

**Module: Latin America and the Caribbean**  
**Topic Content: Major Regions of the Caribbean**

**Major Regions of the Caribbean**



Click next to begin.

# Module: Latin America and the Caribbean

## Topic Content: Major Regions of the Caribbean

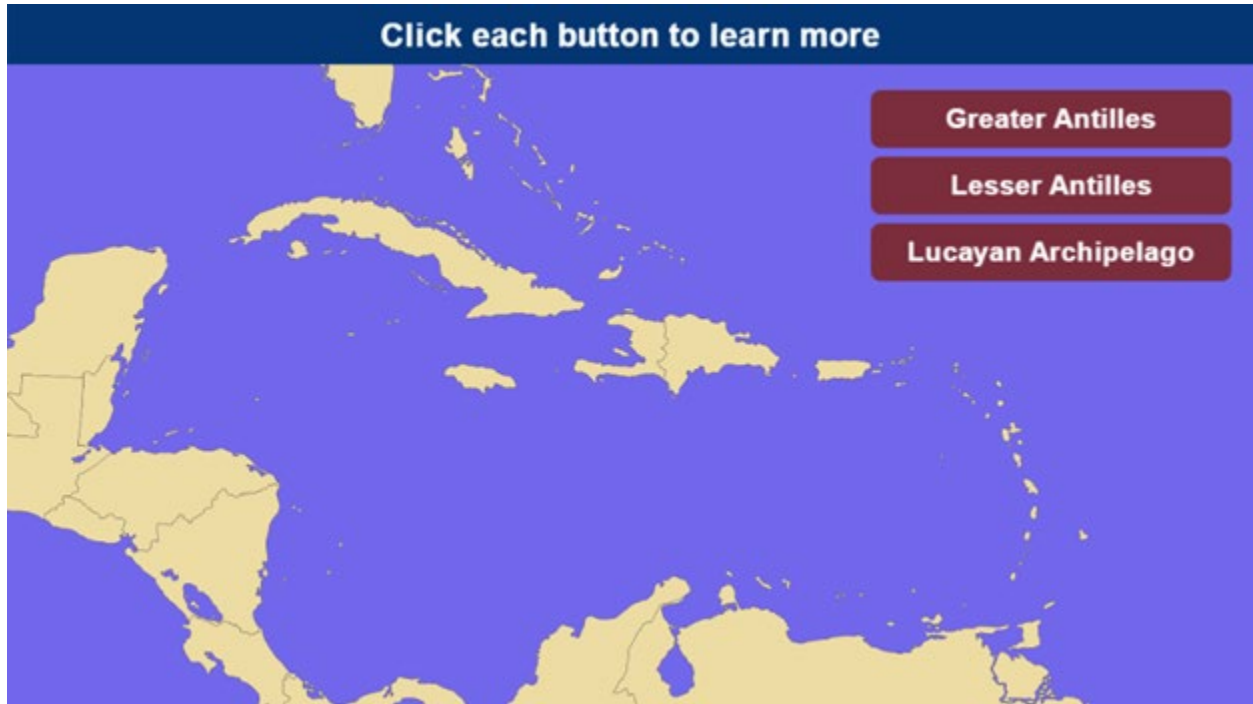
### Introduction



The Caribbean Sea is located southeast of the U.S. and the Gulf of Mexico, east of Central America, and north of South America. This region contains more than 7,000 individual islands. These islands are grouped into three archipelagos: the Greater Antilles, the Lesser Antilles, and the Lucayan Archipelago.

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Click each button to learn more.

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#### Greater Antilles



The Greater Antilles are located in the northwestern part of the Caribbean, near the U.S. and the Gulf of Mexico. There are four independent nations and two overseas territories within the Greater Antilles. The four nations are Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. The two territories are Puerto Rico, which is a U.S. territory, and the Cayman Islands, which is a British territory. This archipelago constitutes most of the land in the Caribbean. It is also home to a majority of the region's population. Click each point to learn more.

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#### Cuba

Click each point on the map to learn more

**Cuba**



- Largest island in the Caribbean
- Former Spanish colony
- Gained independence in 1898
- Fidel Castro led a revolution in the 1950s
- Communist government since 1959
- Castro controlled Cuba until 2008

Close

Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean, and was once a major colony of the Spanish Empire. During the Spanish-American War in 1898, the United States assisted Cuba in gaining its independence from Spain. After independence, Cuba suffered from political instability and corruption. This eventually brought about a revolution led by Fidel Castro in the 1950s. In 1959, Castro gained control of Cuba and established a communist government. Castro's regime controlled many aspects of the economy and restricted personal freedoms. Castro maintained complete control of Cuba for nearly 50 years. He stepped down in 2008.


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#### Jamaica

Click each point on the map to learn more

### Jamaica



- England seized control from Spain in 1655
- British instituted a system of plantation agriculture
- Gained independence in 1962
- Commonwealth of Nations member
- Economy based on tourism, agriculture, and mining
- Birthplace of reggae music

Close

The island of Jamaica was initially colonized by Spain after the arrival of Columbus. However, England seized control of Jamaica from the Spanish in 1655. The British implemented a system of plantation agriculture. It was based on the export of sugar, coffee, and cocoa. Jamaica gained full independence in 1962. It remains part of the Commonwealth of Nations, along with many other former British colonies.

Jamaica has experienced slow economic growth. It relies heavily on its tourism industry, agricultural exports, and bauxite mining, which is used to produce aluminum. Jamaican culture has had a major influence on music, as it is the birthplace of reggae.


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#### Haiti

Click each point on the map to learn more

**Haiti**



- Located on the western part of Hispaniola
- Became a French colony in 1697
- African slaves were forced to work on sugar plantations
- Toussaint L'Ouverture led a revolt in the 1790s
- Gained independence in 1804
- Has suffered from political instability and disasters

Close

Haiti is located on the western part of the island of Hispaniola. Although Hispaniola was originally claimed by the Spanish, the western third of the island was ceded to France in 1697. France established the colony of Saint-Domingue in this territory. This later became the nation Haiti.

Under French colonial rule, hundreds of thousands of African slaves were forced to work on large sugar cane plantations. In the 1790s, Toussaint L'Ouverture led approximately half a million slaves in a successful revolt against French rule. As a result of this uprising, Haiti achieved independence in 1804, and slavery was abolished in all of France's remaining colonies. In modern times, Haiti has suffered from political instability and a series of disasters. This includes a severe earthquake in 2010.

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#### Dominican Republic

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### Dominican Republic



- Located on the eastern part of Hispaniola
- Has experienced rapid economic development
- Former Spanish colony
- Diversified economy
- Economy based on tourism, mining, manufacturing, and agriculture
- Issues with unemployment and income inequality

Close

The Dominican Republic is located on the eastern part of the island of Hispaniola. The country shares a border with Haiti, which is located on the western part of the island. The Dominican Republic has experienced rapid economic development in the twenty-first century.

The former Spanish colony was once reliant on agricultural exports like coffee, sugar, and cocoa. However, its economy has diversified with large mining, manufacturing, and tourism industries. Despite this growth, the nation faces challenges with unemployment and income inequality.



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#### Lesser Antilles

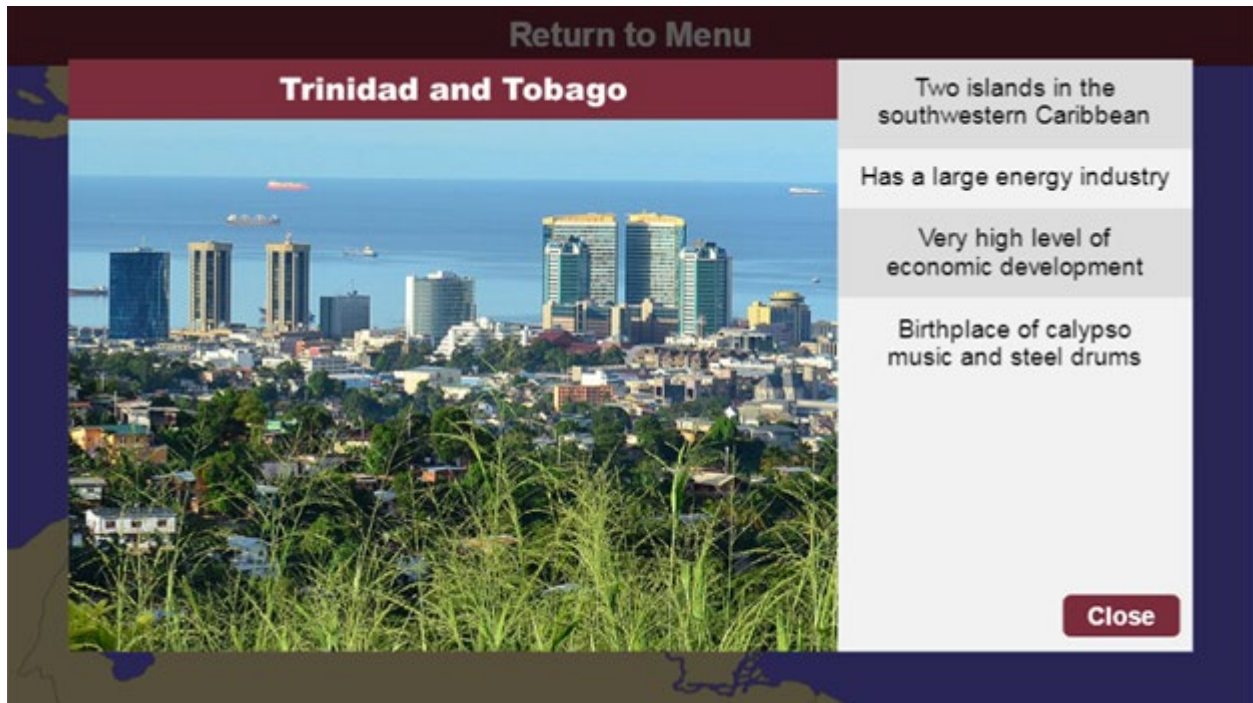


The Lesser Antilles are located in the southeastern part of the Caribbean, near South America. This archipelago consists of many small islands that form the eastern boundary of the Caribbean.

There are eight independent nations and several overseas territories within the Lesser Antilles. The eight nations are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The overseas territories in the Lesser Antilles are associated with multiple nations. These include France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the United States, and Venezuela. Click the point to learn more.

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**Trinidad and Tobago**



The image shows an interactive map of the Caribbean region. A popup window is open over Trinidad and Tobago, displaying a photograph of the city skyline and a list of key facts. The popup has a dark red header with the text "Trinidad and Tobago" and a "Return to Menu" link at the top. The facts listed are: "Two islands in the southwestern Caribbean", "Has a large energy industry", "Very high level of economic development", and "Birthplace of calypso music and steel drums". A "Close" button is located at the bottom right of the popup.

**Trinidad and Tobago**

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- Two islands in the southwestern Caribbean
- Has a large energy industry
- Very high level of economic development
- Birthplace of calypso music and steel drums

Close

Trinidad and Tobago is a nation that spans two islands in the southwestern Caribbean. It is near the northern coast of South America. Trinidad and Tobago has a large energy industry that produces natural gas and petroleum products. This has helped it become one of the most economically developed nations in the Caribbean. Trinidad and Tobago is also the birthplace of Calypso music and steel drums.

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**Lucayan Archipelago**



The Lucayan Archipelago is located north of Cuba and Hispaniola. It is off the southeastern coast of Florida. This chain of islands contains the Bahamas, which is an independent country, and Turks and Caicos, which is a British territory. The archipelago is named for its original inhabitants, the Lucayan people, but is also known as the Bahama archipelago. [Click the point to learn more.](#)


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#### The Bahamas

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### The Bahamas



- Former British colony
- Gained independence in 1973
- Spans 700 islands
- Economy based on tourism
- Tourism accounts for 50% of GDP
- Financial services account for 15% of GDP

Close

The Bahamas is a former British colony that gained independence in 1973. The country spans roughly seven hundred islands. However, only thirty of these islands are actually inhabited. The Bahamas has a strong economy that is mainly based on tourism. In fact, the tourism industry employs approximately half of the country's workforce, and accounts for more than 50% of the country's GDP. Banking and financial services are also an important industry in the Bahamas, accounting for roughly 15% of the country's GDP.