faces of Cuba can be used to introduce visual literacy and acquaint students with our differences and similarities to neighboring people.
An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program
Several flags have flown over Cuba, including the U.S. flag during the Spanish-American war. Adopted in 1902, the Cuban flag is composed of a star, stripes and a red triangle. The blue stripes represent the three old divisions of the island and the two white stripes refer to the strength of independence. The red stands for the blood shed in the struggle for independence as well as equality, fraternity and freedom. “La Estrella Solitaria” symbolizes the absolute freedom among the Cuban people.
A lineup of Cuban-born baseball stars made a triumphant return to the island as part of the first Major League Baseball trip in years.

Once officially bad-mouthed in Cuba for leaving the country illegally, Yasiel Puig of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Brayan Pena of the St. Louis Cardinals and José Abreu of the Chicago White Sox were swarmed by fans and members of the state media Tuesday at the start of a three-day mission to warm relations between Major League Baseball (MLB) and Cuba.

The players were scheduled to hold youth clinics while baseball officials talked business. MLB leaders said they hope to one day create a legal route for players to leave Cuba for the major leagues.

Only one U.S. team has played a spring training game in Cuba since March 1959. The Baltimore Orioles faced Cuba’s national team in Havana in March 1999. MLB has not returned since.

— Associated Press

DESMOND BOYLAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brayan Pena of the St. Louis Cardinals hugs his grandmother osa de las Nives, 85, in Havana.
Faces of Cuba

Images of Cubans, young and old, taken by Post photographer Sarah L. Voisin, give readers a glimpse into daily life and special celebrations. The dates of publication are given.

December 16, 2015

Cruz Rancol, 85, runs out of her Old Havana house in August in pursuit of a chicken that had gotten away. The two boys in the center are balancing a board on their laps while playing dominos.

December 24, 2015

Amelia Prieto waits in her father’s car outside of their apartment building before going to her birthday party.

Amelia has her photo taken with the other girls at her quinceañera party. The invited guests were taken by rented bus to a villa about 25 miles away for a private pool party.

August 25, 2015

Orlando Enrique Rosales, 24, does tricks on a recent Sunday evening in Havana. “For people who don’t have much in their life, [skateboarding has] done a lot,” he said.
Meet the People | Americans with Cuban Roots

The United States is a country composed of people with roots in many countries, cultures and faiths. These individuals immigrated to the U.S. seeking a better life in times of famine, war and uncertainty. This idea is expressed succinctly on the Seal of the United States — E pluribus unum — Out of many, one.

Whether first-, second- or third-generation, many Cuban-Americans have become known in their chosen fields. They include artists, athletes, writers, educators and members of Congress. Below is a list to begin your consideration of the contributions of Cuban-Americans to society.

Jim Acosta  
CNN senior White House correspondent

Ralph Alvarez  
 Former president and COO, McDonald’s

Desi Arnez  
Bandleader, I Love Lucy

Liz Balmaseda  
Journalist, Pulitzer Prize recipient

Jeff Bezos  
Founder of Amazon.com, owner of The Washington Post (Stepfather is Cuban)

Nilo Cruz  
Playwright, first Latino to win Pulitzer Prize for Drama

Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senator, R-Texas

Dr. Carlos M. N. Eire  
Yale University professor, author of Waiting for Snow in Havana

Gloria Estafan  
Singer, songwriter, actress, businesswoman, writer

Raul J. Fernandez  
Co-owner Washington Wizards, Capitals, and Mystics

Andy Garcia  
Actor, director; Academy-Award nominated

Gio Gonzalez  
MLB pitcher, The Washington Nationals

Soledad O’Brien  
Journalist, chair of Starfish Media Group

Antonio Prohias  
Cartoonist/creator, Mad Magazine’s Spy vs. Spy

Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator, R-Florida

Dara Torres  
Swimmer, Olympic gold medalist

Bob Vila  
TV host, This Old House

Conduct an e-Replica search to see if any of these individuals have been in the news recently. Summarize what he or she has done, ideas expressed or causes supporting.

Read other sources to learn more about one of the individuals listed or another Cuban-American. Write a short introduction to this person.

OPTIONAL. Is a Cuban-American studying in your school or living in your community? Ask if you can conduct an interview to learn more about his or her story.
# Sea and Name

Write the name of a person, place or item that meets the description. Call out when you have completed one row across, diagonally or down.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name the capital of Cuba</th>
<th>Distance of Cuba from the United States</th>
<th>Two bodies of water that surround Cuba</th>
<th>Location of the Florida Reef Track</th>
<th>Name of the largest island in the Caribbean Sea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of the Department U.S. Federal Government that oversees our fisheries</td>
<td>What NOAA stands for</td>
<td>Give an example of NOAA data</td>
<td>What someone snorkeling will see over a reef</td>
<td>Name three islands in the Caribbean Sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The official government of Cuba</td>
<td>Number of islands in the Caribbean</td>
<td>Name a natural resource found in the Gulf of Mexico</td>
<td>Name a U.S. National Park in a Gulf state</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person who discovered Cuba</td>
<td>An important commercial fish found in the Gulf of Mexico</td>
<td>Three of the 5 U.S. Gulf states</td>
<td>Name of a marine ecosystem</td>
<td>Name of a leader of Cuba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name and location of the largest Barrier Reef in the world</td>
<td>Name and location of the second largest Barrier Reef in the world</td>
<td>Name two kinds of music played in Cuba</td>
<td>Name a Central American country that is close to Cuba</td>
<td>Three products grown on Caribbean islands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>