



What and Where is Puerto Rico?

Activity 3: History of Puerto Rico

Summary:

Through web site resources, class readings, and hands-on activities students will learn where Puerto Rico is, the geography and vegetation of the island, and understand the history of the commonwealth.

Materials:

- Computer lab or laptop with LCD projector for whole class presentation
- Student notes outline

Set-Up:

- **reserve** computer lab or set up laptop with LCD projector for whole class presentation
- **make copies** of Student notes outline

Procedure:

A Commonwealth– 45 min.

1. Ask the students, is Puerto Rico its own country? What is it? What is a commonwealth?
2. Write down the definition of commonwealth.
3. Explain that countries have fought over land rights for thousands of years. Everyone wants to use the land for a different purpose. We only have a limited amount of land to work with. In 1952 the United States make Puerto Rico and official commonwealth of the country. However, the history is much more involved than that.
4. Students are going to explore two websites that will give then background on the history of Puerto Rico and how Puerto Rico operates today as a part of the United States.
5. Hand out notes outlines for following through the websites.
6. If students have not used the computers before, a basic introduction may need to be inserted here.
7. Visit the sites:
 - a. http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/progress/jb_progress_puerto_1.html
 - b. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/prhtml/bras.html#Am>

Grade Level: 7-8

Goal: Students learn about the history of Puerto Rico, and will be able to compare the tropical vegetation and geography to Wisconsin.

Key Concepts:

- Greater Antilles
- West Indies
- Tropical Vegetation
- Island Origin
- Commonwealth
- Biodiversity

Objectives: Upon completion of this lesson, students will:

- 1) be able to identify Puerto Rico on a world map
- 2) describe the vegetation
- 3) explain the governmental relationship between the US and Puerto Rico

Teaching Location:

Classroom
School Forest or other outdoor area (preferably with trees)

Activity Time:

45 minutes

Subject Areas for Infusion:

science, social studies, English, Environmental Ed.

8. After students complete the activities and review the notes outline, return to the KWL chart from activity 1 and add the new information in the L column and ask more questions.

Assessment:

Check over notes outline, informal and ongoing assessment throughout lesson.

Standards:

Science:

B.8.4
C.8.3,.4
E.8.1, .2, .3

English:

A.8.4, C.8.2, C.8.3,
E.8.3

Social Studies:

A.8.1, A.8.5, A.8.8,
B.8.3, B.8.8

EE:

A.8.4, A.8.5, B.8.2,
B.8.3, B.8.5, B.8.10,
B.8.12, B.8.15,
B.8.23

References:

Brás, Marisabel. Puerto Rico at the Dawn of Modern Age: Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Puerto Rico. Library of Congress, September 28, 2006. <<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/prhtml/bras.html>>.

U.S. Raised the Flag in Puerto Rico, October 18, 1898. Library of Congress, September 28, 2006.
<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/progress/jb_progress_puerto_1.html>