Introduction

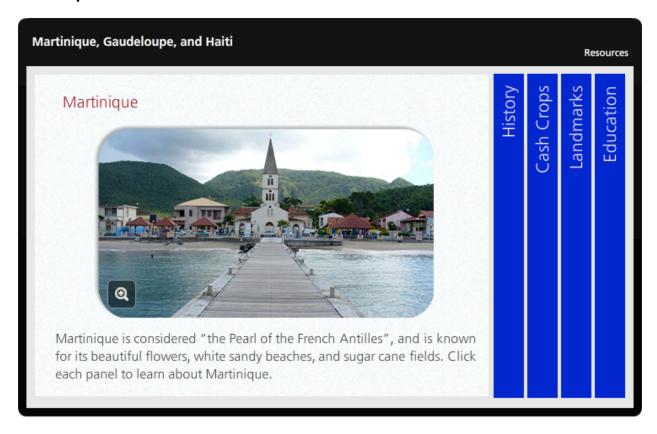


Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Haiti

Click each image to learn about the Caribbean islands of Martinique, Haiti, and Guadeloupe.



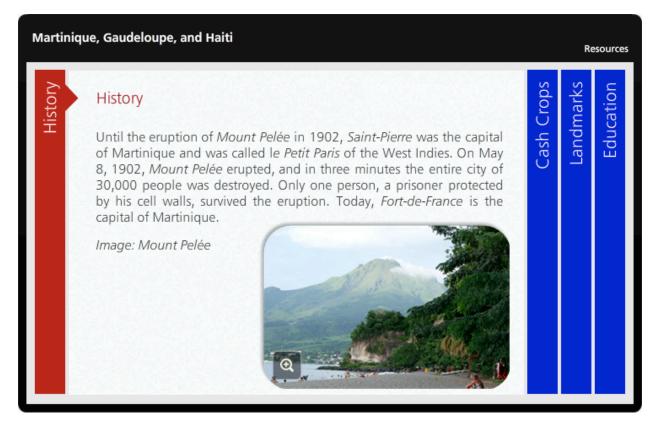
Martinique



Martinique is considered "the Pearl of the French Antilles", and is known for its beautiful flowers, white sandy beaches, and sugar cane fields. Click each panel to learn about Martinique.



History

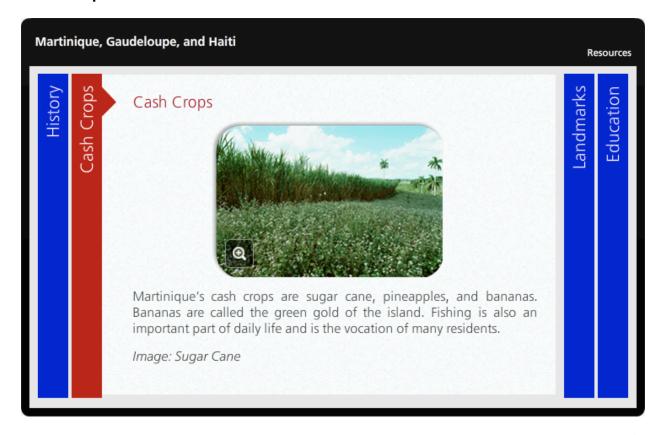


Until the eruption of *Mount Pelée* in 1902, *Saint-Pierre* was the capital of Martinique and was called le *Petit Paris* of the West Indies. On May 8, 1902, *Mount Pelée* erupted, and in three minutes the entire city of 30,000 people was destroyed. Only one person, a prisoner protected by his cell walls, survived the eruption. Today, *Fort-de-France* is the capital of Martinique.

Image: Mount Pelée



Cash Crops



Martinique's cash crops are sugar cane, pineapples, and bananas. Bananas are called the green gold of the island. Fishing is also an important part of daily life and is the vocation of many residents.

Image: Sugar Cane



Landmarks

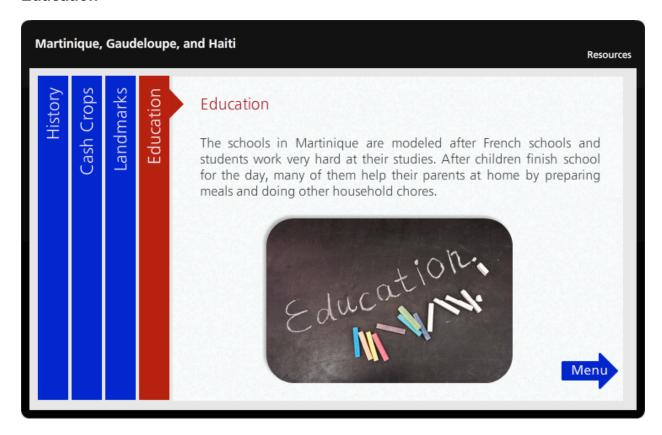


Le Jardin de Balata is part of one of the world's most beautiful tropical forests. The city of Balata even boasts a replica of the Sacré Coeur basilica in Paris.

Image: Le Jardin de Balata



Education



The schools in Martinique are modeled after French schools and students work very hard at their studies. After children finish school for the day, many of them help their parents at home by preparing meals and doing other household chores.



Guadeloupe



Guadeloupe is another Caribbean island that belongs to the French Republic *Outre-Mer*. Guadeloupe is the largest of all the *Outre-Mer* territories, and is the most developed. Click each panel to learn about Guadeloupe.



History

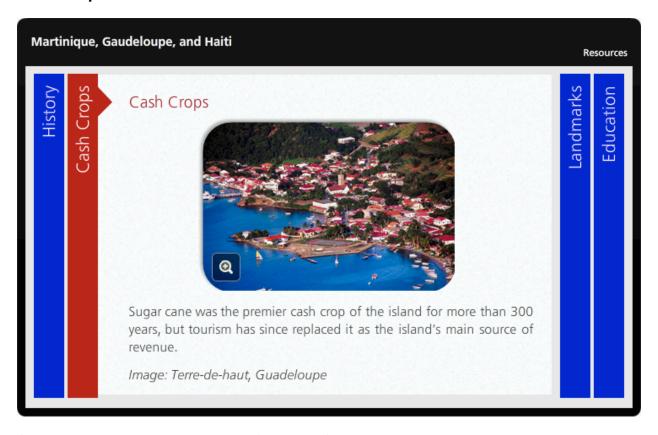


Christopher Columbus discovered Guadeloupe during his second voyage to the Americas. When the Spanish tried to settle Guadeloupe, they were met by fierce resistance from the *Caribs* and eventually abandoned the island. In the mid 1600's, the French arrived to Guadeloupe, conquered the *Caribs*, and established the first sugar mill. By the late 1600's, they had proclaimed the area for France.

Image: The Battle of Saintes, 1782



Cash Crops

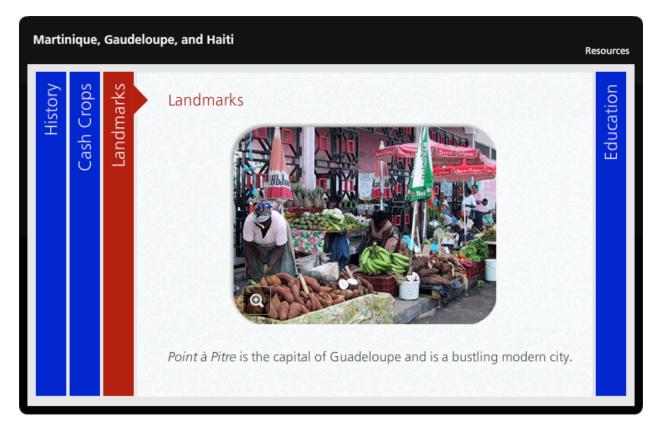


Sugar cane was the premier cash crop of the island for more than 300 years, but tourism has since replaced it as the island's main source of revenue.

Image: Terre-de-haut, Guadeloupe



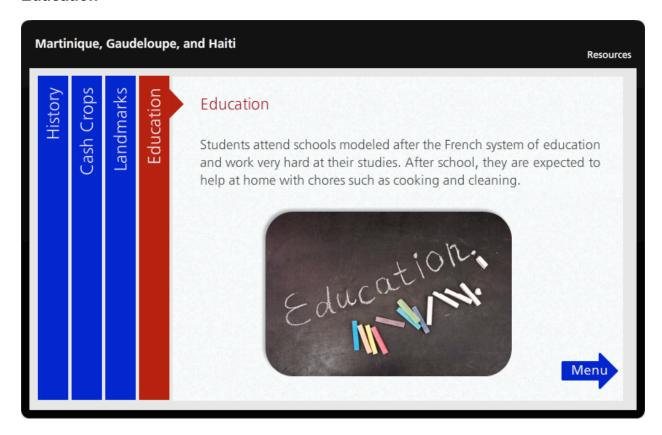
Landmarks



Point à Pitre is the capital of Guadeloupe and is a bustling modern city.



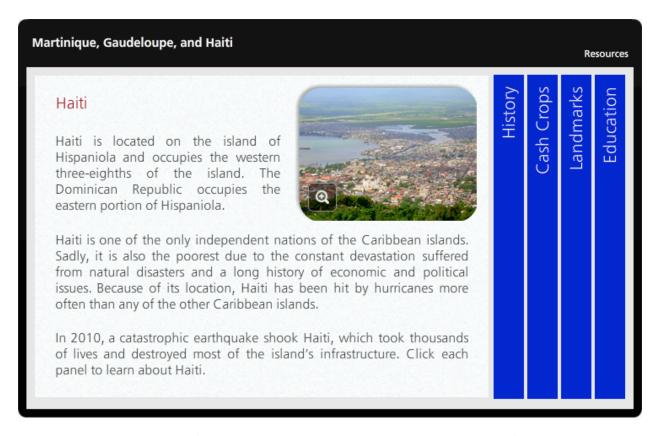
Education



Students attend schools modeled after the French system of education and work very hard at their studies. After school, they are expected to help at home with chores such as cooking and cleaning.



Haiti



Haiti is located on the island of Hispaniola and occupies the western three-eighths of the island. The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern portion of Hispaniola.

Haiti is one of the only independent nations of the Caribbean islands. Sadly, it is also the poorest due to the constant devastation suffered from natural disasters and a long history of economic and political issues. Because of its location, Haiti has been hit by hurricanes more often than any of the other Caribbean islands.

In 2010, a catastrophic earthquake shook Haiti, which took thousands of lives and destroyed most of the island's infrastructure. Click each panel to learn about Haiti.



History

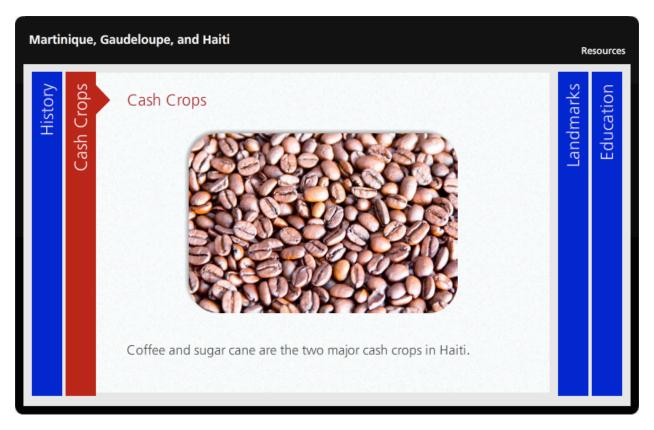


Haiti was originally settled by the Spanish, but was ceded to France in the early 17th century. The French built sugar cane plantations and Haiti became the richest of all of the Caribbean colonies.

During the French Revolution, revolution fever spread to the island. The slaves banded together to fight the French and defeat them. Haiti became the only independent nation to defeat three European super powers and the only nation in the world to become established as the result of a successful slave revolt.



Cash Crops



Coffee and sugar cane are the two major cash crops in Haiti.



Landmarks

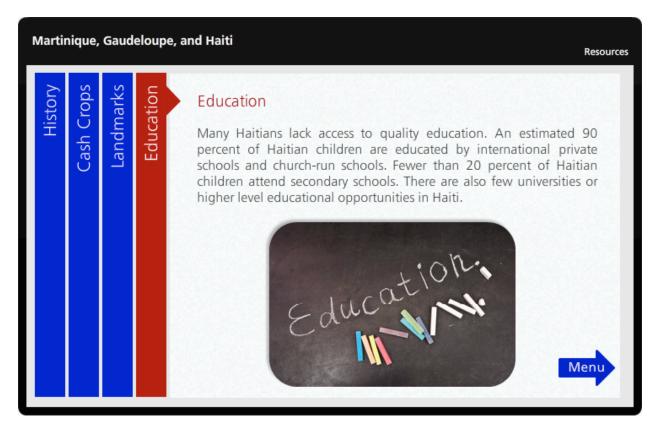


The capital of Haiti is *Port-au-Prince*. *Citadelle Laferrière* is a huge fortress in Northern Haiti. The *Sans-Souci Palace* is located in the town of *Milot*.

Image: Citadelle Laferrière



Education



Many Haitians lack access to quality education. An estimated 90 percent of Haitian children are educated by international private schools and church-run schools. Fewer than 20 percent of Haitian children attend secondary schools. There are also few universities or higher level educational opportunities in Haiti.

