Exploring Caribbean Studies
By: Joanne Pralle
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INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to your Continental Academy course “Exploring Caribbean Studies”. It is made up of 10 individual lessons, as listed in the Table of Contents. Each lesson includes practice questions with answers. You will progress through this course one lesson at a time, at your own pace.

First, study the lesson thoroughly. Then, complete the lesson reviews at the end of the lesson and carefully check your answers. Sometimes, those answers will contain information that you will need on the graded lesson assignments. When you are ready, complete the 10-question, multiple choice lesson assignment. At the end of each lesson, you will find notes to help you prepare for the online assignments.

All lesson assignments are open-book. Continue working on the lessons at your own pace until you have finished all lesson assignments for this course.

When you have completed and passed all lesson assignments for this course, complete the End of Course Examination.

If you need help understanding any part of the lesson, practice questions, or this procedure:

- Click on the “Send a Message” link on the left side of the home page
- Select “Academic Guidance” in the “To” field
- Type your question in the field provided
- Then, click on the “Send” button
- You will receive a response within ONE BUSINESS DAY
Joanne Pralle received her Bachelor of Arts [B.A.] degree in American Studies from the University of Florida. She also obtained her Master of Arts [M.A.] degree in Public History and a Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies from Florida International University. She was a home educator of her four children for fifteen [15] years and then taught in a private school in Miami, Florida. Currently, she is employed in the museum field and is working on a historical fiction series about Florida.
EXPLORING CARIBBEAN STUDIES

Study of the geography, history, culture, and development of the Caribbean. Individual, group, and national perspectives are applied.

- Student will understand the intensified hemispheric interactions
- Student will understand the emergence of the first global age
- Student will understand the effects of revolutions
- Student will understand social, ethical, and human issues
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LESSON I: PEOPLE AND PLACES OF THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean is more than white sands and blue waters. The Caribbean stretches from the southern tip of Florida in North America to northern parts of South America. The Caribbean covers an area over 2,000 miles long, but it’s less than 200 miles wide. The Atlantic Ocean is on one side. The Gulf of Mexico is on the other side.

The Caribbean region lies in a body of water aptly called the Caribbean Sea. This sea is a large salt-water sea. It has an area of over one million square miles. Its deepest point near Cuba is the Cayman Trench, which is over 25,000 feet deep. Thousands of islands form the Caribbean region. Some islands are little more than clumps of rocks. Others are some of the world’s largest islands.
Geologists believe the Earth’s crust is composed of large plates. At areas where plates meet, a chain of volcanic islands appears. This formed the Caribbean region. Over thousands of years, geological forces created the Caribbean. Most of the islands in the region are the tops of volcanic mountains, which rose up from the ocean floor. They formed the arc of islands in the Caribbean Sea. Geological processes like the folding of the Earth’s crust formed other mountains in the Caribbean region.
Hispaniola and Cuba have some of the highest mountains. Some are more than six thousand [6000] feet high.

Because of the geological formation of the Caribbean, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. Some of these volcanic eruptions in the Caribbean happen under the sea. Underwater volcanoes explode here. “Kick ’Em Jenny” is an underwater volcano located near Grenada. “Jenny” erupts frequently. These eruptions can cause tidal waves that flood the lands. Other volcanoes such as Mt. Pelee on Martinique and Soufriere on St. Vincent have killed many people when they erupted. In 1997, a volcano on Montserrat erupted killing many people. Most earthquakes have occurred in the eastern part of the Caribbean, but they do occur in other parts.

![1902 Mount Pelee Eruption](http://volcano.und.nodak.edu/vwdocs/volc_images/img_mt_pelee.html)
However, some of the islands of the Caribbean, especially those in the Bahamas, are not formed from the tops of mountains. They form from a very common rock in the Caribbean, limestone.

Small organisms make the beautiful coral reefs of this region. These organisms build a skeleton out of the limestone in the salt water. These large structures form islands. Under the sea, they also provide homes for many types of plants and animals.

The Caribbean is south of the Tropic of Cancer located near the Equator. The climate is usually hot and humid. Throughout the year, there is not much seasonal change in the weather. The Caribbean is composed of islands. The water around the islands is a major factor in its climate. The areas close to the oceans are kept cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Water changes in temperature much slower than land does.

Winds are another major factor in the climate of the Caribbean. Trade winds are caused by air being warmed at the Equator. As this warm air rises, the rotation of the Earth, combined with rising air, forms cool breezes. As these trade winds blow through the Caribbean, they often cause heavy rainfall. The mountainous areas receive rain as the hot air is cooled while traveling upward. Other areas receive rain due to the heating of the land and rising air. Islands with larger landmasses tend to receive more rain than the smaller ones. Those with mountains receive more rain than those that are flat.
The Caribbean region is often affected by hurricanes from June to November. Heavy winds and rains brought by hurricanes lead to destruction. Storm surges of ocean water produce flooding and damage. The path of a hurricane is unpredictable, but they normally follow a northwesterly route through the Caribbean. The islands closest to South America are usually spared from the destructive path of a hurricane. These islands tend to be much drier and even have desert-type regions.

Because of abundant rainfall and warm climate, there is much vegetation in the Caribbean. There are sections of tropical rainforest in the hottest wettest areas of Dominica. In parts of Cuba and in limited areas on other islands, tropical grasslands are found. Now these lands are frequently used to grow crops. Mangrove trees, which are adapted to salt water, form swampy areas on coastlines. Much of the soil in the Caribbean is shallow and rocky, so most is not very fertile. Erosion and in severe cases damaging landslides are the result.

Deforestation is a problem in the Caribbean. Because of the economic success of plantations, forest growth was destroyed for agricultural reasons. “Slash and burn” agriculture was once widely practiced in the Caribbean. All of the vegetation in an area, including trees, is burned. This produces ash, a good fertilizer for crop growth. The burned areas can then be planted. The Caribbean pine is a coniferous tree being replanted to help stop the deforestation process. It helps conserve the soil.
Replanting prevents soil erosion and mudslides of over-farmed and deforested areas. Trinidad and Jamaica both have government forest conservation programs. The majority of the remaining island forests are in state hands. Some have been made into nature preserves. The teak, mahogany, cedar, and Caribbean pine are valuable as future economic products on these islands. They are also being preserved for recreational and educational purposes.

Limestone rock is prevalent in the Caribbean. Its structure, allows water to seep underground. Water that normally might run into rivers is therefore not found in the Caribbean on a large scale. Rivers tend to be seasonal and flow more in the rainy seasons. The rivers in the Caribbean are small and often obstructed by rapids and waterfalls. Sandbars are transportation obstacles on the rivers.

Originally, the Caribbean area was known as the “West Indies.” This is because Columbus, upon landing in the area, believed he had reached India, so he called the inhabitants “Indians.” The area was called the “West Indies” to distinguish it from the southern and central portion of what was known as India. Later, the region acquired the name the “Caribbean” after the Caribs, the earliest known inhabitants. The Caribbean is regarded as part of the continent of North America.

Geographically, the Caribbean is divided into four groups of islands. Those closest to South America form the Curacao area and include Curacao, Aruba, Bonaire, Trinidad, and Tobago. Curacao, Aruba, and Bonaire are low, generally flat islands. The climate is very dry. Purified
water is made using a desalination process. Salt water is converted to fresh water. Trinidad and Tobago are about the size of the state of Delaware. The land here is made of low mountains and rolling lowlands. These islands are the closest to the Equator. They remain hot and humid year-round.

North and east of the Curacao group are the Lesser Antilles. These begin with the Virgin Islands to the north and form an arc ending in Grenada. Some are rugged and mountainous with volcanic peaks. Other islands here are flat and lie close to the sea.

Within the Lesser Antilles, there are two divisions. One is the “Windward Islands”. These islands receive the trade winds first. They are south of the “Leeward Islands”. The Windward Islands are mountainous volcanic islands stretching for about 300 miles. They include Martinique, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Leeward Islands range from Puerto Rico to the Windward Islands. They are made up of mountainous volcanic islands and some coral rock islands. They include the Virgin Islands, Guadeloupe, Barbuda, and St. Kitts and Nevis.

The largest islands of the Caribbean form the Greater Antilles. These long, narrow islands of Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Hispaniola are the most mountainous of the Caribbean. On Hispaniola, some mountains stretch to over 10,000 feet. Besides mountains, the Greater Antilles contains some of the most fertile lands in the Caribbean.
EXPLORING CARIBBEAN STUDIES

The last group of the Caribbean is composed of hundreds of islands. The major part of the area is the Bahamas. It also includes the Turks and Caicos. The islands of the Bahamas, in contrast to the ones in the Greater Antilles, are very flat with shallow rocky soil. Many of these islands are uninhabited.

The residents of the islands of the Caribbean are as varied as the land itself. Over thirty-[30] million people live in the Caribbean. This varies from millions on some islands to hundreds on others. In fact, almost all of the people of the Caribbean live in Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Trinidad. The island of Hispaniola contains both Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Both have over six million people each.

The type of land on each island determines where residents live. Those islands with volcanic mountains or swampy coastal areas have the least density and are not suitable for living. Areas where people can make a living and where the land is accessible are densely settled.

Barbados is the most densely populated nation of the Caribbean with over 1,500 people per square mile. The land of Barbados is fertile and has a strong economy. Both factors contribute to high population density. Parts of the Caribbean with low population densities overall may have high densities in urban areas. Some of the land may be uninhabitable or sparsely settled. This contributes to an overall low-density rate. This is true of the Bahamas with its crowded New Providence. It also includes islands with few residents such as Eleuthera.
Haiti is an overpopulated nation of the Caribbean. Haiti does not have the low population density of Barbados. It is overpopulated because it has not provided economic necessities for its people. Some Haitians attempt to make the journey to the United States. These “boat people” are returned to Haiti. It is an illegal migration according to the current American administration since people are migrating for economic reasons.

Cubans have been allowed to migrate to the United States to escape oppressive government. From the beginning of the communist government in 1959, Cubans have fled the nation. Most Cubans went to Miami, Florida. Immigration policies since that period have affected the number of immigrants. Still, many are smuggled to Florida’s shores because Castro will not let them leave. Some cross the waters between Cuba and Florida in homemade rafts, including one in 2005 made from the body of a pick-up truck made into a boat.

Trinidad and Tobago have faced a “brain drain” in the latter part of the twentieth century because many of its professional people migrated to North America. Many left the islands for higher education and did not return. Some returned for only a short period before accepting a job in the United States or Canada. Some
of these professionals moved to the Bahamas for higher wages, the lure of no income tax, and a better economy.

The population of a country is also affected by “natural increase”, the difference between the birth rate and death rate. Haiti, with its great poverty, has the highest death rate as well as a high birth rate. The natural increase in Haiti is high compared to Cuba and Barbados. Countries in which health care is promoted have lowered the death and infant mortality rates. This raises the rate of natural increase.

Historically, the cities of the Caribbean were government centers. Most people lived in small villages or on plantations. Because of the island nature of the Caribbean, port cities were population centers. Urban centers are growing in the Caribbean. Urbanization has occurred at a rapid rate in the Caribbean in the past fifty- [50] years. Most of the population move to the urban centers in search of a better economic future. Cities may offer higher wages and more jobs. Young single adults or young families form the bulk of new urban dwellers. In nations like Puerto Rico, over half its citizens live in cities like San Juan. Unfortunately, not all who move to the city improve their lives. Slums are expanding as cities grow. On some islands, government policies replace slum areas with low-cost housing projects. Rapid urbanization continues to cause problems.

Transportation problems emerge as urbanization continues in the Caribbean. With foreign investment in the twentieth century, roads were constructed to bolster the economy. These roads led from plantations to ports. Many areas were still inaccessible. As these ports grew into large
still cities, pollution and congestion occurred. Many island nations with large cities struggle with these issues.

To make all areas accessible, another transportation advance was needed. Coastal and mountain roads have been constructed which give residents access to social services like health care and education. Poor countries like Haiti have few funds to provide roads. So many of the rural areas are served only by footpaths. Because few in Haiti can afford cars, bus transportation is the main form of transportation for its residents.

Foreign investors constructed some railroads. They are still not a predominant mode of transportation for goods or people in the Caribbean. In Cuba, railroads were first built for the sugar industry. They continue to be used for this purpose. Jamaica has a passenger line serving the area between Montego Bay and Kingston. Many passengers ride it. Bus transportation is still more common in the Caribbean.

The geography of the Caribbean is well suited for water transportation, but rivers and canals are not primary forms of transportation. There are not a sufficient number of them. They are also not
suitable for transportation. Nations comprised of various islands use shipping to provide government services like mail delivery. Besides regional shipments between various islands of the Caribbean, much of the shipping business in the Caribbean is international. Cargo ships bringing imports of oil and cars come into the Caribbean and leave with cargos of sugar and bananas. Cruise ships also make calls at various ports of the Caribbean. The Bahamas and the Virgin Islands are popular stops for the cruises to the Caribbean.

**Lesson I: Practice Questions**

Please select the best answer from the choices given.

1. The body of water surrounding the Caribbean islands is the _______
   A. Arabian Sea  B. Pacific Ocean  C. Caribbean Sea  D. Gulf of Oman

2. Many of the Caribbean islands are the tops of ______
   A. Deserts  B. Monuments  C. Reefs  D. Volcanoes

3. ________ is the common rock in the Caribbean forming some islands.
   A. Quartz  B. Limestone  C. Mica  D. Shale

4. Cooling breezes of the Caribbean are ______ winds.
   A. Trade  B. Equatorial  C. Humid  D. Dry
5. ________ are frequent, dangerous storms of the Caribbean.
   A. Tornados       B. Hurricanes
   C. Sandstorms     D. Typhoons

6. ________ is the former name of the Caribbean region.
   A. West Indies       B. Sea Lands
   C. Arawak Villa     D. Indochina

7. ________ is the most densely populated Caribbean island.
   A. Aruba       B. Trinidad
   C. Barbados     D. Puerto Rico

8. Most boat people trying to enter the U.S. come from __________, an
   island of the Caribbean.
   A. Martinique       B. Puerto Rico
   C. The Bahamas       D. Haiti

9. Movement of people to the cities, causing growth of cities, is:
   A. Deforestation       B. Immigration
   C. Urbanization     D. Sanitation

10. ________________ is a common form of transportation in the
    Caribbean.
    A. Bus       B. Mule
    C. Plane     D. Ship

**Lesson1: Practice Answers**
LESSON 1 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The body of water surrounding the Caribbean islands is the Caribbean Sea.
- Many of the Caribbean islands are the tops of volcanoes.
- Limestone is a common rock in the Caribbean which forms some islands.
- The cooling breezes of the Caribbean are the trade winds.
- The most prevalent and dangerous storms of the Caribbean are hurricanes.
- The former name of the Caribbean is the West Indies.
- Barbados is the most populated Caribbean island.
- Haiti has the highest poverty rate in the Caribbean.
- The West Indies is another name for the Caribbean.
- Urbanization is a major problem in the Caribbean.
EXPLORING CARIBBEAN STUDIES

LESSON 2: EARLY PEOPLES OF THE CARIBBEAN

The earliest known peoples of the Caribbean were the “Ciboney” or “Siboney”. These first inhabitants had no established agriculture. They lived by fishing and hunting. Most of the remains of Ciboney settlements have been discovered in Cuba and Hispaniola. They depended on the sea for much of their livelihood. Their settlements were thus located in the caves and rocks of the coastal Caribbean. Ciboney settlements were not large compared to some of the later native peoples.

Much of what is known about the Tainos comes from the writings of early Spanish explorers and inhabitants. These people were related to the Arawaks of South America. They were sometimes called Arawaks. The Tainos referred to themselves as “men of the good”. By 500 B.C., the Tainos migrated from South America into the islands of the Caribbean. They traveled in large canoes made from tree trunks. The Taino communities were composed of large groups of extended families. Several communities grouped together formed a province ruled by a chief or “cacique”. A man usually filled this cacique position, but could be filled by a woman. A cacique inherited his position
from someone in his family. He was both a religious and political leader. Under the rule of the cacique were village leaders.

The Tainos lived in simple homes constructed of palm leaves and trunks. Gold was used to decorate the bodies of the Tainos. They also painted their bodies, especially on feast or festival days. Games played on these days included a team game played with a rubber ball. The Tainos practiced a religion of many gods. They believed spirits could inhabit people or animals.

Zemis, or religious statues, decorated the homes of the Tainos. The cacique would lead the Tainos in religious ceremonies, including the use of tobacco as a stimulant.

Taino Zemi Excavated in Caribbean
(http://www.cr.nps.gov/seac/outline/06-carib_prehistory/index-2.htm, 01/30/2006)
Like the Ciboney, the Tainos also lived by hunting and fishing. In the Caribbean, the Tainos hunted reptiles, such as the iguana, and birds of the islands. From the sea, the Tainos ate numerous types of shellfish and fish. The green turtle was especially prized for its eggs and as a meal itself. Different from the Ciboney, the Tainos established agriculture. The main crops of the Tainos were root crops such as yucca, sometimes called manioc, which provided the starch and sugar of the Caribbean diet. Yucca was well suited to the soil of the Caribbean. It was planted in earthen mounds that could be used over and over and required little maintenance. The Tainos drained poisonous juices from the ripe yucca it to make flour. From this flour, a bread known as “cassava” became the main part of the Taino meal. Other root plants such as yams and gourds could be grown alongside the yucca. Fruits could be cultivated or simply used as they grew wild on the islands of the Caribbean. Tainos grew seed plants such as corn and squash. Tobacco was a popular seed plant used in religious ceremonies as snuff, or it was rolled into cigars.

Tainos made pottery using the coil method. Archaeologists discovered Taino pottery remnants in many parts of the Caribbean. They made stone tools and baskets to aid in their everyday life. Shells provided tools and eating implements for the Tainos. Women made these crafts and grew the crops. Men fished and helped with the crops. Women also cared for the children while they were young. As children grew, they assumed various jobs in the Taino community. Often, children cared for the few domesticated animals the Taino had in their villages.
The Caribbean area is named for another group of the early peoples, the Carib. These people called themselves the Kalinas. The Spanish gave them the name Carib as they occupied the islands. Part myth and part truth, the Caribs were known as fierce warriors and cannibals. As the Caribs advanced through the Caribbean, they destroyed Taino communities. They killed many of the male inhabitants. Women were often captured and taken to Carib settlements. Caribs often established villages in the same location as the ruined Taino communities.

Carib society was not as well established as the Taino. Government structure was less organized. Village chiefs were more independent. Chiefs and other village leaders assumed their position from their reputation as fierce warriors. War was an important part of the Carib lifestyle. Any type of the eating of human flesh or cannibalism occurred during religious ceremonies. In these ceremonies, the flesh of a strong warrior would be eaten so those who consumed the flesh would inherit the same qualities in war.

The Caribs, too, lived in simple homes. Men and women lived separately in large communal gatherings. Hammocks provided sleeping arrangements. Many of the women were captured Tainos, women often spoke a different language and lived in a different fashion. Taino culture affected Carib culture due to this female

Drawing of a Female Carib

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/jazz/jb_jazz_virgin_1_e.html, 01/30/2006)
influence. The daily jobs of men and women were quite different. Women in the Carib community were treated less equally than in the Taino villages. Carib men expected to be served by their women. Men built boats and practiced war skills, while women maintained the home and grew the crops.

As Europeans encountered these early peoples of the Caribbean, many of the diseases they carried spread throughout the region. The same thing occurred throughout the rest of the Americas. The early Native inhabitants possessed no immunity to these diseases. As a result, diseases such as smallpox and measles ravaged Taino and Carib villages. Within two decades of European settlement in the Caribbean, almost all of the early peoples of the Caribbean had disappeared.

**Lesson 2: Practice Questions**

Please select the best answer from the choices given.

1. The earliest known people of the Caribbean were the:
   A. Navajo   B. Ciboney
   C. Seminole   D. Apache

2. Another name for the Tainos is the:
   A. Carib   B. Ciboney
   C. Arawak   D. Spanish
3. Chief of the Tainos was known as the:
   A. Emethala  B. Cacique
   C. Aztlan      D. Zemi

4. Religious statues of the Tainos were called:
   A. Caciques  B. Zemis
   C. Ciboney    D. Tobacco

5. ________ is the root crop that provided native Caribbeans starch and sugar.
   A. Pumpkin    B. Tobacco
   C. Potato     D. Yucca

6. The ________ were known as fierce warriors and flesh eaters.
   A. Carib     B. Ciboney
   C. Arawak   D. Taino

7. ________ was/were probably the most important part of Carib life.
   A. Games     B. Fishing
   C. War       D. Sleeping

8. ________ eliminated most Caribbean natives.
   A. Guns      B. Disease
   C. Hurricanes D. Drownings
9. __________ did the planting in Taino culture.
   A. Men       B. Women
   C. Children   D. Slaves

10. Tainos believed in ________________.
    A. Many gods       B. Spirits
    C. A and B         D. None of the above.

**Lesson 2: Practice Answers**

1. B  6. A
2. C  7. C
5. D  10. C
LESSON 2 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The earliest known people of the Caribbean were the Ciboney.
- Another name for the Tainos is the Arawak.
- The chief of the Tainos was known as the Cacique.
- Religious statues of the Tainos were known as Zemis.
- Yucca was a root crop which provided starch and sugar to the diet of early Caribbean peoples.
- Caribs were known as fierce Caribbean warriors and flesh eaters.
- Caribs called themselves Kalinas
- Tainos used tobacco in religious rituals
- Tainos believed in many gods and spirits
- Caribs probably survived on fish from the sea for their protein needs
LES ON 3: THE SPANISH IN THE CARIBBEAN

In the 1500s, European countries sent explorers throughout the world. Portugal and other European countries desired the spices and silks of the Far East. Explorers searched for faster trade routes to that destination. Overland routes were hindered by Ottoman Turkish domination of areas between Europe and the Far East. Now inventions aided sailors in their sea journeys. They could travel farther and farther from home. The medieval belief that the world was flat was quickly discarded as journeys proved otherwise.

Christopher Columbus was born in Italy. He spent many years learning the skills of sailing and navigation. Columbus lived and worked in Portugal as a mapmaker. Columbus was convinced a route to the Indies could be found sailing west instead of east. He sought help from the royalty of Portugal, but they were not interested in supporting his endeavors. Columbus took his dream to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. Spain and Portugal were competitors in the race to navigate around the world. The Spanish king and queen listened to him. Because they were involved in other matters, they could not fully support his plan until 1492. Columbus spent six years waiting on King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. Finally the moment arrived when Spain decided to finance his journey.

Columbus proposed to convert native peoples he encountered to Catholicism on his journey. This won him the support of the Catholic Church and the Spanish monarchs. In return, he would be called the
“Admiral of the Ocean Sea.” He was entitled to ten percent of any riches he discovered. Columbus would be viceroy or governor of the lands he encountered.

In August of 1492, Columbus and his crew headed for the Indies. They had three small sailing ships: the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. With days, they reached the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. From that point on, they sighted no land for weeks. Finally on October 12, 1492, Columbus reached what is now known as the Bahamian Islands. He claimed the island for King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella and named it San Salvador. Because Columbus thought he was near India and the Far East, he called the native peoples he encountered, “Indians.” The Caribbean thus became known as the “West Indies”.

Illustration of Columbus Arriving in the New World
(http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/080_columbus.html, 01/30/2006)
With information gathered from the natives, Columbus and his crew sailed toward present-day Cuba and spent over a month exploring its coast. He also named a neighboring island Hispaniola. One of his ships, the Santa Maria, sank in December 1492, so Columbus decided to establish a settlement that he called “Navidad”. He left approximately forty men at this site and Columbus returned to Spain.

Columbus brought gold and some native men to show the Spanish monarchs. They honored him. The king and queen prepared to support another and larger journey. Within months, he and seventeen ships carrying approximately 1,200 men plus animals and supplies left for the new lands Columbus had discovered. Much to his dismay, he found that the men left behind at Navidad had all been killed and the settlement destroyed. The relationship between the natives and the Spanish now changed. The Spanish began to view them as a threat and guarded their lives and settlements more closely. Columbus was determined to start a new settlement not far away, which he named Isabella. Columbus’ brother, Diego, commanded the Isabella settlement while Columbus and his crew continued to explore the area.

Under Diego, the Spanish men terrorized the Native peoples in their villages searching for gold. They instituted policies whereby Natives were responsible for turning in a certain amount of gold or face severe punishment. Due to the punishments and diseases Europeans brought to the island of Hispaniola, the Native population was drastically reduced.
Although Columbus’ promises of great riches did not materialize, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella still financed two more voyages for him. On these voyages, he explored the island of Trinidad and sighted the coast of South America. His voyages took him to the coast of Central America. Meanwhile, the settlements he founded were in trouble. Conflicts between Natives and the Spanish and even among the Spanish themselves occurred frequently. When the Spanish government sent a representative to investigate, Columbus and his brothers were arrested and returned to Spain. By the time he died in 1506, he was no longer an honored man. Others were sailing westward to further explore these lands of the New World.

Spain and Portugal were the countries most active in exploration during this period. Conflicts arose between the two nations. Previously, Portugal had dominated the trade in the Indies. With Columbus’ explorations, Portugal felt threatened. The Pope of the Catholic Church intervened. In 1494, the two countries signed the Treaty of Tordesillas, which divided the world in half. An imaginary line was drawn west of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands in the Atlantic Ocean. Spain would be able to claim all lands west of this line and Portugal all lands east of the line.
The first Spanish settlements on Hispaniola expanded throughout the 1500s. Spain soon dominated the Caribbean. The trade winds encouraged the first settlements in the area of the Greater Antilles. As time passed, Spanish settlers moved onto other Caribbean islands. Most early settlers were interested in gaining easy wealth through gold. The Natives of the islands were exploited and forced to search for and contribute gold to the Spaniards. Spanish settlements moved onto mainland North and South America. The Caribbean islands functioned more and more as ports for the treasure ships returning to Spain with riches.

For those settling the Caribbean, the Spanish government instituted a system of land distribution called: “encomiendas”. The landlord or
“encomendero” received a parcel of land from the Crown. Natives were forced to work this land. The encomendero had to care for them. They also attempted to convert Natives to Christianity. Some Tainos and other groups of natives resisted. Their attempts to resist were futile against the Spanish. Malnutrition, overwork, and disease soon eliminated the Native population.

The Catholic Church was an influential institution in Spain and remained so as the Spanish settled the Caribbean islands. When abuse of the Natives increased, some in the Church protested. One was Bartolome de Las Casas. He spent time in Hispaniola and Cuba and witnessed the cruelties against many natives. Eventually Las Casas was given the title “Protector of the Indians” by the Spanish government. He relentlessly fought for their rights.

As native populations slowly died, Spanish colonists struggled to find a labor force. Slavery of White individuals was tried, but this proved unsuccessful in the Tropics. Finally, Spain turned to the continent of Africa for slaves as Portugal had done. The continents of the New World provided an abundance of riches for Spain, but manual labor was necessary to continue this flow. By 1517, the Spanish government allowed 4,000 Africans to be imported to the Caribbean as slaves.
Unfortunately, more slaves were imported illegally. The Spanish in the Caribbean increasingly turned to African slaves to fill their labor needs.

**Lesson 3: Practice Questions**

Choose the best answer from the choices given.

1. Europeans sought to visit the Indies, or Far East, in the 1400s pursuing ___________.
   A. Food      B. Spices
   C. Silver    D. Oil

2. Columbus received support for his voyage from ________.
   A. Trinidad  B. Japan
   C. France    D. Spain

3. The “Admiral of the Ocean Sea” was ___________.
   A. Columbus  B. Ferdinand
   C. Las Casas D. Isabella

4. Columbus left the ________ settlement behind on his first journey.
   A. Niña  B. Santa Maria
   C. Navidad D. Pinta

5. The Spanish searched for ________ in the New World.
   A. oil  B. gold
   C. clothes  D. ships
6. The _________ Treaty divided the world in half for exploration and settlement.
   A. Diego   B. Tordesillas   C. Las Casas   D. Canary

7. The Spanish divided land into:
   A. Tainos   B. Encomiendas   C. Villas   D. Ranches

8. The protector of the Indians was:
   A. Columbus   B. Ferdinand   C. Isabella   D. Las Casas

9. As the natives died out, the Spanish turned to which continent for slaves?
   A. America   B. Indochina   C. Africa   D. Asia

10. A very influential institution in Spain and the New World was the:
    A. Banks   B. Schools
    C. Catholic Church   D. Encomiendas

Lesson 3: Practice Answers

2. D  7. B
3. A  8. D
5. B  10. C
LESSON 3 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Columbus left the Navidad settlement behind on this first journey
- The Spanish divided land into ecomiendas
- Disease eliminated most Caribbean natives
- Europeans searched the West Indies and Far East for spices
- Columbus received support for his voyage from Spain
- Columbus was appointed “Admiral of the Ocean Sea”: by the Spanish monarchy.
- The Spanish searched for gold in the new world
- The Tordesillas Treaty divided the world in half for exploration and settlement
- Before Spain, Portugal dominated world trade in the 1400s
- Las Casas was “Protector of the Indians”
LESSON 4: COLONIALISM IN THE CARIBBEAN

Spain controlled the government and economy of all her islands in the West Indies. Economically, Spain ruled over all trade by designating one city as the entry point for all ships from the Caribbean. The government to regulate trade established the Casa de Contratacion or “House of Trade”. This agency collected taxes important to the rulers of Spain. There was also a branch of the agency established in each of the colonies to monitor the economic situation. Illegal trade and smuggling occurred especially once the slave trade started.

In 1524, the Council of the Indies was established as the ruling government for the Caribbean islands. This council was based in Spain and had complete control over what occurred in the colonies. The Council of the Indies made the laws for the colonies and made sure they were enforced. In the colonies, the governor was supreme authority. Under him, the local councils or “cabildo” ruled. Areas of towns were quite large. A town included not only the urban part, but also all the surrounding land up to the borders of the next town. Often local councilmen were appointed for a lifetime. Members of certain families continued to supply these leaders. An “audencia” or royal court ruled on legal matters brought to them on appeal following rulings by other bodies.

The Catholic Church was an important institution in the colonies. It was required that a person tithe or give 10% of his income to the church. The church was given land by the government. The Catholic Church also provided education.
Colonies on the mainland of South America produced more riches. Many colonists attempted to leave the Caribbean islands for the mainland, but the government tried to prevent this. The Caribbean islands went through a period of decline in the late 1500s. Havana, Cuba, grew to be the most important city in the Caribbean. It was the stopover port for the treasure-laden convoys traveling to Spain.

Economically, the islands of the Caribbean in the 1500s grew to be self-sufficient. As Spain concentrated on the riches of the continent, these islanders lived as self-sufficient farmers. Cattle ranching thrived. Tobacco proved a valuable export for a time. It was a long distance to European markets. The length of time between convoys of ships departing for Europe was long. It was difficult for the people of the Caribbean to find an export to provide a steady income. As sugar flourished, it became a successful worldwide export.

Port of Havana in the 1600s
(http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4924h.lh000348, 01/31/2006)
Socially, the cities of the Spanish colonies were the centers of life. Men born in Spain filled most of the government positions. These men, called Peninsulares, occupied the highest social status. People born in the colonies known as Creoles, created tension. Their loyalty to Spain did not match that of the Peninsulares. Also, the Spanish government at first encouraged intermarriage with the Native population because Spain wanted to populate the islands. Later, those of pure Spanish blood claimed the top rung of the social ladder. Those mixed with African blood formed the lowest rung. They were left to work menial jobs or live by subsistence farming (growing their own food).

Social tension was minimal compared to the threat of pirates. By the mid-1500s, pirates threatened much of the Caribbean. Some pirates, such as the Englishman Sir Francis Drake, were encouraged by their own governments to attack and rob the Spanish ships and colonies. Often, these pirates would hold whole towns at ransom as they attacked and looted. Spain’s Catholicism held a monopoly over the riches of the Caribbean. Protestant nations such as England and France promoted pirate attacks as being worthy of honor. In response to pirate attacks, the Spanish government strengthened forts in the colonies, especially in Havana. Spain arranged for its ships to travel in groups or convoys.

By 1600, Spain still ruled the Caribbean, and no other European nation established other settlements there. In the next one hundred years, Spain would begin to lose its dominant position in the Caribbean. Other nations established outposts in the Caribbean. Problems both in the colonies and at home plagued the Spanish government. Spain continued
to hold on to its major colonies of Cuba and Puerto Rico. Other nations entered the Caribbean to colonize in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Even on the island of Hispaniola, the French took over the western third of the island and established the colony of Saint Dominique.

Because Spain had not settled the islands of the Lesser Antilles, other European nations began settling there. In the 1620s, Englishmen established a settlement on St. Kitts. The colonists successfully grew tobacco. The Carib Natives posed more of a problem than the Spanish in these islands. Several skirmishes with Natives occurred. Barbados quickly became the most important British colony in the Caribbean. Tobacco and cotton plantations sprung up. They were later turned into sugar plantations as that product came to dominate the world economy. The first English settlement in the Greater Antilles occurred with the capture of Jamaica in the 1670s.

Many British settlers came to the Caribbean as “indentured servants”, which meant they were the property of the landowner for a time. The landowner paid for the servant’s journey to the colony. He supported the indentured servant as he worked for him. There were many rules governing the life of an indentured servant. It was somewhat like the life of a slave, but the difference was that after the time period had expired, the
indentured servant received his “freedom dues.” He was free. Usually, these dues were not enough to buy a farm or begin a trade. Often the servant had to enter into a new contract of servitude. Some of those who served as indentured servants were kidnapped and forced to work. Other laborers in the colonies were convicts. Religious and political refugees also came to settle in the Caribbean. These included many Irish who settled in Montserrat.

French colonists settled on the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe in the 1630s. Carib resistance was strong for a time. Eventually, the French were victorious. Legends say that the last forty [40] Caribs on the island of Grenada committed suicide by leaping from a high cliff on the island. Fewer French settlers went to the Caribbean than British, so French colonies remained small. Also, the land in French colonies was difficult to farm. In the late 1660s under Louis XIV, the French colonies began to be governed by the Crown.

The Dutch, who later ruled the sailing world, attempted to end the Spanish monopoly on trade. The Dutch were not concerned with establishing agricultural plantations in the Caribbean. The Dutch were a constant threat to Spanish shipping and trading in the Caribbean. Therefore, English and French colonists had little interference from the Spanish because the Spanish were occupied with protecting their ships from the Dutch. In 1628, a Dutch pirate captured a complete Spanish convoy with its valuable cargo. Finally, the Dutch began to colonize the Caribbean. They chose the islands closest to South America like Curacao.
The Dutch also occupied small islands in the Leeward chain for the salt available there.

The colonies of these European nations differed from Spanish ones. The government of the nation was not involved in the settlement and governing of the islands. Individuals or groups usually for financial reasons settled the first colonies. Often, the groups or individuals were given licenses from their nations. They therefore had a monopoly on the trade of the island they occupied. Later, when the governments became involved in governing the colony, their methods differed. The British colonies had more representative governments than the French. In the French colonies, ruling authorities were appointed by the French monarchy.

Pirates and people from different nations settled some of the islands of the Caribbean. In the Virgin Islands, Dutch, French, and British planters and pirates occupied the islands. The Dutch eventually took over the Virgin Islands. They retained some of them as “free ports.” This means that trade at those places was open to all for a small fee. Even pirates and their loot were welcome. This caused some conflicts with other nations as they attempted to seize pirates who hid out there.

Jamaica and Hispaniola provided bases for “buccaneers” who were originally men who chased wild pigs. Eventually, they came to be known as pirates who terrorized the Caribbean in the seventeenth century. Unlike earlier pirates, European governments did not support the buccaneers. Most buccaneers were English, French, or Dutch. They usually hated the Spanish. Captain Henry Morgan was a famous and successful buccaneer
who troubled Spanish ships and towns for years until the English finally made him a government official in Jamaica. In that position, he was responsible for punishing many of the same buccaneers with whom he previously carried out raids.

![Morro Castle Built in 1589 to Protect Havana against Buccaneers](http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/det.4a15161, 01/31/2006)

Until 1665, non-Spanish European nations worked together against the Spaniards. As Spanish control in the Caribbean weakened, conflicts broke out between the English, French, and Dutch. Most of these conflicts centered on shipping and trading rights in the area. The different conflicts damaged the economies of the Caribbean. European wars also affected
the colonies as countries were raided. Pirates were often asked to help in these raids. This encouraged piracy throughout the region. The Bahamas grew to be a haven for pirates in the early 1700s. Edward Teach, known as “Blackbeard,” often hid out in the Bahamas.

Wars among European nations united different nations at different times. In the War of Jenkins’ Ear in the mid-1700s, Spain and France were allied against the British. The Spanish monopoly on trade prevented foreign nations from trading with her colonies. Often, smugglers would do so as well. Spanish ships patrolled the Caribbean waters seeking those who participated in illegal trade. One such occurrence involved an Englishman named Robert Jenkins. Supposedly, Spanish officials boarded the ship of Captain Jenkins to search for contraband or illegal goods. In the ensuing dispute, Spanish sailors were said to have cut off Jenkins’ ear. He returned to England and displayed the ear to the governing body, which called for war against the Spanish. The French joined the war on the side of the Spanish to help combat British dominance in the Caribbean. The war ended with a treaty that resolved little.

Other conflicts between the British and the French tried to destroy each other’s commerce. Because of the limited size of the navies of each country, private individuals called “privateers” were hired to fight for the country. In the Seven Years War from 1756 until 1763, France and Britain fought around the world for domination. The British seized most of the French territory in the Caribbean like Guadeloupe and Martinique. Spain entered the war on the side of France to help prevent a British monopoly. The British, in turn, conquered Havana and its riches. In the Treaty of
Paris that ended the war, many conquered colonies went back to their original nations or were exchanged for others. For some time, it was debated whether Britain should take Canada or Guadeloupe as a war prize. The wealth of the sugar industry in the Caribbean made a Caribbean nation as prized as one of the largest land areas in the world. In the end, Guadeloupe was returned to France.

As America struggled for independence against the British from 1776 to 1781, the French came to their aid. Perhaps much of this was due to the rivalry in commerce between the French and the British. As the British were consumed with fighting in North America, the French captured many of their Caribbean possessions. In the treaty that followed the British loss, the French regained most of their Caribbean lands.

French Map of Plan to Attack British Grenada in 1779
(http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/q51315.ct000324, 01/31/2006)
Lesson 4: Practice Questions

Choose the best answer from the choices given.

1. The __________ was/were established by the Spanish government to regulate trade in the colonies
   A. Havana, Cuba        B. House of Trade
   C. Encomiendas       D. Catholic Church

2. The ruling body for the colonies of Spain was the:
   A. House of Trade    B. Catholic Church
   C. Encomiendas     D. Council of the Indies

3. ________ were men born in Spain who had the highest social status and most government jobs
   A. Creoles      B. Encomenderos
   C. Peninsulares     D. Zemis

4. Spanish men born in the colonies were called:
   A. Peninsulares     B. Encomenderos
   C. Zemis      D. Creoles

5. __________ attacked Spanish towns and ships in the Caribbean during colonial times.
   A. Pirates        B. Creoles
   C. Peninsular      D. Encomenderos
6. ________ was a famous English pirate.
   A. Lafitte    B. Christopher Columbus
   C. Bartolome de Las Casas    D. Sir Francis Drake

7. ________ was the most important British colony in Caribbean in 1600s.
   A. Cuba    B. Puerto Rico    C. Barbados    D. Martinique

8. A [n] ________ journeyed to the colonies to work for a time period and then received his “freedom dues.”
   A. Indentured servant    B. Priest    C. African slave    D. Pirate

9. ________ settled Martinique and Guadeloupe
   A. Spain    B. France    C. Great Britain    D. United States

10. Originally “men who chased wild pigs,” ________ were later those who terrorized shipping on the seas.
     A. creoles    B. peninsulares
     C. indentured servants    D. buccaneers

Lesson 4: Practice Answers

1. B   6. D
2. D   7. C
3. C   8. A
5. A   10. D
LESSON 4 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The House of Trade was established by the Spanish government to regulate trade in the colonies.
- Spanish colonies came into the agricultural boom late because they were involved in mining and ranching.
- Pirates attacked Spanish towns and ships in the Caribbean during colonial times.
- Sir Francis Drake was a famous English pirate.
- An indentured servant journeyed to the colonies to work for a time period and then received this “freedom dues.”
- France settled Martinique and Guadeloupe.
- Buccaneers were originally men who chased wild pigs, but later those who terrorized shipping on the seas.
- Peninsulares were residents of the Caribbean born in Spain.
- Spaniards born in the Americas were Creoles.
- Jamaica and its pirate capital Port Royal were British strongholds in the 1600s.
Lesson 5: Sugar Rules the Caribbean

When Columbus ventured to the New World on his second voyage, he brought something that would revolutionize the Caribbean. Columbus brought sugar cane to the island of Hispaniola. By 1494, it was growing well, but sugar did not dominate the economy of the Caribbean for another century. When the stream of precious metals reduced to a trickle and other crops failed, the wealth of the Caribbean became sugar. In the beginning, the islands of the Caribbean did not have the labor force necessary to cultivate sugar. Sugar was not grown in Europe at this time, so it was rare and desirable. During the eighteenth century, the Caribbean supplied all the sugar for Europe. Sugar consumption rose especially fast in Great Britain.

Year-round heat and rain are ideal for sugar cane crops. The Caribbean supplied the heat and water. In places such as Saint Dominique where water was scarce, the French built an elaborate irrigation system to water the cane fields. Once ripened, the juice from the sugar cane would be extracted by beating the cane stalk with wooden tools. Later, sugar mills were designed. The first type used horses or oxen to turn a wheel by traveling in a circle around it. Water-powered sugar mills were then developed. Windmills were used as power to make sugar. Before long, the sugar industry spread to the islands of Cuba, Jamaica, and Puerto Rico.
At first, tobacco and cotton competed with sugar as agricultural products. Then, in 1630, the price of tobacco dropped, and other markets produced more and better crops. Most of the tobacco and cotton crops were grown on small farms. The plantation lifestyle had not yet developed in the Caribbean. The Dutch in Barbados were the first to implement plantations as the successful method to grow sugar. The Portuguese had expelled the Dutch from Brazil. They brought the knowledge of sugar production with them as they settled on Barbados and other Caribbean islands. Before long, Barbados was leading the Caribbean in sugar production. As the other islands developed the sugar industry, rivalries for the world market developed between colonial powers.

The seventeenth century sugar plantation was typically about one hundred [100] acres. Almost half the land was planted in sugar cane. The rest was used for other purposes like constructing buildings for the manufacturer of sugar from cane juices. On such a plantation, one would need approximately fifty [50] slaves to work the fields. The plantation owner usually did not live at the plantation. He either lived in a city on the island or in the
mother country. Therefore, education and other social needs were neglected. Those who were making profits invested them elsewhere. An overseer was left in charge of the plantation. On the islands where owners resided, strict laws regarding slaves were passed to suppress the fear of rebellion. These plantation owners built luxurious estates where they held numerous social events.

The production of sugar is very labor-intensive work. Many slaves were needed for the process. More than double the amount of slaves were needed to grow sugar as compared to other crops. Slaves were needed to dig holes to plant the sugar cane and to apply animal dung as fertilizer. As more and more slaves were imported, slaves outnumbered the whites on most islands. People were overworked and malnourished because there were so many tropical diseases in the Caribbean, the islands always needed fresh workers.

1700s Map Showing Slave Trade Areas in Africa
In the 1600s, and peaking in the 1700s, and continuing through the 1800s, the slave trade developed into one of the most important businesses in the Caribbean.

The "triangular trade" began in the European country. Goods would be taken from the European nations to the coast of Africa. These goods were more than likely guns, brass bowls, or cloth. In Africa, the goods would be traded for African slaves. As the slaves journeyed to the New World, many died in the "Middle Passage" between Africa and the Americas. Overcrowded conditions led to the spread of disease. Some ships lost over half of their slave cargo. Once the slaves arrived in the Caribbean, many were put to work on the gangs of the sugar plantations.

No laws regulated the treatment of slaves. French laws at one time advocated that the owner baptize his slaves into Christianity and allow
them a free day from work on the Sabbath. Most laws regarding slavery were more about the punishments for disobedient or rebellious slaves than about the owners’ treatment of the slaves.

Working in tropical climates without proper nutrition took its toll on a number of slaves. Slaves were over-worked from dawn until dusk, six days a week. Their condition resulted in less immunity to diseases. Besides working in the fields, slaves often had to grow and prepare their own meals in the little spare time they had. Housing and clothing needs contributed to a high rate of disease. The sugar plantations of the Caribbean had an extraordinary death rate for slaves, especially compared to slaves in North America. The slave trade thus continued to supply the cane plantations with a labor force.

Once the crop was ready to be harvested, it was quickly taken to the sugar mill-boiling house so it would not rot. The high temperatures and dangerous machinery here made this the most dangerous place for a slave to work. Some sugar mills left the sugar in a raw unrefined state. Others “clayed” the sugar by placing the raw sugar into clay covered molds to drain out the molasses and whiten the sugar. The final refining was not usually done in the Caribbean in the early days of sugar production. Rum could also be produced from the sugar cane. No matter the final form, the sugar produced in the Caribbean and shipped to Europe created the last step of the triangular trading process.

Some slaves were allowed to earn their freedom, particularly in the Spanish colonies. Others could be set free upon the death of the owner.
In the British colonies, it was extremely difficult for a slave to become free. In the French and Spanish islands, freed slaves could own property and marry whites. Even when free, blacks faced prejudice and discrimination in the societies of the Caribbean. Most freed blacks lived in cities where they worked as artisans or in homes as domestic servants.

The importation of Black slaves also created a new social class in the Caribbean. More and more children were born of White fathers and Black mothers, they became known as “mulattos”. Most of these were free and some even were acknowledged by the families of the white fathers and inherited property. Laws on many islands discriminated against the mulattos, but they still had more rights than the blacks. They were allowed to fight alongside the Whites against Blacks in times of rebellion. Skin color or the percentage of black blood in a person grew to be the determining factor in social status.

As the islands of the Caribbean became more and more dependent on the sugar industry, some voiced a cry of alarm. Some felt that the economies were too dependent on one crop. They wanted to devote land and labor to other crops. A dip in the price of sugar affected the whole economy if it totally depended on sugar. Also, islands so dependent on growing sugar saved no land to grow edible crops. Therefore, much of the food of the Caribbean would have to be imported or brought in from other places. Those islands whose lands were not suitable for the cultivation of sugar cane served as trading posts or often suffered from a lack of development.
To maintain control over their colonies during this period of economic success, the colonial powers instituted many rules. Monopolies on trade with only the mother country were common. France outlawed refineries for a time in the islands in order to control sugar production and its profits. Taxes were collected on all steps of the sugar industry, from importing slaves to making rum from sugar.

The British and French colonies led in sugar production for years as the Spanish islands depended on ranching. Trade in the Spanish possessions was limited to trade with
only the mother country and only two times a year. Therefore, until these trade regulations changed, the Spanish colonies were not involved in the sugar boom. Finally, under British rule during the Seven Years War in 1762, Cuba experienced free trade and the importation of the number of slaves necessary to begin sugar production. Soon, Cuba would be the leader in sugar production in the Caribbean.

Lesson 5: Practice Questions

Choose the best answer from the choices given.

1. _______ was the crop Columbus brought to the New World.
   A. Tobacco       B. Sugar cane
   C. Tomatoes      D. Potatoes

2. _____ were places used to extract the juice from the sugar cane.
   A. Mills         B. Crops
   C. Farms        D. Ranches

3. _______ developed into an important business of the Caribbean due to the need for labor.
   A. Tobacco farms    B. Cocoa plantation
   C. Slave trade     D. Pirate shipbuilding

4. _______ was the continent where the Caribbean slaves came from.
   A. Asia          B. America
   C. Africa      D. Europe
5. The “________” was the name for the slaves’ difficult journey across the Atlantic.
   A. Middle Passage  B. Time of Trials
   C. Encomienda    D. Fiery Flight

6. Because of malnutrition, overwork, and disease, slaves in the Caribbean had a high ___________ rate.
   A. birth    B. crop
   C. money    D. death

7. ___________ was the name for a child of a white and a black person.
   A. Encomendero    B. Counselor
   C. Mulatto    D. Peninsular

8. ________ determined social status in the colonial Caribbean.
   A. Birthplace    B. Reading ability
   C. Skin color    D. Math ability

9. ___________ was the crop which became “king” in the Caribbean.
   A. Tobacco    B. Cotton
   C. Potatoes    D. Sugar

10. ________ colonies came into the agricultural boom late because they were involved in ranching.
    A. British    B. African
    C. Spanish    D. French
Lesson 5: Practice Answers

1. B  6. D
2. A  7. C
3. C  8. C
5. A  10. C
LESSON 5 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The slave trade developed into an important business of the Caribbean due to the need for labor.
- Africa was the continent from which the Caribbean slaves came.
- “Middle Passage” was the name for the slaves’ difficult journey across the Atlantic.
- Because of the malnutrition, overwork, and disease, slaves in the Caribbean had a high death rate.
- Skin color determined social status in the colonial Caribbean.
- Sugar was the crop which became king in the Caribbean.
- Barbados was the most important British colony in the Caribbean in the 1600s.
- Mulatto was the name for a child of a White and a Black person.
- The Spanish were involved more in ranching than farming.
- Columbus brought sugar cane crops to the Caribbean.
In the late 1700s, the Caribbean was in relative peace. This peace was short-lived. The planters on sugar-producing islands felt that the many restrictions on free trade by their mother countries cost them profits. Taxing of goods without representation in government caused resentment. The highest rung of society and the most influential in the Caribbean was a small group of elite white men. This left most of the population frustrated and without a voice in the government or economy. Revolutions in France and North America influenced the revolutionary spirit in the Caribbean.

Thousands of Africans who were displaced from their homeland resisted the chains of slavery as much as possible without resorting to outright rebellion. Slaves had been known to poison their owners. Some burned or damaged their owner’s property. There were ways known only to the slaves about resisting bonds of servitude while seeming to obey. They could pretend to be sick or work at a slow pace. Some desperate slaves escaped.

Jamaican Maroon
(http://www.library.miami.edu/archives/slaves/Maroons/individual_essays/edward.html, 01/31/2006)
Some escaped slaves formed “maroon” communities in the mountainous regions of the Caribbean islands. These groups of maroons raided plantations and towns for supplies and to free other slaves. The maroons were especially troublesome to the White Jamaicans. Finally, after many years of trying to capture the “maroons,” a treaty was signed in 1738 giving them land and peace to live there. The maroons had to promise to return any future runaway slaves to owners.

Slave revolts were greatly feared by the White population. They did occur. Often troops had to be called out to put down a slave rebellion. Jamaica had the most slave rebellions.

The Caribbean had many more revolts. These rebellions involved many more slaves than in what would become the United States. Those who participated and were captured in slave revolts were punished and tortured to death.

During the eighteenth century, the international call to end slavery grew. This movement, known as Abolitionism, first focused on the slave trade. Meetings were held in free nations of the world. Lectures told of the sins of slavery. Some former slaves wrote of their experiences as slaves. These narratives were widely circulated among Abolitionists or those who worked to end slavery. Economic reasons for maintaining slavery held governments from acting on the matter. Most felt that industries like the sugar industry could not function without slave labor. On the islands where slaves outnumbered whites, the fear of freeing so many blacks petrified residents, and racial prejudice kept slavery in place.
After the French Revolution, the French island of Saint Dominique, the world’s most valuable colony, faced its own revolution. In August 1791, a slave revolt cost the lives of thousands. Burning, killing, and violence overtook the island. The Spanish, who occupied the majority of the island, threatened to invade and reclaim the land. With the slaves revolting and the threat of foreign invasion, the government within a year freed the slaves. Saint Dominique’s slaves were the first freed African slaves in the world. Francois Toussaint Louverture emerged as a leader among the freed blacks here. He had been a slave who worked in the privileged position of coachman on a sugar plantation. He led a small fighting force that sided with the Spanish in the French-threatened invasion of Saint Dominique. Soon after the government freed the slaves and tried to reestablish authority, the British threatened to invade.

Toussaint
(http://www.historywiz.com/images/slavery/louverture.gif, 02/02/2006)

The freedmen knew the British would reinstate slavery, so they fought against this takeover. The British ranks were thinned by an outbreak of
yellow fever. The British finally withdrew due to Toussaint’s effective guerrilla warfare attacks.

France was in the midst of revolution in what is now Haiti. The British took the opportunity to invade French Caribbean possessions including Guadeloupe and Martinique. On these islands, the White elite welcomed the British because they stood for continued slavery. The forces of liberated slaves fought the British. On Guadeloupe, Victor Hughes led forces that expelled the British. They killed Whites who sided with the British. Hughes and his army led armies of Blacks against the British throughout the Caribbean. As these rebellions grew in success and Great Britain risked losing her Caribbean colonies, the British government sent a force of over 30,000 to fight against the liberators. Although successful, the British troops faced tough opposition on many islands.

In 1801, Toussaint named himself governor-general for life in Saint Domingue. Toussaint attempted to restore order to the country. Part of his plan involved putting the former slaves to work. They resisted but were forced to do so by Toussaint’s large army. When Napoleon assumed command of France, he sent over 20,000 troops to Saint Dominique to retake the island colony. The French were successful and by May 1802, they captured Toussaint. He was taken to France and imprisoned where he died within months. Soon, the French troops in Saint Dominique were weakened by yellow fever. Renewed conflict with Great Britain ended hopes of reinforcements.
A former slave named Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who had fought beside Toussaint, led Blacks of Saint Dominique against the weakened French forces. Whites were killed throughout the island by the thousands. By January 1, 1804, Dessalines triumphed over the French and declared Saint Dominique to be the new nation of Haiti. This “land of the high mountains”, as Haiti means, was free. It was destroyed by many years of fighting. Dessalines ruled as a dictator. He died during a mutiny after two years in power.

The collapse of Saint Domingue helped boost the price of sugar. It removed competition from one of the largest producers. Many of the Whites of Saint Dominique fled to other islands with their knowledge of the process of sugar production. The price of sugar increased. The British reaped the profits. The main result of the triumph of the Blacks in Saint Dominique was the fear it placed in the hearts of all Caribbean whites. Strict laws insured that new rebellions did not occur. Abolitionists called for the end of slavery once more. The creation of Haiti showed many that blacks were capable of governing themselves in a free society.

As the British took over more of the Caribbean, the slave trade increased. The Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade was formed in 1787. The Society worked diligently. Pamphlets detailing the horrors of slavery circulated. Religious revivals during this period cast slavery as sin. A British man named Thomas Clarkson told Parliament of the horrors of slavery especially in the “Middle Passage.”
To document his testimony, he included objects used to punish slaves, such as thumbscrews. With pressure from the Abolitionists and some economic factors, the British government on May 1, 1808 abolished the slave trade. With the British withdrawal from the slave trade, slavery was drastically reduced, but was still alive and well in the Caribbean. The fight to end slavery would take over eighty- [80] years.

At the Congress of Vienna in 1815, European powers met to discuss various issues including the Caribbean slave trade. Britain attempted to persuade the other powers to end the slave trade. At the end of this conference, Europeans divided the Caribbean for the last time. Denmark owned the Virgin Islands. France had Martinique and Guadeloupe. Spain controlled Cuba, Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico. The British possessed Jamaica, the Bahamas, and much of the Lesser Antilles. Boundary lines were drawn for the Caribbean. The slave trade issue did not reach a final resolution. The French and the Spanish continued to support it. Within a few years, both countries resolved to end the slave trade, but they still did little to enforce it or to end smuggling in their colonies.

Anti-slavery societies in the Americas and Europe wanted the slave trade to end. They wanted slavery itself abolished. Laws regarding the treatment of slaves were passed to end some of the harsher methods, yet slavery persisted. Missionaries of Christian churches evangelized and educated slaves. The sugar industry faced competition from sugar beets, which were now being grown in Europe. Many pushed for free trade for new products of industrialization. Some business people wanted slaves
freed so they could join the marketplace of consumers. Continued slave revolts added to mounting pressures to abolish slavery.

The government of Haiti struggled with internal conflicts. After the death of Dessalines, the nation split into two parts. Mulattos fought against Blacks. Both sections struggled to rebuild an economy. Finally, in 1820, the country was reunited under Jean-Pierre Boyer. He and his forces invaded the Spanish held part of the island, Santo Domingo. The Spanish had ruled Haiti for the prior two decades. The sugar industry never rebounded in Haiti. Its people turned to other crops. They never acquired the prosperity of sugar. The political instability of this time plagued Haiti for years.

A particularly savage slave revolt in Jamaica in 1831 was the turning point in the fight to end slavery in the British colonies. More than 50,000 slaves rioted and burned hundreds of plantations. In response to this and other pressures, Great Britain passed an act in 1834 that freed the slaves. They were kept under a period of apprenticeship to their owners. Under this apprenticeship, they would receive housing and food. The government for the loss of their slave labor would compensate owners. This act was a failure. The government reconsidered its plans. The British government completely freed all slaves by August of 1838.

Another occurrence in 1839 pressured the Caribbean mother countries to seek a solution to slavery. A slave ship transporting slaves to Cuba had a rebellion on board. A male slave named Cinque led other slaves as they killed the captain and some of the crew. They demanded to
be taken back to Africa. The ship, the Amistad, sailed west by day, but the surviving crewmembers sailed north at night. Finally, the ship landed off Long Island. All the slaves were arrested. After their case that reached the United States Supreme Court, the slaves were freed. This incident increased the fear in the hearts of slave owners, slave ship captains, and crew.

Under a new regime in France, slaves in the French Caribbean colonies were freed in 1848.

News Article on the Amistad Revolt

(http://memory.loc.gov, 01/31/2006)

There too, owners were compensated for loss of their labor force. The Danes on the Virgin Islands implemented the apprenticeship plan. Due to slave rebellions, the Danes ended slavery there in 1848. The government of the Netherlands ended slavery as of 1863 in its possessions like Curacao. In 1880, the Spanish government allowed slaves freedom in their colonies. Yet they had to serve a period of apprenticeship. There was no compensation for the owners.
After slavery ended, freed Blacks faced different circumstances on the Caribbean islands. On some islands, it was as if slavery had never ended. Laws restricted movement and business involvement. Slaves were left to work on plantations for meager wages. Prejudice prevented blacks from obtaining any other type of job. On other islands with more land, freed Blacks farmed independently. They constructed free villages away from the Whites. Christian missionaries helped educate, feed, and clothe this new free segment of the population of the Caribbean. Sharecropping was evident with freed slaves in some places. In this method of farming, the owner of the land provided the seeds, tools, and housing, while the farmer did the planting and harvesting. In return for his work, the sharecropper received a small portion of the crop’s profits.

The sugar industry suffered with the abolition of slavery. Without a labor force or with a paid labor force, profits declined. Also, the concept of free trade affected the price of Caribbean sugar due to competition now in Asia and beet sugar in Europe. Migration from other countries outside of Africa was encouraged. Some Europeans came as indentured servants. Chinese migrants traveled to Cuba in large numbers.

*Chinatown* in Havana, Cuba

Settled by Immigrants Beginning in the Early 1900s
The largest group to migrate to the Caribbean during later years of the nineteenth century came from India. Most came as indentured servants to work in the Caribbean fields. Many died for the same reasons Black laborers who toiled under slavery died. However, they did help revive the sugar industry on many islands.

Islands such as the Dutch colonies of Curacao and Aruba that did not rely on the sugar industry suffered less than the plantation-dominated islands. The dry soil of the Dutch possessions was not fertile enough for large-scale agriculture. These places served as trading posts. Commercial ships could exchange South American goods for European manufactured products at the ports of the island. Most farming was done in small plots. Although there were economic problems due to the end of slave smuggling, residents of these Dutch colonies moved toward self-sufficient farms or working on other islands as seasonal employees.

Frustrating economic situations led to discontent, particularly on the island of Jamaica in 1865. In an event labeled “Morant Bay” because of the location of the rebellion, hundreds took up arms and ransacked the land. A lack of democracy caused the Black residents in particular to react harshly to their situation. The rebellion was put down and Jamaica was granted Crown Colony status in the British government. This meant that the planter-dominated governing bodies were dismissed and replaced with appointed officers. These were supposed to be more democratic government officials. This was rarely so. With this new status, the British colonies were to be ruled primarily from London instead of from within the colonies.
The Spanish colonies hung onto the mother country as a way to keep slaves in bondage. Without the armed forces of Spain, Cuba, in particular, feared revolt by slaves on the island. Some Cubans advocated becoming part of the United States. This was a delightful idea to American Southerners. For his plan to free Cuba from Spain and make it part of the United States, Cuban Narciso Lopez was severely punished by Spain. Spain enjoyed the profits of her most prosperous colony and did not want to lose it.

The seeds of independence continued to sprout in Cuba and by 1868, the first revolt occurred. This revolt differed from ones on the other Caribbean islands because it was the white Peninsulares against the White Creoles. Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, a Mulatto leader, announced the freedom of all slaves and the independence of Cuba on October 1, 1868. He and his rebel forces led what is known as the “Ten Years War.” After the death of Cespedes, the rebel forces split into two camps. One led by Maximo Gomez and Antonio Maceo favored no compromises with Spain and an end to slavery. Others favored a settlement with Spain and slavery. Cuba did not achieve independence in this struggle until 1878. Strong feelings of nationalism surfaced in many Cubans.

Spain’s other colony of Santo Domingo fought off Haitian rule in 1844 with the aid of the group Trinitaria. They favored independence from Spain for the colony. Fears of further Haitian invasions prevailed. In 1861, the colony, now called the Dominican Republic, asked Spain to take it over once more. The Spanish government imposed on the Dominicans was resented. Independence movements sprang up once more. Because
slavery was not yet banned by Spain, Blacks joined the rebel forces to prevent the appearance of slavery again in the republic. The Dominican Republic even petitioned the government of the United States for annexation. Yellow fever raged among the Spanish troops. They left the island and abandoned all intentions of colonizing it.

The Spanish colony of Puerto Rico experienced few of the revolts of the 1800s. The land of Puerto Rico was not as suitable as other islands for the production of sugar. The need to import slaves was less tension over abolitionism. There was a more mixed population of freed Blacks and Whites. Puerto Rico had little turmoil.

Puerto Rican coffee plantations did not utilize slave labor. Fighting occurred between White rebels and Spanish officials. In 1868, a revolt called the Revolt of Lares occurred when a group of men gathered in the town of Lares and declared the independence of Puerto Rico. It lasted for a while, but it was not successful in its goal of freedom from Spain.

The American involvement in the Caribbean began in the nineteenth century. James Monroe, in a speech to Congress, outlined his plan for what is called the “Monroe Doctrine.” He warned Europeans that the United States government would not tolerate establishing new colonies in the Western Hemisphere. The United States would not become involved in the affairs of present colonies. The Doctrine established the United States as the guardian of the Western Hemisphere. However, colonization did continue on a small scale without American intervention.
The Virgin Islands belonged to Denmark in the 1800s. Because of various problems, especially economic ones, they tried to rid themselves of the colony. Previously, the free ports of St. Thomas attracted ships. As free trade opened throughout the Caribbean, St. Thomas lost its importance. They approached the United States beginning in 1865 with its purchasing the islands. Decades later, the purchase was finalized.

Actual American intervention in Cuba began in the late 1800s. Economic concerns and the lack of voting rights for Cubans again stirred the Cuban independence movement. Jose Marti was a Cuban banished from the island for revolutionary ideas. Marti continued to push for independence from his outpost in New York. He wrote poems and other essays advancing and influencing the ideas of independence for Cuba. American authorities confiscated the arms to be used in an invasion. He still went on with it on February 24, 1895. He was killed early in the fighting. The struggle continued with the help of the island’s Black Cubans. The rebels destroyed as much as possible as they fought.

The Spanish instituted concentration camps to imprison those with revolutionary ideas. The United States remained neutral during the fighting, but pressure from Americans with economic interests on the island persuaded President William McKinley to send the battleship, the USS Maine, to Havana on friendly terms. Newspapers printed favorable stories about Cuban rebels and Spain’s cruelty. The American ship reached Havana on January 25, 1898. Within a few weeks, there was an explosion on board. Over two hundred [200] Americans were killed. The cause of the
explosion was never determined, but the Americans blamed the Spanish. The cry, “Remember the Maine” turned Americans against the Spanish.

Because of American economic interests and the plight of the Cuban people, the United States entered the Spanish American War on April 21, 1898. The Americans blockaded the island and invaded. Within three months, the Spanish gave up Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Spain no longer had any colonies in the Caribbean. Cuba believed it was a free island. Yet no Cubans were present at the signing of the peace treaty between Spain and the United States. The twentieth century was beginning with developments in the Caribbean.
Lesson 6: Practice Questions

Choose the correct answer from the choices given.

1. ________ were escaped slaves who formed their own communities.
   A. Padres       B. Maroons       C. Indentured servants   D. Zemis

2. ________ worked to end slavery.
   A. Abolitionists B. Maroons       C. Rebels        D. Traders

3. ________ was leader of the “Haitian Rebellion” in Saint Dominique.
   A. Monroe       B. Castro        C. Toussaint    D. Roosevelt

4. A particularly savage slave revolt in ________ helped end slavery in British colonies.
   A. Jamaica      B. Martinique    C. Curacao    D. Puerto Rico

5. A slave revolt aboard the ship the USS__________ ended in a case at the US Supreme Court.
   A. Maine        B. Cuba        C. Pirate      D. Amistad

6. ________ is a method of farming prevalent with freed slaves once slavery ended.
   A. Encomienda   B. Sharecropping C. Plantation    D. Ranch
7. When slavery ended in Cuba, immigrants went from their home in ___________ to the Caribbean island.
   A. Trinidad    B. United States    C. France    D. China

8. The ___________ Doctrine warned European countries not to establish new colonies in the Western Hemisphere.
   A. Roosevelt    B. Cespedes    C. Monroe    D. Marti

9. The _______________ was the American battleship that exploded in Havana harbor starting the Spanish-American War.
   A. Maine    B. Amistad    C. Pirate    D. Maroon

10. ___________ was the Cuban poet who pushed for independence from New York.
    A. Roosevelt    B. Toussaint    C. Gomez    D. Marti

Lesson 6: Practice Answers

2. A       7. D
3. C       8. C
4. A       9. A
5. D       10. D
LESSON 6 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- A particularly savage slave revolt in Jamaica helped end slavery in British colonies
- Maroons were escaped slaves who formed their own communities
- Abolitionists worked to end slavery
- Toussaint was leader of Haitian rebellion in Saint Dominique
- A slave revolt aboard this ship, the Amistad, ended in a case before the U.S. Supreme Court
- The sharecropping method of farming was the way freed slaves were employed
- After slavery ended in Cuba, many immigrants from China migrated to the island
- The Maine was battleship that exploded in Havana Harbor starting the Spanish-American War
- Marti was a Cuban poet who pushed for independence from his exile in New York
- The Monroe Doctrine mandated European powers not colonize the Western Hemisphere or face a threat from the United States
Europeans gradually lost Caribbean colonies due to independence movements. The United States moved in as a replacement in many ways. The policy of the Monroe Doctrine expanded so Americans became a major economic and political force in the Caribbean. With the end of the Spanish American War, the United States controlled the destiny of two Caribbean islands.

American troops occupied Puerto Rico at the end of the war. America’s new position in the Caribbean developed. The United States saw a need for a military base there and chose Puerto Rico for its location. With the Foraker Act of 1900, the government of Puerto Rico was outlined. The American president appointed the court and governor of the island. The people of Puerto Rico elected one of the legislative bodies. All laws were subject to the approval of the American Congress. In 1917, under the Jones Act, Puerto Ricans became American citizens. They would not pay federal income tax or vote in American federal elections. Puerto Ricans now elected both legislative bodies. The American president appointed the governor and court. Theodore Roosevelt. He believed in the philosophy of “speak softly and carry a big stick.” He believed in a strong militarily. The base in Puerto Rico could make this happen in the Caribbean. The United States was interested in expanding throughout the Caribbean.

The Platt Amendment of 1901, a Congressional resolution, defined the America’s role in Cuba. It allowed the United States to intervene to preserve Cuban independence. American troops would be stationed at
Guantanamo Bay; this was an area of land in Cuba designated as an American military base. Not all Cubans agreed with this connection to America. Still, it was put into place by 1904. Cuba had its first free elections. Tomas Palma was elected president of the island republic. The sugar-based economy returned to pre-war levels based on foreign investment.

However, dissatisfaction grew among some Cuban peasants and rebels. The government was linked to corruption and fraud. With the resignation of the government in 1906, the United States occupied the island until 1909. In the elections of that year, Jose Miguel Gomez was elected. Cubans enjoyed the highest standard of living in the Caribbean. Cuban politicians helped themselves to the riches of the island. Elections filled with fraud continued for years. The United States continued to assert it would only support governments in Cuba that were constitutionally elected.

The Monroe Doctrine of 1823 forbade further European colonization in the Western Hemisphere. There would be consequences from the United States if the doctrine were disobeyed. Theodore Roosevelt contributed what is known as the Roosevelt Corollary as an addition to this doctrine. This Corollary established the United States as the “policeman” of the Western Hemisphere.

It would be the American responsibility to intervene to maintain civilized society throughout that part of the world. The Americans would
determine when that help was needed. The country facing an incident would not decide it.

Developing a link between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, the Panama Canal, began under the Roosevelt administration. Many Caribbean residents migrated to the Canal Zone and worked on the immense project. Some died from yellow fever and malaria. Many returned home to invest their earnings in the Caribbean.

Many Panama Canal Workers Were From the Caribbean

Theodore Roosevelt’s successor as President of the United States, William Howard Taft, moved from a “big stick” philosophy to one of “dollar diplomacy.” This policy used financial investments in the Caribbean. American influence would still be felt on the political systems of the island
nations. With economic interests in a country, the United States could intervene to protect these interests.

The sugar industry declined in the Caribbean in the late 1800s. Caribbean nations such as Haiti and the Dominican Republic borrowed heavily from Europeans to sustain their economies. Tax monies on imports and exports helped repay these debts. Because corruption was rampant, these taxes did not make their way into the hands of the European investors.

The Dominican Republic slipped further and further into debt. The instability of the nation made repayment almost impossible. The nation called upon the United States to intervene. America would help collect import and export taxes.

Haiti faced the same problems as the Dominican Republic. Haiti hesitated to call upon the United States for help. Much of the Haitian loans were from Germany. When Haiti was behind in its payments, Germany sent warships to Haiti several times in the early twentieth century. As tensions leading to World War I loomed closer, the presence of Germans in the Caribbean was not a welcome sight to the United States. The Americans believed that anarchy in Haiti could lead to German occupation. America intervened in 1915 when Haitian president, Guillaume Sam was murdered. Violence stormed through the capital city of Port-au-Prince. A new president was placed in power under the watchful eyes of the Americans. The occupation continued as the United States restored the economy and trained an army to rid the country of guerilla fighters. The first voices of
Yankee imperialism sounded in Haiti when a civil war broke out in 1918 over forced labor policy for peasants. Some American troops were killed. Guerillas were caught and executed by the United States.

The American policy of dollar diplomacy seemed to exist side-by-side with “big stick” military intervention in the Caribbean. In the Dominican Republic, the United States continued to function as tax collector. The assassination of the president in 1911 seemed to call for more. Because of continued government instability, the United States sent troops to the island in 1916. A military governor, selected by the United States ruled as Americans attempted to rebuild the economy. While there, the Americans built roads, schools, and hospitals. Many disliked America’s presence. American troops worked to rid the country of guerilla rebel groups. As in Haiti, they trained an army of Dominicans to combat these groups. Guerilla warfare by peasants continued as they disagreed with the land distribution policies of the United States. Land previously available to peasants went to American businessmen and rich Dominicans. When tariffs were reduced on foreign goods, American products flooded the country. This hurt Dominican producers.

American influence grew by military intervention and economic investment. The United States acquired Caribbean lands during the early twentieth century. Denmark had been trying to sell the Virgin Islands to the United States for decades. Since it was not reaping any income from the islands, Denmark had no reason to keep the colonies. Americans realized the importance of possessing land in the Caribbean. It would be important to help safeguard the entrance to the Panama Canal. Also, the German
presence in Haiti concerned the United States. With so much military intervention in the area, an additional American base in the Caribbean would be useful.

In 1917, the United States purchased the Virgin Islands for $25 million. An American military government was instituted. It served for over a decade as the government of the Virgin Islands.

The early twentieth century included much American economic investment in the Caribbean. American businessmen invested over a billion dollars in Cuba in the early 1900s. Most of it went to the sugar industry. Large plantations employing thousands of workers comprised American interests in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Haiti. As the sugar prices fell in the 1920s, small landowners sold out to the large corporations. Loans from American banks helped sustain the countries during economic crisis.
American companies constructed railroads and power companies on Caribbean islands. Although these American investments brought jobs to the Caribbean, many Caribbean people resented that the profits of their work did not remain in their own country. Also, many resented the control the Americans had over the government due to their financial importance. The voices against Yankee imperialism strengthened as time passed in the twentieth century.

The French and Dutch possessions continued to be governed from their mother countries during the early twentieth century. There was little unrest. The British instituted Crown colony governments in their Caribbean possessions in the late 1800s. The Crown dissolved any form of island government. Under Crown colony government, officials were appointed in London. Legislative bodies in the colony were appointed, too. Their laws were subject to the governor’s approval. The Crown colony government supplied basic services to the islands like police, fire departments, and hospitals.

The British constructed roads, railroads, and schools. Any associations formed by the island people were not politically based. The people believed there was no need for political parties on British islands. Professionals like bankers and teachers as well as merchants formed interest groups. In Jamaica, these organizations sometimes tended to be political as they protested the lack of self-government. The Crown colony system treated the people of the Caribbean as though they did not know how to rule themselves. This discontent was voiced in complaints. It was
not made in physical actions and violence as in other Caribbean locations of the 1800s.

The British colony of the Bahamas grew to be a tourist destination for Americans as Prohibition was instituted on the United States. The production and sale of alcohol was banned in the United States. The Bahamas, with its Caribbean rum, became a place for Americans to vacation. Hotels dotted the landscape on beautiful Bahamian beaches. The casinos of Nassau popularized that city. The Bahamas became a tourist destination. It also served as a haven for those smuggling alcohol into the United States. Bill McCoy and his Bay Street Boys dominated the smuggling trade into Florida.

After World War I, Americans held an isolationist attitude. They questioned the American presence in Caribbean countries. In the Dominican Republic, a government was established. American troops pulled out by 1924. The leader of the army Americans helped create became president in 1930. This presidency of Rafael Trujillo lasted for thirty-one years. Trujillo took control after a major hurricane wrecked the nation resulting in an economic crisis.
The powerful leader ruled as a dictator. He eliminated enemies. He rewarded those who worshipped him. The economy and the country improved with new roads and schools and many exports. The Dominican Republic and the Trujillo family profited during his rule.

Haiti, too, endured a dictatorship for years following American occupation, which lasted from 1915 until 1934. The country endured the dictatorship of Louis Borno beginning in 1922. The economy improved with coffee exports. Americans added improvements like roads and schools. Problems stemmed from racism shown by occupying Americans to Haitians. Even the elite of Haiti faced American prejudice. The youth of Haiti began to resent the Americans. Riots broke out frequently. In 1929, American soldiers fired on Haitian peasants. The world began to condemn the Americans. American president Herbert Hoover appointed a commission to study the incident. This Forbes Commission recommended American troops withdraw from Haiti as soon as possible. In 1934, the United States departed from Haiti with an agreement leaving the United States involved in financial matters of the nation.

Besides anti-Americanism in occupied countries, American intervention in the Caribbean caused other resentment. In Haiti, the Americans appointed predominantly lighter-skinned Blacks to positions of authority. Haitians answered this by promoting their African heritage and culture. The religion of voodoo grew as blacks returned to their African traditions. Authors and poets expressed this sentiment in writings. Haitian author Jacques Roumain wrote about the masses of the poor. He advocated Marxism and the unity of the poor against the elite and
Americans. In Haiti and other countries, the American occupation and those who disagreed with it turned to answers found in communism. The Dominican poet Fabio Fiallo criticized American occupation while promoting the beauty of Dominicans. In Cuba and Puerto Rico, anti-American feelings surfaced in the promotion of the Native cultures. Whether the Puerto Rican peasant or the Afro-Cuban, writers focused on cultural aspects of people. Nicolas Guillen’s poems emphasized the wonder of Africans as Cubans. They also showed the poverty and prejudice Afro-Cubans faced. Through his work, radical change seemed a necessary end to these problems.

**Lesson 7: Practice Questions**

Choose the best answer from the choices given.

1. ________ are American citizens who do not pay federal income tax or vote in federal elections.
   A. Cubans      B. Guatemalans
   C. Puerto Ricans D. Haitians

2. American President ___________ believed in “big stick” diplomacy or a strong, active military.
   A. Taft               B. McKinley
   C. Carter      D. Roosevelt
3. ____________ is an American military base on Cuba.
   A. Havana  B. Santiago
   C. Mariel  D. Guantánamo

4. The ____________Corollary established the US as “police man” of the Western Hemisphere.
   A. Taft  B. Roosevelt
   C. Ford  D. Reagan

5. ____________ believed in “dollar diplomacy” instead of “big stick” diplomacy.
   A. Roosevelt  B. McKinley
   C. Taft  D. Lincoln

6. Haiti sought loans and help from ____________.
   A. Germany  B. United States
   C. France  D. Great Britain

7. The US bought the ____________ Islands in 1917.
   A. Canary  B. Galápagos
   C. Virgen  D. Cayman

8. ____________ was dictator of the Dominican Republic.
   A. Roosevelt  B. Castro
   C. Taft  D. Trujillo
9. Many Prohibition rum smugglers came from ____________.
   A. Jamaica   B. Cuba
   C. Bahamas   D. Trinidad

10. United States occupied the Caribbean island of __________ from 1915 until 1934.
    A. Tobago   B. Haiti
    C. Grenada   D. Aruba

Lesson 7: Practice Answers

1. C  6. A
2. D  7. C
3. D  8. D
American President Roosevelt believed in “Big Stick” diplomacy or a strong active military.

Puerto Ricans are American citizens who do not pay federal income tax or vote in federal elections.

Taft believed in “dollar diplomacy” instead of “big stick” diplomacy.

Haiti sought loans and help from the United States.

The U.S. bought the Virgin Islands in 1917.

The U.S. occupied the Caribbean island of Haiti from 1915 until 1934.

The Roosevelt Corollary established the U.S. as the “police man” of the Western Hemisphere.

The Monroe Doctrine warned European countries not to establish new colonies in the Western Hemisphere.

After the Spanish-American War, Cuba and Puerto Rico were under American control.

The U.S. completed and controlled the Panama Canal.
LESSON 8:
THE DEPRESSION AND WORLD WAR II IN THE CARIBBEAN

The problems of the poor increased with the worldwide Depression of the 1930s. Prices dropped for all goods, including sugar. The United States could not support the Caribbean with loans and investments. Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President of the United States in 1933. A new policy toward the Caribbean began. This “Good Neighbor” Policy marked the end of “big stick” and “dollar diplomacy.” Americans pledged to respect the peoples of the Caribbean. This meant no military interventions and no new relationships based on trade and cooperation. The economic problems of the Depression along with the growth of anti-American feelings led Roosevelt to pursue this new course of action in the Caribbean.

Roosevelt demonstrated his “Good Neighbor” policy in Cuba. From the Platt Amendment of the early 1900s, the United States was given the right to intervene in Cuban affairs whenever it deemed necessary. Roosevelt’s “Good Neighbor” policy changed this attitude.
Problems in Cuba grabbed the attention of the United States. As in other places in the Caribbean, anti-American feelings ran strong in 1920s Cuba. The Communist Party strengthened among students and laborers. Cubans saw their leaders as dishonest. They saw that prosperity came to only a small segment of the population who stole from the government. In 1925, Gerardo Machado, a general in the Cuban army, was elected as president. He promised to end corruption by using brute force against any opposition. Machado was an admirer of the Fascist dictator Mussolini of Italy. Machado controlled all parts of the Cuban government and armed forces. He kept the price of sugar from falling. He instituted production quotas to lessen the amount produced. He began a public works program to include construction of a highway across Cuba. To combat student opposition to his policies, Machado closed the universities where radical groups were based. A terrorist group calling itself ABC organized. Violence erupted across Cuba. Roosevelt and his “Good Neighbor” policy avoided intervention as long as possible. With the country in revolt, Machado was persuaded by the United States to resign.

Carlos Manuel de Cespedes took office as president with the blessings of the American government, but the Cuban people did not support him. Fulgencio Batista, an army sergeant, allied with the student groups took over the country.

Roosevelt was now committed to his new policy. With the Platt Amendment revoked, the United States watched Batista rule Cuba under puppet presidents for six years. In 1940, Batista himself became president of Cuba. He formed an alliance with the Communists and led Cuba toward
socialist government. Urban workers received pensions, farm laborers organized into cooperatives, women were granted the right to vote, and working hours were limited. In 1940, under a new constitution, free and open elections were held in Cuba. Batista ushered Cuba into a new phase of government endorsed by the United States.

Puerto Rico was also hit hard by the Depression of the 1930s. Because many residents were American citizens free to travel to the continental United States, many left Puerto Rico in search of a better life. Under Roosevelt, Puerto Rico benefited from many of the programs instituted to ease the effects of the Depression. With high population density on the island, these programs had minimal effect on the poverty of the islanders.

Trujillo’s rule of the Dominican Republic intensified during the 1930s. He used secret police to rid the country of opponents. The capital was rebuilt and filled with icons to the ruler. Fittingly, it was renamed Trujillo City in his honor. Trujillo’s government used tactics disapproved of by the Americans. His radical anti-communist position was a key force in politics of the Caribbean. His policies of racism towards Haitians within his country and in neighboring Haiti caused strife for years. In the late 1930s, Haitians in the Dominican Republic were killed randomly for not being “White.” International outrage against the killings emerged. The United States paid relatives of those killed by Dominicans. Unfortunately, the president of Haiti at the time, Stenio Vincent, reacted little to the massacre by Trujillo and his forces. The massacre led to unrest and instability in the Dominican government.
British colonies were also affected by the Depression of the 1930s. Slums grew in the larger cities as poor farmers tried to find jobs. Social services such as health care were nonexistent especially in rural areas. Spending on education for British subjects in the Caribbean colonies slowed to a trickle. Of all the British colonies, only Trinidad experienced economic growth. In 1911, oil was discovered. Even during the Depression, Trinidad had a source of income, but the profits benefited only a small segment of the population. The rest lived in poverty like the rest of the Caribbean.

This imbalance of economic prosperity led to discontent and rebellion. The 1930s saw unrest in the British islands. The threat of British warships off the coast restored order numerous times. Strong labor unions developed during the 1930s due to the lack of political parties in the British colonies. Later, they would become political parties fighting for independence from Britain. Labor leaders advocated socialism, including redistributing incomes. Black oil field laborers in Trinidad organized under the leadership of Tubal Butler. Butler often referred to God in his speeches. He believed he was the Moses of his people.

The labor revolt spread to Jamaica. Government officials in Trinidad attempted to deport Butler. This only caused a greater outbreak of violence. Meanwhile in Jamaica, Alexander Bustamante and Norman Manley led the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union favoring cooperative farms. Eventually both leaders started different groups with similar goals of helping the common laborer in Jamaica. Barbados developed socialist
groups working for change within society during this same period in the 1930s. None advocated revolution. They wanted gradual change toward a more representative government with rights for all people.

The British investigated all this unrest through several commissions. In 1938, the West India Royal Commission, headed by Lord Moyne, wrote a report calling for change within the British colonies. They explored the slums of the islands. They reported dismay at living conditions of subjects of the Crown. The Moyne Report recommended a more representative type of government for the Caribbean possessions. The Report noted the needs of the people could be more readily addressed. Education and training in agriculture and better health care were suggested. The Moyne Report led to a greater acceptance of the role of unions in the islands.

Within a short time, Trinidad, Jamaica, and the other islands of Great Britain possessed new forms of government with elected legislatures. Unfortunately, the beginning of World War II left many of these issues neglected for years.

The Dutch colonies relied on their abundance of oil in the years before and during the Depression of the 1930s. Aruba and Curacao had working refineries by the 1920s. This led to a high standard of living for the residents of these islands. The social services provided for all six of the Dutch colonies were helped by the continued economic growth of Curacao and Aruba.
The political stability of the colonies promoted financial investment in the islands. The proximity to the Panama Canal and oil resources highlighted the importance of these possessions as World War II began.

Although no actual battles were fought in the Caribbean during World War II, the area witnessed German submarine action. The German U-boats sank hundreds of ships carrying oil from the Caribbean refineries. By 1943, the Allies (with convoys and airplanes) stopped the bombings. Anyone with anti-government or German sympathies was imprisoned. Some of the labor leaders such as Tubal Butler spent time in jail during World War II. The islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe faced Allied blockades as they first sided with the German invaders of France. As in France, the Allies prevailed as time passed. The French colonies were re-taken by the Free French.

Economically, World War II brought different circumstances to different islands. The islands that produced petroleum products prospered as the war continued. Because Europe was in a state of war, Caribbean cane sugar’s competitor, beet sugar, was eliminated. Shipping was difficult, but it was undertaken for importing sugar. It failed for other agricultural products. Cuban sugar went entirely to the United States. The Caribbean countries that once depended on imports for food resorted to doing without. Some people attempted to grow their own supplies. British citizens from the Caribbean enlisted in World War II. Other islands supplied recruits to the Caribbean Regiment of the Allies. With the presence of German U-boats, islands organized their own systems of
defense. Some men who did not go to the battlefront migrated to the United States to fill jobs of others who left for war.

Because of the German threat and importance of the Panama Canal, the United States constructed bases in the Caribbean during the war. Already existing bases on Puerto Rico and Cuba were expanded. New construction was completed on the Virgin Islands.

**WWII Soldiers in the Caribbean**

An agreement between the British and the Americans allowed the United States to build bases on British islands. Construction boosted the economy of the islands. Thousands found jobs on American bases and American soldiers based on these islands spent money. The Caribbean economy thus recovered from the Depression of the 1930s. These soldiers returning to the United States brought Caribbean culture like calypso music back with
them. They also brought back a desire to return to the Caribbean as tourists someday.

The lure of overseas jobs during World War II multiplied after the war. Thousands left the Caribbean for cities of Great Britain and the United States searching for prosperity. Over ten percent of Jamaica’s population moved to Great Britain. The island of Montserrat lost one-third of its residents to this migration.

Caribbean communities formed in cities like New York and London. Most jobs were in the unskilled work force.

**Dominican American Beauty Pageant in New Jersey**

The steady income provided a better lifestyle than the islands could offer.

The United Nations formed after World War II. The Caribbean changed politically. The United Nations advocated decolonization or the
dismantling of empires of world powers. Although this was world policy, individual colonial powers reacted at different speeds. The British already gave some powers to their colonies after the Moyne Report surfaced.

In the aftermath of the war, island leaders pushed for more independence. The British colonies during the 1950s all moved toward a ministerial type of government similar to the one used in Great Britain. In this form of government, a figurehead represents the royal family, but real power lies with the prime minister. He/she is chosen from the majority party in the main elected legislative body. The prime minister forms a cabinet to help him govern. Not all these steps occurred at once in the Caribbean. In some islands, no movement toward self-government was allowed. Jamaica and Trinidad were the only colonies to achieve self-government during the 1950s. In Jamaica, power revolved between Bustamante and Manley for years while each served as prime minister.

Eric Williams and his People’s National Movement ruled in Trinidad. In smaller British colonies like the Turks and Caicos Islands, government in London acted as if they were not ready for self-rule.

To prepare colonies for self-rule, the British pushed the idea of a joint government among the islands. This would cut expenses for some government services and might boost the economy as several islands could function as one in negotiating trade agreements. The first conference to address the idea of a federation occurred in Jamaica in 1947. The British colonies of Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago, and Trinidad were involved in the federation.
1958 saw the beginning of the new concept, the West Indies Federation. A British governor ruled over the federation. The island residents elected a legislative body and a prime minister.

During this period, Jamaica and Trinidad experienced economic success. They feared their profits would be divided among other unsuccessful islands. When Jamaica withdrew from the federation in 1961, it collapsed. Trinidad and Jamaica became fully independent. The other islands received less than total independence and self-government.

The French and Dutch colonies followed a different route after World War II. In 1945, the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe voted to become overseas departments of France. The pro-Communist island leaders at the time believed France had an obligation toward her Caribbean colonies. This included sharing economically with the islands. Under this plan, a leader appointed in Paris governed the island with the help of local councils. Caribbean departments would have representation in the French National Assembly. Its citizens would have full rights of French citizens. The Dutch colonies also became self-governing in 1954 and part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As in the British colonies, a representative of the royal family was named as a figurehead. Real power lay in local councils.

Puerto Rico evolved into a commonwealth of the United States in the 1950s. The debate over what status Puerto Rico and its citizens were to hold in the American government raged until 1947. Luis Muñoz Marin was elected governor that year. It was the first time a governor of Puerto Rico
was elected by the residents instead of being appointed by the United States. Puerto Rico achieved self-government. It was dependent upon the United States only for matters of foreign relations and defense. Under the new constitution granted by the United States, Puerto Ricans, as American citizens, had to serve in the military. They had other duties of a citizen. Still, they had no federal income tax or representation in the legislature of the United States.

Governor Muñoz instituted a plan called “Operation Bootstrap.” The new role of Puerto Rico as a commonwealth could be exploited to attract American investors. Before this time, Puerto Rico was known as the “poorhouse of the Caribbean.” The standard of living was extremely low. Under “Operation Bootstrap,” Puerto Rico encouraged American corporations to build factories in the nation because of its low wages and tax benefits. This helped Puerto Rico make the transition from an agriculturally based economy to one based more on manufacturing and
technology. The plan was extremely successful. It led to rapid industrial growth and a higher standard of living.

In 1948, the United States helped start the Organization of American States [OAS], formerly the Pan-American Union. This was composed of 21 nations of the Americas. The OAS pledged to work together for the good of the region. In the beginning, it had a strong anti-communist stance.

Pan American Union Building in Washington, D. C.

Lesson 8: Practice Questions

Choose the best answer from the choices given.

1. ____________ was U.S. president when the “Good Neighbor” policy began.
   A. Kennedy  B. Carter  C. Reagan  D. Roosevelt
2. ___________ was the Cuban dictator who admired Mussolini.
   A. Manley  B. Bustamante  C. Machado  D. Roosevelt

3. ________ was the Dominican ruler who discriminated against and killed neighboring Haitians.
   A. Machado  B. Trujillo  C. Castro  D. Roosevelt

4. Oil was found in this British colony of ____________.
   A. Cayman Islands  B. Cuba  C. Virgin Islands  D. Trinidad

5. ___________ was believed to be the “Moses” of his people in Trinidad.
   A. Manley  B. Machado  C. Butler  D. Bustamante

6. ___________ sank many ships in the Caribbean during WW II.
   A. Bombs  B. Tankers  C. Steamers  D. U-Boats

7. Puerto Rico achieved ____________status after WW II.
   A. state  B. nation  C. commonwealth  D. department

8. The United Nations favored the “__________” policy in the Caribbean.
   A. big stick  B. dollar diplomacy  C. Good Neighbor  D. decolonization
9. _________ was a short-lived grouping of British colonies beginning in 1958.
   A. Organization of American States    B. Pan American Union
   C. Commonwealths                 D. West Indies Federation

10. Twenty-one [21] nations of the Americas pledged to work together in:
    A. Operation Bootstrap
    B. Organization of American States
    C. Bustamante Industrial Union
    D. “Good Neighbor” policy

Lesson 8: Practice Answers

1. D   6. D
2. C   7. C
3. B   8. D
4. D   9. A
Machado was the Cuban dictator who admired Mussolini

Trujillo was the Dominican ruler who discriminated against and killed neighboring Haitians

The Socialist turned moderate leader of Jamaica was Manley

President Roosevelt instituted the “Good Neighbor Policy” with the Caribbean

Puerto Rico achieved commonwealth status after WWII

In WWII, the Caribbean allied with the Allies

A major source of wealth for Aruba and Curacao was oil

The British Moyne Report of 1938 called for representative government and unions

Butler was the famous unionist from Trinidad

Batista was the America-supported dictator in Cuba in the 1930s
LESSON 9: THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ENDS IN THE CARIBBEAN

The aftermath of World War II brought many changes to the Caribbean. The changes are still evident today. One significant change is the presence of Communist Cuba. Cuba evolved from a growing sense of anti-Americanism in the Caribbean. This anti-American feeling strengthened in the 1950s and 1960s. American involvement was mostly economic in the Caribbean during this period. Americans contributed to the agricultural production of the region. Tourists from the United States visited the Caribbean. American companies built hotels and casinos. Left-wing radical groups resented American presence in their lands. Although not all these groups favored communism, the Cold War ideals of the 1950s labeled most as communists.

Cuba became the first Caribbean country to move to communism. Fulgencio Batista led Cuba under American endorsement. Corruption and fraud grew. Batista served directly as the president elected in free elections. He sometimes designated someone as his puppet president. By 1944, problems in the government multiplied. Batista’s chosen candidate lost the election. He left the country for exile in Florida.

The new party in control, the Revolutionary Cuban Party, functioned more on greed and corruption than Batista’s regime. President Ramon Grau embezzled millions from the government treasury. Sugar profits were guaranteed by an American trade agreement, which stated the United States would buy Cuban sugar. Cubans would import American goods with low import charges. The fortunes of Cuba increased dramatically.
Violence against political enemies such as the Popular Socialist Party was common.

Batista and his followers overthrew the corrupt administration in 1952. The United States was silent on the matter. Batista met no opposition in Cuba, but in July of 1953, Fidel Castro and other militants attempted to capture a military barracks with a force of only 125 men. The raid failed and Castro was imprisoned and exiled to Mexico. In Mexico, Castro continued to work against Batista, who was now a dictator. In order to control his opposition, Batista turned to violence and suppression of free speech. The Mafia ruled. Gambling and other vices spread throughout Havana, the capital city. Cubans enjoyed the wealth of profits from sugar and tourism, but these profits were in the hands of the Americans and only a few Cubans. Some Cubans grew discontented with differences in lifestyles between the rich minority and the poor majority.

Meanwhile, Fidel Castro, the young attorney turned militant. He built up his forces in Mexico named the 26 July Movement. This was the date he and his followers attempted to raid barracks in Cuba. With the help of Che Guevara, Castro and approximately eighty men landed in Cuba in December 1956. Castro and his men launched guerilla attacks from the mountains of Cuba. Batista’s troops fought against Castro. Discontent strengthened until even the military did not fully support Batista. Various anti-Batista groups joined together under Castro. By January 1, 1959, Batista left the country. At first, many, including the United States, supported Castro. His plans for Cuba sounded democratic. They would grant freedoms Cubans had not experienced for years.
However, by 1960 Castro had taken over many American-owned businesses and angered Americans with his communist ways. Many Cubans left for the United States, especially the upper classes that Castro angered.

Tensions between Cuba and the United States continued. Cuban exiles in Florida wanted to try to re-take the island. On April 17, 1961, the attempt began. American President John F. Kennedy supported the invasion. Kennedy promised troops and airplane support that did not materialize. The Bay of Pigs invasion, as this incident is known, was a miserable failure. The exiles not have the American military support they believed they had. The Cuban people on the island did not join their revolution against Castro. Later that year, the link between Cuba and the communist Soviet Union was realized. Negotiations of any type with the United States ceased. The exports of Cuba now traveled to the Soviet
Union. Soviet goods replaced American ones on the shelves of Cuban markets.

Another tense situation between Cuba and the United States developed. In late 1962, American spy planes found Soviet missile sites on the island of Cuba. From this location, nuclear missiles could reach the United States. Americans, especially in Florida, feared the threat. They built bomb shelters. They were supplied with necessary survival items. Soviet ships, loaded with missiles for these sites, made their way to Cuba. American President Kennedy threatened a blockade and invasion of the island. Tense moments continued for a week. It seemed the Soviet Union and the United States were bound for a nuclear war. This close call ended when the Soviet Union agreed to remove the missiles from Cuba. The U.S. secretly agreed to remove missiles from Turkey Point and not invade Cuba.

Castro continued in power. He seized all forms of industry. He formed collective farms. Castro outlawed private property. He supported communist movements throughout the world, particularly in the Americas. The United States withdrew all support for Cuba. The U.S. placed a trade barrier on all commerce. Cuba instituted policies to industrialize rapidly with the support of the Soviets. Health care and education expanded. Rights for women and Blacks increased. Castro’s charm led the nation. From childhood, Cubans were taught the beliefs of Karl Marx. Those who disagreed with Castro became political prisoners. As sugar prices rose and fell, Cuba depended on the Soviet Union for support. In 1980, discontent with shortages in Cuba rose; a number of people invaded the Peruvian Embassy in Havana. Thousands joined them.
American President Jimmy Carter welcomed Cuban refugees to the United States. Castro allowed the refugees to be picked up in boats at the port of Mariel. Castro forced the boats to take inmates from Cuban jails and patients of psychiatric wards. Over 100,000 “Marielitos” arrived on the shores of Florida.

After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1989, it resumed friendly relations with the United States. Castro maintained his stance of strong anti-American feelings. As usual, he lectured the Cubans for hours from Havana plaza on American evils.

Economic support from the Soviet Union stopped. Cubans entered a period of great depression. Shortages and rationing increased. Castro reformed some of his economic policies to allow more freedom in the marketplace. He encouraged foreign investments and tourism. Americans still were not allowed to trade with Cuba due to the trade barrier instituted in the 1960s. Controversy continues over whether this embargo should be eliminated or at least be removed partially. Cubans who now live in the United States question the embargo’s usefulness.
Haiti experienced revolution once more in the years following World War II. The United States occupied Haiti from 1915 to 1934. Haiti remained a nation led by corrupt presidents. Stenio Vincent continued to rule as a dictator until 1941. Elie Lescot replaced him. The domination of light-skinned Blacks during his administration and continued corruption made many Haitians angry. He was removed from office in 1946. He was replaced by a Black man, Duamarsais Estime, who himself was replaced by a military officer, Paul Magloire. Both these short-term governments were corrupt. Each took millions from the government. Chaos reigned in Haiti for months after Magloire left the country. Finally, in September 1957, Francois Duvalier came to power. Duvalier began his reign of terror. His secret police destroyed anything that threatened his power. Duvalier chose himself as “President for Life.” He particularly threatened the light-skinned Mulatto elites. Many left Haiti.

“Baby Doc” Duvalier

“Papa Doc,” as he was known, died in 1971. His son, Jean-Claude or “Baby Doc”, came to power.

Relations between Haiti and the United States soured as more and more Haitian people arrived by boat on American shores. Haiti did nothing to stop the flow. American investment increased in Haiti during the 1970s. Light manufacturing companies sought out the low wages in Haiti. Nations around the world and the Catholic Church called for an end of the human rights abuses in Haiti. Division arose in the administration of “Baby Doc.” This occurred particularly after he married a light-skinned Mulatto. As thousands of Haitians starved, the “First Lady” of the country spent thousands in Paris on the latest fashions. By 1986, “Baby Doc” and his followers fled to France in exile.

For four years, regimes came to power for only a short time before being overthrown. Violence ruled the Haitian countryside. Poverty continued to claim the lives of its people. Free elections in 1990 elected Jean-Bertrand Aristide. As a former Catholic priest, he supported liberation theology. This means the Catholic Church should work to help the masses achieve a higher standard of living through radical political movements. When he came to office in 1991, Aristide’s regime seemed no different than the others. Murder and secret police continued to rule Haiti under Aristide. After a few months, a coup took over the government. Aristide ruled in exile. He had the support of the Organization of American States and the United Nations because he was freely elected. Both of these groups called for trade barriers against Haiti. In 1994, multinational armed forces reinstated Aristide as president of Haiti.
Conflicts continued in Haiti under Aristide. Other presidents followed. Economic and social issues were not resolved. In 2004, under Aristide’s rule once more, Haiti endured another rebellion. Aristide was removed from the country by an American plane. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Haiti, Boniface Alexandre, stepped in to rule as interim president while peacekeeping forces from around the world tried to restore order to Haiti.

During Haiti’s constant political struggles, her neighbor, the Dominican Republic, continued to be ruled by the dictator Trujillo. Trujillo tried to have the president of Venezuela assassinated. The world reacted with condemnation. Trade barriers were placed upon the Dominican Republic. His army officers assassinated him on May 30, 1961, supposedly with the help of the American Central Intelligence Agency [CIA]. With unrest and political turmoil pushing the country to the brink of a civil war, the United States intervened in 1965 to prevent it from becoming another Communist country in the Caribbean. American military forces and millions of dollars in aid backed right-wing politicians. The goal was to defeat communism. Right-wing leader Joaquin Balaguer held office several times in the ongoing corrupt Dominican regimes. Many of its people are poor farmers. Tourism has led to an increase in revenue though. It boosts an often-depressed economy.
The British colonies moved from agriculture to other economic pursuits after World War II. The oil industry dominated the economy of Trinidad. Under the leadership of Eric Williams, the government of Trinidad attempted to recruit multinational corporations to do business and invest in the island. Activists in Trinidad criticized Williams’ policies. They condemned the corruption of his administration. Some advocated that foreign investment be expelled from the nation. Some said the government should take over foreign industries. The Black Power movement gained ground in Trinidad. Riots broke out in 1970. Discontent from other groups caused Williams to almost lose power, but he succeeded in maintaining control. Williams started using repressive techniques to stay in power. The oil boom of the 1970s quieted some discontent, but the gap widened
between the rich and the poor. Trinidad moved toward socialism as it nationalized or took over businesses from private owners. When the oil boom ended, Trinidad experienced economic problems for years. In 1990, black Muslims staged a revolt to control the government. This led to violence and death; still they were unsuccessful. Tobago, although politically aligned with Trinidad, did not experience economic success from the oil boom. Because of a difference in economies and social problems, that country’s leaders desired more independence from Trinidad. In 1980, Trinidad allowed Tobago to become more self-governing. Tobago assembled its own legislative body.

Trinidad, Tobago, and Jamaica declared full independence in 1962. In Jamaica, Alexander Bustamante and Norman Manley continued to lead the nation. After the death of Manley, his son, Michael Manley, advocated a more socialist platform. He tried to create political bonds with Black lower classes. Under Jamaican socialism, Manley nationalized businesses and instituted a land reform program to give land to the landless. Jamaica had friendly relations with Cuba and adopted anti-American policies. Relations between the United States and Jamaica were strained. Only a declining economy and dissatisfaction with Manley’s leadership left the Jamaican people with the hope of a new leader. Edward Seaga moved the country back toward democratic capitalism. Seaga supported private enterprise by returning previously nationalized businesses to private individuals. With a pledge to be more moderate, Michael Manley led Jamaica in the 1980s and 90s. Economics, drugs, and violence plagued areas of Jamaica.
The former British colony of the Bahamas gained its independence from the mother country in 1973. Lynden Pindling and his Progressive Liberal Party ran the government until 1992. The Bahamas has mostly been a prosperous nation without riots or revolts. The nation appeals to tourists from around the world, and this sector of the economy brings in much of the income for Bahamians. Because of its closeness to the United States, the Bahamas is associated with the illegal drug trade. Government officials have been indicted several times on charges of profiting from this trade. The Bahamas tries to attract foreign investment to provide jobs for its citizens.

The Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos islands are overseas territories of Great Britain. They function as centers of banking and tourism. The Cayman Islands have experienced no political turmoil and enjoy a strong economy. Its people have a high standard of living. The Turks and Caicos struggled with government involvement in the illegal drug trade as many Caribbean islands have. Some officials were arrested during the 1980s for their part in the shipment of drugs through the island group. The British colonies in the Lesser Antilles have been stable in the past recent years. In Barbados, which has been independent since 1966, two political parties alternate control of the government. These are both moderate parties who favor free enterprise. Similarly, this has occurred on all the smaller islands of the British Crown. Bananas are the major export for Bahamians. They enjoy a market free of import taxes with the British.

The exceptions to peaceful transition to independence for British colonies are Anguilla and Grenada. In 1967, a revolt broke out on the
small island of Anguilla due to a ruling by the British government. The British bestowed associated statehood on St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla. Anguilla disliked this grouping. It tried to free itself from the domination of St. Kitts. By 1969, British troops were sent to Anguilla to bring peace. No real rioting ever happened. It was more just a war of words. By 1980, Anguilla was declared independent of St. Kitts.

In Grenada, Eric Gairy, a militant political leader for decades, led the island to independence in 1974. His rule as a near dictator caused some young intellectuals to start a movement known as the “New Jewel Movement.” This group favored Marxist policies and association with Castro in Cuba. Gairy acted increasingly bizarre. Even conservative residents of the island were suspicious of his ability to continue to lead the nation. When the “New Jewel Movement” overthrew him in 1979, most people accepted the group. They immediately instituted reforms based on communism. This included suppression of free speech and other rights. They also instituted government takeover of all businesses and land. The government of Grenada grew to be closely linked with Cuba and the Soviet Union. 

Maurice Bishop and Fidel Castro

[http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/grenada.htm](http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/grenada.htm)
Cuban workers were sent to the island to build an airport, and other Cubans aided in other ways. Although these policies did not gain favor with the people, the leader, Maurice Bishop, retained power. In 1983, a coup attempt started the involvement of the United States.

American President Ronald Reagan wanted to stem the tide of revolution and communism in the Caribbean by making Grenada an example. American troops occupied Grenada for a little more than a week. It was a turning point in the Caribbean. This little island was the beginning of the end of radical politics in the Caribbean. Any Cuban influence in the Caribbean was basically over. The United States, with its heavy financial aid in the area, led the Caribbean to a free enterprise economy.

Two islands in the Caribbean continued to be heavily influenced by the United States. These were the commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Pro-independence groups in Puerto Rico, such as the Macheteros, resisted American intervention. They never gained widespread popularity. With changes in Cuba in the 1960s, Puerto Rico became the tourist destination for many who formerly visited Cuba. Industry strengthened as corporations enjoyed the tax breaks of location in Puerto Rico. Agriculture fell as other sectors of the economy took over. Food needed to be imported. This contributed to higher prices and increased the poverty. Aid from the government or from relatives in America provided an income for many. Some pushed for Puerto Rico to become the fifty-first state. Most Puerto Ricans are content with the current status as evidenced by voting.
After World War II, tourists discovered the U. S. Virgin Islands. The beautiful islands have a free port with low prices on goods. This attracts people to the islands. Sugar is no longer a main export and sugar plantations have been converted to land for tourists. The United States designated the majority of the island of Saint John as a national park in 1956. Light industry contributes to the economy, too.

Virgin Islands National Park
(http://www.nps.gov/viis/VIIS/index.html, 01/31/2006)
Lesson 9: Practice Questions

Choose the best answer from the choices given.

1. The first Caribbean country to move to communism was:
   A. India  B. Trinidad  C. Haiti  D. Cuba

2. Leader of the 26th of July Movement in Cuba was:
   A. Williams  B. Castro  C. Batista  D. Grau

3. The attempted invasion of Cuba by exiles is known as:
   A. Missile Crisis  B. Grenada Attack  C. Bay of Pigs  D. Isle of Pines

4. The boatlift from Cuba in the 1980s began in the city of ____ in Cuba.
   A. Havana  B. Santiago  C. Port Au Prince  D. Mariel

5. “President for Life” and dictator of Haiti was:
   A. Duvalier  B. Castro  C. Williams  D. Bishop

6. The Socialist turned moderate leader of Jamaica was:
   A. Manley  B. Duvalier  C. Bishop  D. Castro

7. American troops under Reagan invaded the island of __________ to stop communism in the Caribbean.
   A. Cayman Islands  B. Tobago  C. Trinidad  D. Grenada
8. Many American tourists visited the island of __________ when Cuba was no longer a tourist destination in the 1960s.
A. Grenada  B. St. Kitts  C. Puerto Rico  D. Nevis

9. There is a United States National Park at St. John, __________.
A. Virgin Islands  B. Puerto Rico  C. Cuba  D. Haiti

10. Government officials of some Caribbean islands have helped the illegal __________ trade.
A. rum  B. drug  C. cigar  D. pineapple

Lesson 9: Practice Answers

1. D  6. A
2. B  7. D
3. C  8. C
4. D  9. A
5. A  10. B
LESSON 9 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The boatlift from Cuba in the 1960s began in the city of Mariel in Cuba.
- German submarines (U-Boats) sank many ships in the Caribbean during WWII.
- The West Indies Federation was a short-lived grouping of British colonies beginning in 1958.
- Twenty-one nations of the Americas pledged to work together in the Organization of American States.
- The first Caribbean country to move to communism was Cuba.
- The leader of the 26 July Movement in Cuba was Castro.
- The Bay of Pigs was the attempted invasion of Cuba by its exiles.
- Duvalier was “President for Life” and dictator of Haiti.
- American troops under Reagan invaded the island of Grenada to stop communism in the Caribbean.
- President Kennedy got Castro to remove Soviet missiles pointed at the U.S. by promising not to attempt another invasion of Cuba and by removing American missiles from Turkey.
America not only has territories in the Caribbean. It has maintained a significant presence in the Caribbean. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, American fears of communism in the Caribbean subsided. Migration, mostly illegal, concerns the American government today. The United States works to develop economies on the Caribbean islands. This helps people remain on the island and find jobs to increase their standard of living. America’s focus in the Caribbean is to stop the illegal drug trade. This illegal drug trade influences cultures in the Caribbean. Bob Marley, a Jamaican reggae singer, was a follower of the Rastafarian religion. Rastafarians believe in the use of marijuana for spiritual purposes. Music of the Caribbean, such as salsa and calypso, achieved worldwide favor. Other aspects of culture reflect the poverty of many people of the Caribbean. The repression is evident in so many political regimes. Cuban Guillermo Cabrera Infante wrote (in exile) about his dislike of Castro and his rule in Cuba. Others have taken the oral
traditions of particularly Africans of the Caribbean and written them down for others to enjoy. Artists focused on traditional handicrafts to be sold to tourists. They also focused on showing the pain of repression and discrimination.

Tourism accounts for the spread of Caribbean culture throughout the world as well as employment for the bulk of the population throughout the Caribbean. Most tourist destinations are in the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and the U. S. Virgin Islands. All the islands of the Caribbean compete for the world’s tourists. Approximately twenty [20] million tourists visit the Caribbean per year; most come from North America. Many also come from South America and Western Europe. Some come from within the Caribbean itself. The growth of the cruise ship industry in North America has increased the tourism in the Caribbean.

Tropical storms and political unrest damage an island’s attraction as a tourist destination. Cuba worked hard to rebuild its tourist industry. Sometimes the industry is criticized because of the foreign investment involved in it. Another criticism is that some resorts have become all-inclusive so tourists never need to leave the resort. This provides jobs within the resort.

Snorkeling Finds in the Caribbean
(http://www.nps.gov/viis/pphtml/animals.html)
Businesses outside resorts do not receive the income from the tourists. This provides jobs within the resort. Businesses outside resorts do not receive the income from the tourists.

Mineral resources provide income to a few Caribbean locations. Bauxite, the ore of aluminum, is found in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti. Jamaica has been the most successful in developing this industry. It has mining and refining operations to process the aluminum. The bauxite industry has faced problems in Jamaica. During the 1970s, the government sought to nationalize the industry and this hurt foreign investment. Also, governmental controls and taxes affected foreign investment. A drop in aluminum prices in the 1980s caused a great decline. With government’s help, it has grown into a major Jamaican industry.

Mineral resources found in the Caribbean are oil and natural gas. Trinidad, Cuba, and Barbados are sources for these fuels. Most of Trinidad’s gases are located offshore. Oil reserves around Trinidad are shrinking. Like bauxite, oil must be refined. About twenty-five [25] refineries are

Bauxite Mine in Jamaica
(http://www.twi.co.uk/professional/protected/band_3/alst054.html, 01/31/2006)
located in the Caribbean. Natural gas reserves have added to economic prosperity.

Historically, salt was an important mineral resource of the Caribbean. Salt was used to preserve meat. More industrial and chemical uses have been discovered for salt. Now many of the salt mines in the Caribbean have no salt left. The major salt operation is located in the Bahamas. It harnesses the heat of the sun to evaporate the salt from the water in the seas of the Caribbean.

Agriculture is not the king in the Caribbean as it once was. In some places, it is still a significant industry. In other places, subsistence farmers who need to feed their own families do farming. Sugar is the most important crop. It is grown in all major islands of the Caribbean. Political instability and decreases in the world price of sugar caused decline in production. Using the land for tourism and other uses decreased land for sugar cane cultivation. There is a shortage of labor for the fields. Citrus, cocoa, coffee, and bananas are other agricultural products of the Caribbean.

Other crops are grown for local consumption. Martinique and St. Lucia are major exporters of bananas. Most of the bananas grown are shipped locally within the Caribbean. The banana industry faces stiff competition to export outside the Caribbean from Central and South America. Coffee is still the major export crop of Haiti. It too faces competition from Latin American neighbors. The mountains of Jamaica and the Dominican Republic are also coffee producing regions. Cocoa is
raised in nurseries in the same areas. Cuba produces most of the citrus crops in the Caribbean. Citrus production on the other islands of the Caribbean has declined. Most of the agricultural products of the Caribbean cannot compete on the world market due to lower priced goods from other countries. Production of crops for a local market in the Caribbean or for a special need seems to be the answer for Caribbean agriculture. Nutmeg and ornamental flower are such crops.

![Martinique Banana Plantation](http://www.domnik.net/topoi/karibia/mar/bananas.jpg, 01/31/2006)

Because of its location, the Caribbean has great access to resources of the sea. These resources have not been fully exploited. The Bahamas is the only Caribbean nation with a developed fishing and shellfish industry.
Cuba is also a large producer in this area. Factory ships, on which the processing is done right on board, are used in commercial fishing. Such ships require great financial investment. Most nations have a two hundred-[200] mile limit around their island. This prohibits boats from other places trying to utilize their fishing grounds. Illegal fishing in such waters is still very prevalent.

Manufacturing in the Caribbean has been an on-again off-again process. Factories opened to provide jobs for island residents. They then closed. This adds to the frustration and discontent of poverty stricken people in the Caribbean. The oldest form of manufacturing in the Caribbean is taking raw materials of an area and creating products for the local market.

An example of this is food-processing factories. They take the local produce at harvest time and dry or can it. The produce is then sold in the local market. Former industries of this type in the Caribbean were boat building and straw. Foreign competition had lower prices. There was less availability of raw materials needed. Therefore, Industries such as these are no longer important in the economy.

Other types of manufacturing take the raw materials of the Caribbean and process them to produce a final product for export. The sugar and aluminum industries did this in the Caribbean. Wages are low in the Caribbean. Most manufacturers bring in raw materials and workers to assemble or process the final product. These products are sold within the Caribbean or exported to other areas of the world. Many products sold in
the Caribbean are lighter and less bulky unassembled. So, they are assembled and sold on the islands. Other products, such as blue jeans, are sent unfinished to the Caribbean where cheap labor sews them together to be sold throughout the world. Nations of the Caribbean have provided financial incentives to entice foreign corporations to build factories on their islands.

A Dominican Woman Sewing in a Factory

Various economic initiatives have been introduced by nations outside the Caribbean to stimulate economic growth. The United States has provided aid and assistance for years. In 1983, the Caribbean Basin Initiative was passed. It allows certain items produced in the Caribbean to be sold in the United States without import taxes. Canada issued a similar policy in 1986. Former and current British colonies formed an association called the African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (ACP). This association works to have economic cooperation and development in these countries.

The oldest economic association, CARICOM, which began in 1973, was organized to provide a single group to negotiate trade agreements for
the area. It includes the Caribbean Development Bank, emphasizing
development projects in the region. Other smaller organizations, such as
the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, have been formed to allow
closer ties to develop between small groups of Islands.

This change from an agricultural economy to a manufacturing or
service-based economy has left many of the nations of the Caribbean in
debt. Years of fraud and corruption have taken the profits generated in the
past. Although aid has come in from countries outside the Caribbean,
many of its nations are in debt. Reforms in the economic sector and cuts in
social services helped reduce this debt, but it is still a major issue. Besides
governments, many individuals in the Caribbean face economic problems.
Some people choose to migrate, either legally or illegally, to North America.
Conflicts occur between the islands and between groups within an island.
The solution to many of the problems in the Caribbean is resolved with a
spirit of cooperation, which is developing within the area. Cooperation will
lead to a brighter future for the people of the beautiful islands of the
Caribbean.

**LESSON 10: PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

Choose the best answer from the choices given.

1. The American focus in the Caribbean now is to stop the ________
   trade.
   
   A. whales         B. drug         C. gun         D. oil
2. ___________ is a popular music of the Caribbean.
   A. polka  B. waltz  C. calypso  D. fiesta

3. ___________ provides the bulk of jobs on many Caribbean islands.
   A. Tourism  B. Calypso  C. Salsa  D. Mining

4. ___________ is mined in Jamaica.
   A. Gold  B. Silver  C. Turquoise  D. Bauxite

5. Oil and natural gas reserves are found in ___________.
   A. Jamaica  B. Puerto Rico  C. Trinidad  D. Bahamas

6. ___________ is still the most important agricultural crop of the Caribbean.
   A. Gold  B. Sugar  C. Tomatoes  D. Potatoes

7. ___________ of the Caribbean attract[s] manufacturers.
   A. Low wages  B. Tourism  C. Sand  D. Beaches

8. ___________ is an economic organization of the Caribbean.
   A. CARICOM  B. OPEC  C. UN  D. NATO

9. ___________ is a major issue in Caribbean nations.
   A. Famine  B. Farming  C. Debt  D. Oil production
10. Development projects in the Caribbean have been started by:
   A. NATO     B. Warsaw Pact
   C. NAFTA    D. Caribbean Development Bank

Lesson 10: Practice Answers

2. C  7. A
3. A  8. A
4. D  9. C
5. C  10. D
LESSON 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Oil and natural gas reserves are found in Trinidad.
- Sugar is still the most important agriculture crop of the Caribbean.
- CARICON is an economic organization of the Caribbean.
- Calypso is a popular music of the Caribbean.
- Government officials of some Caribbean islands have helped the illegal drug trade.
- The American focus in the Caribbean now is to stop the drug trade.
- Bauxite is mined in Jamaica.
- Low wages of the Caribbean attract manufacturers.
- Tourism is a major business in America’s Virgin Island.
- The tourism business provides the bulk of jobs on many Caribbean islands.
As Caribbean natives died out, the Spanish turned to the African continent for slaves.

The Catholic Church was a very influential institution in Spain and the New World.

Columbus brought sugar cane to the New World and it revolutionized the region.

Guantanamo is an American military base on Cuba.

Many prohibition rum smugglers came from the Bahamas.

Boat people trying to enter the US come from the island of Haiti.

American focus in the Caribbean now is to stop the drug trade.

Debt is a major issue in Caribbean nations.

Trujillo was a Caribbean ruler who discriminated against and killed neighboring Haitians.

Butler was the “Moses” of his people in Trinidad.

The United Nations favored the “de-colonization” policy in the Caribbean.

The House of Trades was established by the Spanish government to regulate trade in the colonies.

The Council of the Indies was the ruling body for the colonies of Spain.

Peninsulares were men born in Spain who had the highest social status and most colonial government jobs.

Spanish men born in the colonies were known as Creoles.
Bus is a common form of transportation in the Caribbean

Many American tourists visited the island of Puerto Rico when Cuba was no longer a tourist destination in the 1960s

The location of a United States National Park is St John in the Virgin Islands

The Caribbean Sea surrounds the Caribbean region

Many of the Caribbean islands are the tops of volcanoes

Hurricanes often ravage the Caribbean in summertime

The traditional root crop of native Caribbean islanders is Yucca

Caribs were flesh eating warriors of the Caribbean

The traditional planters in Caribbean culture were women

Colonial Spanish governors were called Viceroyals

The Spanish searched for gold in the New World

The Portuguese took control of Brazil in 1498

The mission of the Catholic Church motivated the Spanish conquistadores

Columbus was Italian

The Dutch colonized Curacao and Aruba

The French colonized Martinique

The indentured servants were the European labor force who earned their freedom through a contracted work period

Sugar was the major money crop of the Caribbean

American Indian natives were really the first people the Spanish enslaved in the Americas

Political power in the Caribbean in the 1600s and 1700s was based on race
The American Monroe Doctrine of 1823 mandated European powers not colonize the Americas
Abolitionists wanted slavery ended immediately
Maroons were escaped slaves who formed their own secluded communities
The United States bought the Virgin Islands in 1917
The American base in Cuba is in Guantanamo Bay
Trujillo massacred Haitians
During WWII, many residents of the Caribbean migrated to the US and England
The United Nations worked to end colonization in the Caribbean after WWII
In the former British colonies, executive power went to a prime minister
French colonies became overseas departments
The first fully communist Caribbean country was Cuba
The Cuban boatlift of the 1980s started in Mariel
The Caribbean Redevelopment Bank finances many Caribbean regional redevelop projects
Manufacturers are attracted to the Caribbean due to low wages