HELP 4 HAITI

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

LUTHERAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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Macomb, MI 48042
(800)554-0723 • www.LHFmissions.org

WELCOME

THANK YOU

for adopting "Help 4 Haiti: We Send God's Word" as a mission project for your students. Your students' mission offerings will send Bible storybooks and *Small Catechisms* in the Haitian Creole and French languages to hurting families. What a great blessing to people who need to hear the Good News!

A quick search of the Internet will reveal just how hard life is in Haiti. The natural disasters and intensifying gang violence have interrupted "normal" life, but beautiful elements of God's creation and the spirit of the Haitian people remain. Those are the aspects that we have chosen to focus on with the activities you'll find in this packet.

One of the ways you can start is by reminding your students how much God has blessed them — simply by having them be born in the United States to families who care enough to bring them to church and teach them about Jesus. Following the example of Max in the "Help 4 Haiti" video, encourage the boys and girls to "count their blessings" with the worksheet included on page 4.

Of course, it doesn't require a planned activity to keep this mission project in your students' minds. Including "Help 4 Haiti" in your classroom prayers, sharing the enclosed classroom devotion/chapel message, or celebrating offering milestones will all help to keep the project in the children's thoughts and prayers.

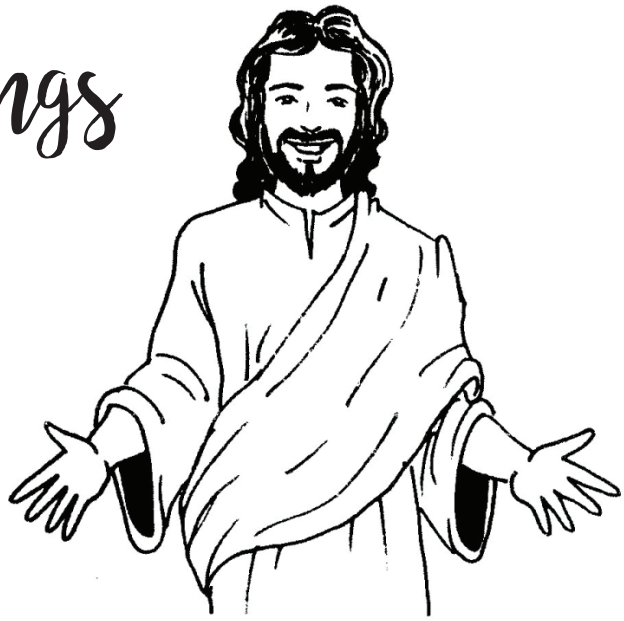
Some of these activities are better suited to a Lutheran day school setting, while others will work well in a Sunday school or VBS classroom. Feel free to pick and choose the activities you think will best help your students identify with their Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ.

SHARE YOUR PROJECT!

To generate greater enthusiasm and support for "Help 4 Haiti," be sure to share your students' mission project with parents, school and church in a variety of ways:

- Include information about "Help 4 Haiti" in your school communications, Facebook page, or church bulletins. Let parents know how many books you've sponsored to date! Encourage your church to join in the effort.
- Maintain a missions bulletin board with a running total of the amount raised.
- Have a Haiti party! Once you've concluded your participation in this project, joyfully celebrate! Decorate, prepare some of the recipes and play some of the games suggested in this packet. Create a "big check" written out to LHF, gather the children around it, and take a photo to share with LHF & on social media.

Count Your Blessings



In the Bible, James 1:17 tells us "every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father..."

What are the good gifts that God gives to you?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

OUR MISSION PROJECT:

We Send God's Word

www.LHFmissions.org

CRAFTS

MURALS

Visitors to Haiti immediately notice the many bold, bright murals painted on the walls and buildings along city streets.

Whether your class is large or small, a mural is a perfect group art project! Brainstorm as a class to determine what you want your finished mural to look like. Will it be one large scene, as illustrated in the top photo, below? Or will everyone create their own artwork that will combine to make a beatiful wall of color?

For painting large murals, first sketch a simple design with pencil on bulletin board paper. Then provide poster paints for your students to add the color! Painting works best when pairs or small groups work at different times to avoid smearing each other's work.

Another option is to decorate your church/school sidewalks with bright and beautiful chalk drawings.

TURN TRASH INTO TREASURE

Sandwiched between car repair shops and junkyards in Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince are several unique art centers. In the 1990s, a few artists started making large sculptures out of junk and abandoned items, like scrap metal, leftover wood, old wheelchairs and computer monitors — anything the artists could scavenge.

Clean out your craft cabinets by providing your students with a wide variety of leftover materials like wooden craft sticks, beads, feathers, construction paper, buttons, boxes...whatever your shelves yield! You may also go on a neighborhood walk to gather items like interesting sticks and stones, or students may bring in "trash" items from home.

Provide plenty of glue, string, and tape and see what treasures your students create! As they work, begin a conversation about how God created our world, how He shaped our mountains, rivers, deserts and plains with His hands, making something new!

Sculpture by Atis Rezistans

COLOR A GECKO

God created many beauiful animals to live in Haiti, including a little lizard called a gecko, known for their curious tails. Gecko tails serve many purposes. They help balance the lizard's weight as it climbs branches; they act as fuel tanks to store fat, and as camouflage to help them disappear into their environment. But most notably, geckos are able to shed their tails if a predator grabs them.

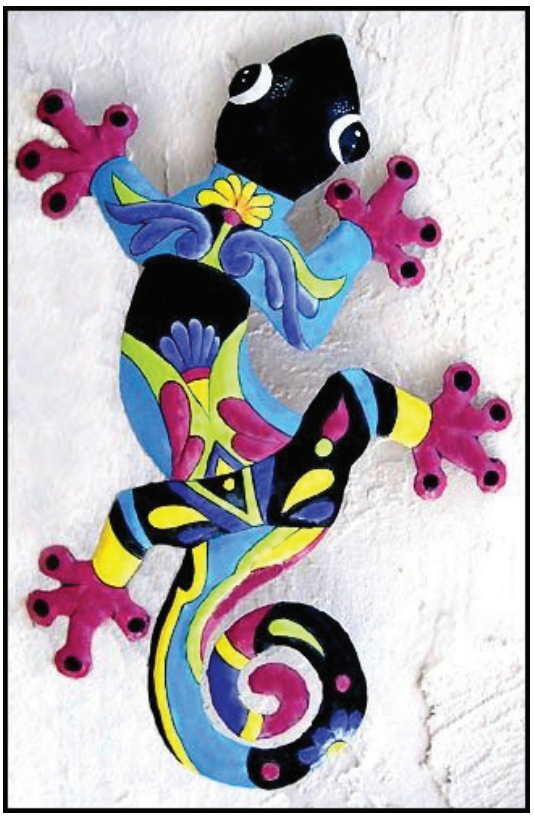
In Haiti, geckos are are believed to bring good luck to homes in which they're found. That's because they feast on all kinds of nasty insects, like mosquitoes, termites and cockroaches.

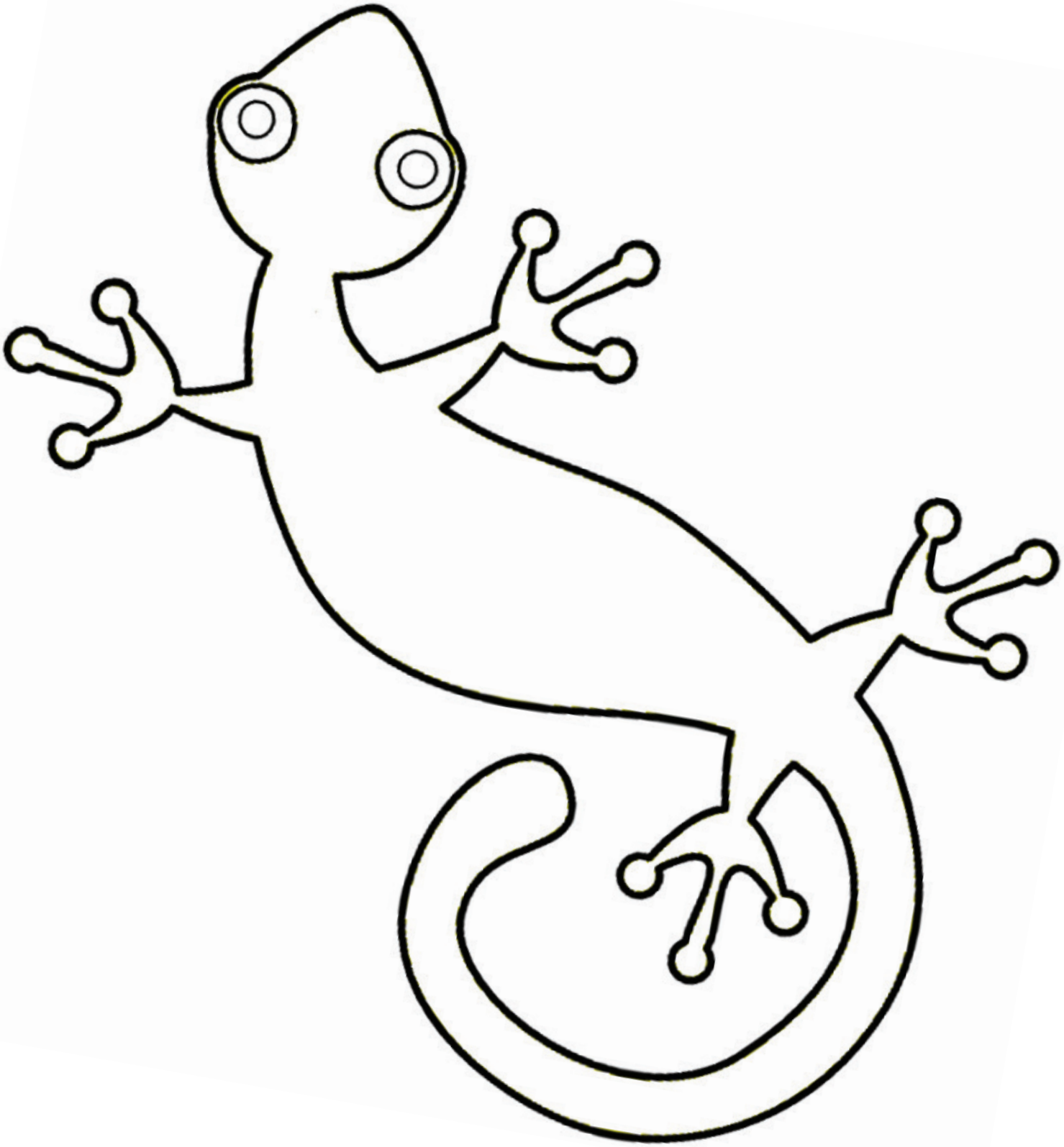
They're also beloved because they so well reflect Haiti's sheer determination to survive as a nation. Yes, disastrous earthquakes and hurricanes have chomped down on Haiti's tail. But like the gecko, Haiti can let go of that tail, diminished but not defeated, and go forward with God's blessing to build a new future full of hope and promise.

Directions: Photocopy and distribute the coloring sheet on the next page and encourage your students to creatively color their geckos.

You may choose to provide any materials for coloring that you have readily available: crayons, pastels, colored pencils, markers, or paints.

Alternatively, you may also choose to provide clay for your students, directing them to sculpt a gecko shape that they can paint after the clay hardens.





CHRISTMAS CRAFT

FANAL (CHRISTMAS LANTERN)

Months before Christmas, children begin working on their fanal, or Christmas lantern. Cardboard strips are glued together in the shape of a house or church. A design is drawn in pencil on the cardboard walls and then carefully punched out with a nail. Colored paper is pasted on the inside of the walls, and when a lighted candle or small lamp is placed inside the fanal, the pattern stands out like stained glass. On Christmas Eve, boys and girls carry their fanals in a procession around the streets of the town or village. When they get home, the children place the fanal near their windows so that passersby can catch their glow.

(Source: *Cultures of the World: Haiti*, by Roseline NgCheong-Lum, copyright 2016 by Cavendish Square Publishing)

Materials:

- Thin cardboard (as from an empty cereal box) or heavy construction paper
- Scissors (or exacto blades for older students)
- Tissue paper of many colors
- Glue sticks
- Battery-operated tea light candles (available at dollar stores)

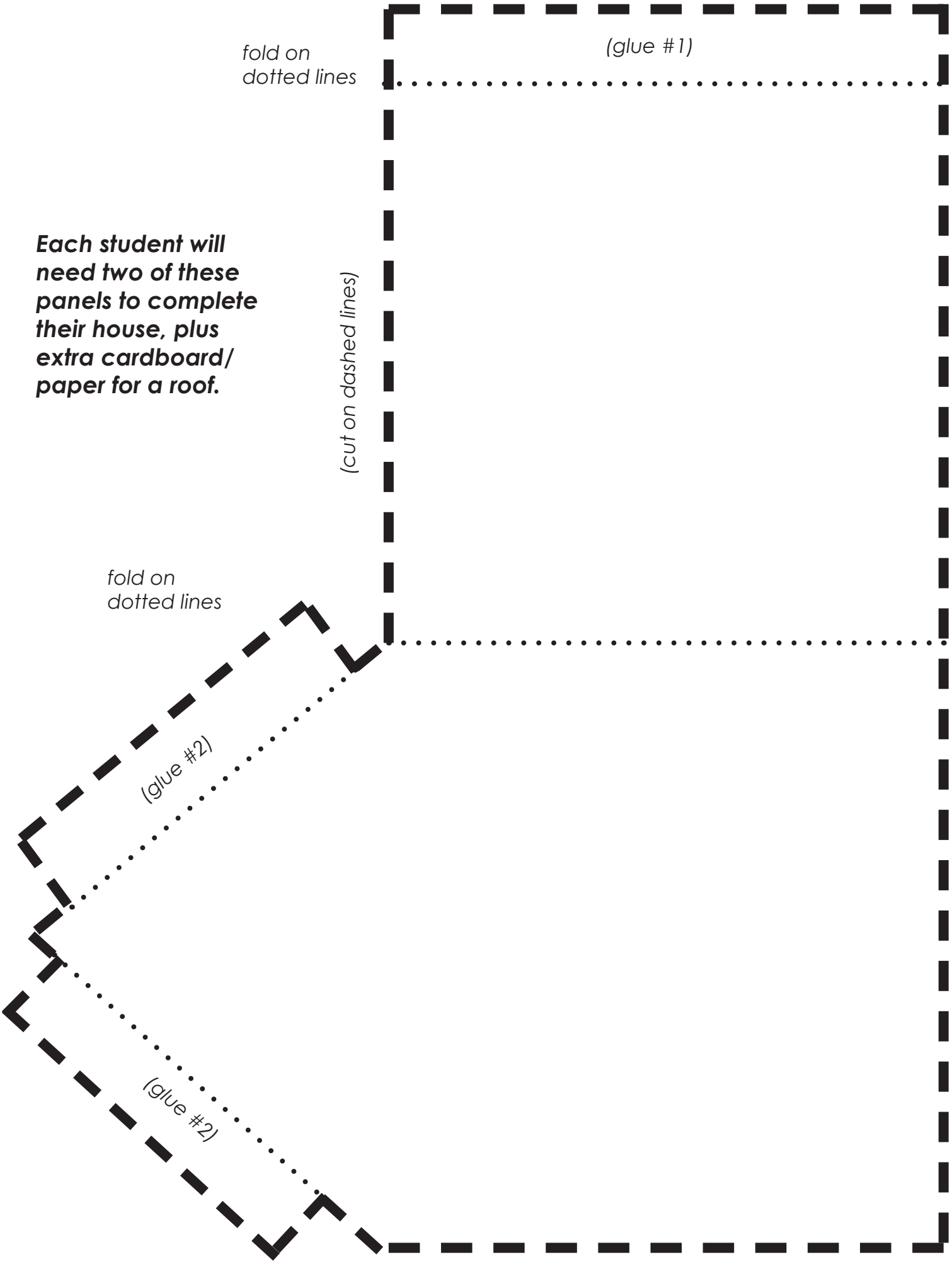
Trace or photocopy the house pattern provided on the next page onto lightweight cardboard or heavy construction paper. You will need two identical pattern pieces for each student, as well as a half sheet for a roof.

On the house pieces, allow the children to draw and then cut out windows, doors or patterns, as pictured below.

Cut out pieces of tissue paper to cover the windows, doors and other openings the students just cut out. Glue the tissue paper into place onto the sides that will be insides of the house. This will produce a stained glass effect. Cut out and fold the pieces as indicated. Lightly glue where indicated and press the folded tabs of the two house pieces together to form a square whole.

Fold a sheet of 5.5" x 8" paper in half to form a roof and attach with glue to the roof tabs. Once the glue has dried, carefully lift the house to slide a lit battery-operated tea light beneath it. Consider adding a cross to the roof to make your house a church!

When finished, display all the fanals for others to see.



Each student will need two of these panels to complete their house, plus extra cardboard/ paper for a roof.

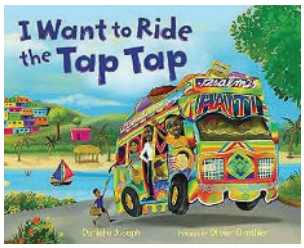
STORY TIME

PICTURE BOOKS ABOUT HAITI

Haitians love to hear and to tell a good story! Storytellers begin by asking, "Krik?" If the listeners want to hear a story, they answer back, "Krak!"

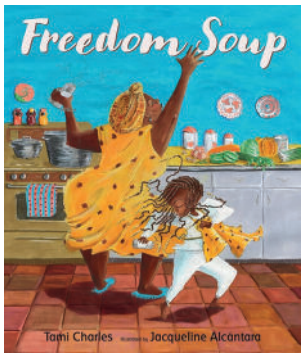
My Day with the Panye
By Tami Charles

In the hills above Port-au-Prince, a young girl named Fallon wants more than anything to carry a large woven basket to the market, just like her Manman. As she watches her mother wrap her hair in a mouchwa, Fallon tries to twist her own braids into a scarf and balance the empty panye atop her head, but realizes it's much harder than she thought.



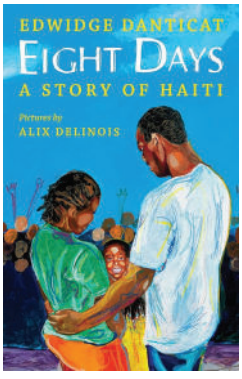
I Want to Ride the Tap Tap
By Danielle Joseph

This brightly illustrated story tells the tale of a young Haitian boy named Claude, who desperately wants to ride the taxi-bus service—called a tap tap. This day-of-the-week picture book also teaches a bit of the Haitian Creole language and introduces readers to the vibrant streets and culture of Haiti.



Freedom Soup
By Tami Charles

Every year, Haitians all over the world ring in the new year by eating a special soup, a tradition dating back to the Haitian Revolution. This year, Ti Gran is teaching Belle how to make the soup — Freedom Soup — just like she was taught when she was a little girl. Together, they dance and clap as they prepare the holiday feast, and Ti Gran tells Belle about the history of the soup, the history of Belle's family, and the history of Haiti, where Belle's family is from.



Eight Days: A Story of Haiti
By Edwidge Danticat

Recommended for upper elementary. After his miraculous rescue in one of Haiti's earthquakes, Junior (age 7) tells his survival story of being trapped in the rubble for 8 days. He tells how his memories and imagination kept him alive, as he revisits scenes of playing soccer with his friends, helping Papa at the barbershop, and singing a solo in church.

DOMINOS

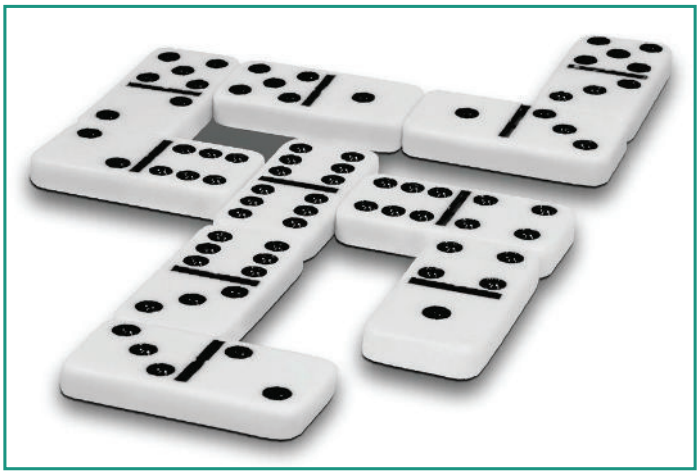
Dominos are a big favorite across all generations in Haiti! Just as there are many games to play with cards, there are many different kinds of domino games. Following are simple beginner rules, but many different variations can be found online.

Place the dominos face down on the table and gently mix them up to "shuffle." Players then each draw an equal number of dominoes and any odd ones left are discarded (for example, 3 players using a double 6 set, or 28 pieces, will have 9 dominos each and one will be left out of play). The leftover pieces are left face down so they may not be seen.

Each player looks at his or her hand carefully so that opponents can't see which dominos they hold.

The aim in this game is to be the first player to get all their dominoes on the table. Generally speaking, players must match the number of dots (called pips) on one end of their dominos to the dominos in play on the table. If a player matches a double (i.e., a domino with two sets of four dots on each end), that domino can be turned sideways, and players may play a matching domino on all 4 sides of the double.

The player with the highest double tile (i.e., a double six, 6-6) goes first. The first player places a domino face up on the table. If the same player can match a second domino then he/she is allowed to do so and can go on playing so long as they keep joining dominoes with matching numbers.



When a player is stuck and cannot match a domino, play passes to the next player who in his turn tries to get rid of as many dominoes as he can. The first person with all their dominoes out on the table is the winner. Play continues for second and third place, but if no one can go, then runners-up are decided by the total value of the pips on the dominoes left in their hands. The one with the lowest score wins the second or third place.

GAMES WE HAVE IN COMMON

Haitian children enjoy playing a lot of the same games American children play, including mancala (called warri in Haiti), jump rope, hopscotch, basketball and especially soccer!

Another favorite is Osselets (pronounced oss-LAY), which is like the game of jacks, but some children in Haiti play it with goat knuckle bones! Your students can play with jacks or small stones. To play, the child tosses 6 stones on the ground, then swipes one up. He or she then throws that stone into the air and before it lands, swipes up a second stone and catches the first stone. Children compete to see who can swipe up the most stones without dropping or missing any.

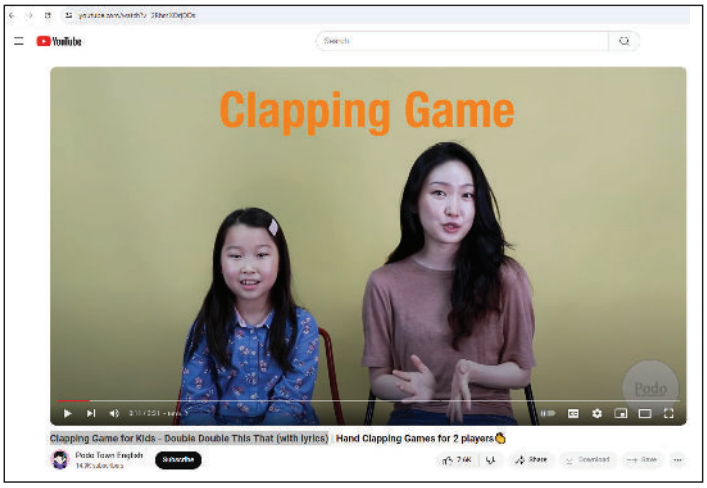
CLAPPING GAMES

In Haiti, one of the most popular types of games, clapping, involves no equipment at all. Played by girls and boys alike, clapping games involve two or more children clapping their hands in a repeated pattern, sometimes while singing (like "See, See My Playmate" and "Miss Mary Mack" from American playgrounds).

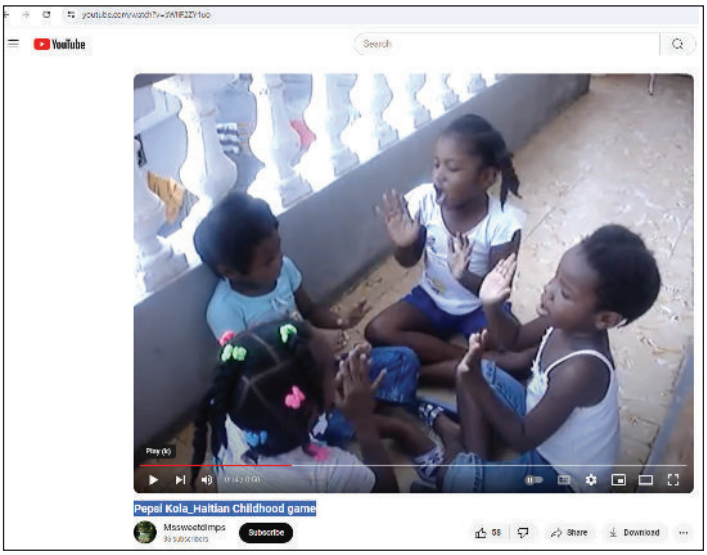
If you played clapping games as a child, you can show them how to begin. If not, a great place to start is with a video demonstration from YouTube. "Podo Town English" has an easy-to-follow demonstration called "Clapping Game for Kids - Double Double This That." Of course, the challenge is always to go a little bit faster, and a little bit faster still!

Haitian children love to up the difficulty\ by playing clapping games with four children! At Youtube, take a look at a video called "Pepsi Kola_Haitian Childhood game," which will clearly demonstrate the clapping pattern for four.

Whether just for fun in your classroom or out on the playground at recess, clapping games offer flexibility, variation, and fun!



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RhmXOrjDDs



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWliF2ZY4uo

BASKET BALANCING RELAY

To transport their goods to the market, or to carry loads of laundry to the riverside, men and women in Haiti balance large baskets on their heads. Teach your class about this method by first experimenting with balancing small baskets on their own heads, and then by having a team relay race in gym class or as part of a classroom party.

Kitchen baskets that are used for serving buns and bread or offering baskets work well for this activity. To assist with balancing, you may also use a lightweight dish towel or scarf to first wind around the child's head, like a crown. The towel/scarf helps keep the basket level.

Directions:

- Split your class into 2 equal teams.
- Give each team a basket filled with lightweight items (a small box of tissues, a white board eraser, etc.). Place the basket on the head of each team's first player.
- Without touching the basket on their heads, each team's player races against the other team to a set point at the other end of the room. The players then pivot, return to their team and hand off the basket to the next person in line.
- If the basket drops at any time, that child must retrieve the spilled items and return back to their team's starting line to begin again.
- The first team with all players who complete the course wins the relay.

RECIPES

The Haitian diet is high in starch. The staple foods are rice, corn, millet and yam (or sweet potatoes). Even though vegetables and tropical fruits grow very well in Haiti's tropical climate, the poor often do not eat their own produce, but instead sell it at the market for income. Meat is a luxury for the wealthy.

To provide calories, sugar is consumed in enormous quantities! Haitians will often pluck stalks of sugarcane right from the field, tear off the leaves, and chew on the stalks to enjoy the sweet juice. While it's not fresh picked from the field, you may enjoy sharing some whole sugarcane with your students, purchased online from providers like Amazon.

JUS PAPAYE

Jus papaye is a Haitian take on a fruit smoothie!

Equipment: blender

Ingredients: 1 cup fresh papaya*
6 oz. evaporated milk
3 Tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 1/2 c. ice cubes
pinch of nutmeg
pinch of salt

Directions: Combine all ingredients in a blender and mix until smooth.

* If you cannot find fresh papaya at your grocery store, you can use a cup of sliced banana instead.

FRUIT & NUT PLATE

A wide variety of fruits and nuts are grown in Haiti. To give your students a taste of Haiti, make up a platter of delicious fruits and nuts to share. If possible, bring in the whole fruits so students can see what they look like.

Possible ingredients:

- avocado
- oranges
- mango
- lime
- coconut
- cashews
- almonds
- banana
- pineapple
- papaya
- apricots
- soursop
- peanuts

KIDNEY BEANS & RICE (POIS ET RIS)

Rice and beans is the national dish of Haiti. The amounts of beans and rice Haitians use makes no difference - it always seems to come out delicious!

Equipment: A large pot, such as a Dutch oven
mixing spoon

Ingredients:
1 c. finely chopped bacon, ham or sausage
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped
1/2 tsp. thyme
2 c. kidney beans (canned with liquid)
1 c. hot water
2 c. cooked white rice
salt and pepper to taste

Directions: Heat the bacon, ham or sausage in the large pot over medium-high heat. Add garlic and thyme and stir continually until the meat browns.

Add the beans with the liquid, water, cooked rice, salt and pepper and mix well. Reduce heat to low and cook for about 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Cover, remove from heat and allow flavors to blend for about 10 minutes before serving.

SWEET POTATO PUDDING CAKE

Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

Equipment: Medium mixing bowl
mixing spoon or electric mixer
greased or no-stick 9-inch cake pan
cooling rack

Ingredients:
1 c. cooked, mashed sweet potatoes, fresh or canned
2 ripe bananas, mashed
1 c. coconut milk
2 Tbsp. sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
3 egg yolks, beaten (no whites)
3 Tbsp. finely chopped raisins (optional)
1-2 Tbsp. brown sugar

Directions: Using a spoon or electric mixer, blend sweet potatoes and bananas in a mixing bowl. Add milk, sugar, salt, egg yolks and raisins; mix well. Pour batter into the cake pan and sprinkle the top with brown sugar.

Bake for 45 minutes or until cake is set, firm to the touch, and the top is golden brown. Remove from the oven and cool before sharing. May serve with whipped cream.

HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES

COLUMBUS DAY

Did you know that Christopher Columbus and his crew landed in Haiti on December 6, 1492? If your school recognizes Columbus Day, be sure to tie in your mission project on that day! Columbus named the island Hispaniola, or "Little Spain," and claimed it for the Spanish Crown of Castile.

HAITIAN REVOLUTION

The French arrived in Haiti in the 17th century, importing slave labor from Africa as workers to replace the natives, who had been largely exterminated by the colonizers. Resisting their exploitation, Haitians revolted against the French from 1791-1804. The Haitian Revolution was the first successful large-scale revolt by enslaved people in modern history, and it sent shockwaves through the Western colonial world.

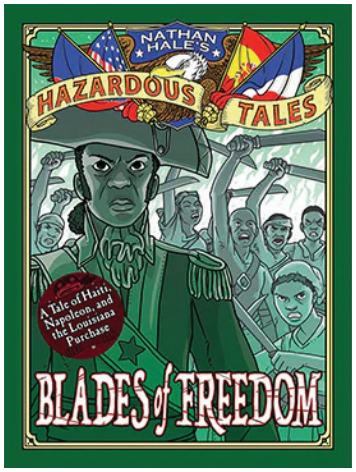
In 1802, Napoleon attempted to re-instate slavery. His troops succeeded in much of the empire, but the Haitians rebuffed French armies and claimed its independence in 1804. The historic moment was symbolised by adopting what had been the indigenous name for the island of Hispaniola: Haiti.

TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE

Toussaint Louverture — the best-known leader of the Haitian Revolution — is a national hero in Haiti. British and French contemporaries sometimes viewed him as a counterpart to Napoleon Bonaparte.

Louverture became a powerful general leading Black forces against French colonists and rivals in Haiti. He repeatedly negotiated with changing governments in both revolutionary France and the Caribbean. On Feb. 4, 1801, the seventh anniversary of the French abolition of slavery, Louverture summoned an assembly to write a constitution - a challenge to French control.

Napoleon soon sought to re-assert French authority and to restore slavery. In 1802, his brother-in-law General Charles Leclerc led an expedition to re-establish slavery in the French Caribbean. Louverture fought back. Under the pretence of talks, Louverture was kidnapped and deported to France, where he died in a prison in 1803. He did not live to see Haitian Independence in 1804.



Junior high students can read more about Toussaint in this adventure graphic novel:
Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: Blades of Freedom

HAITIAN PROVERBS

Haitians are known for their proverbs (simple sayings with deeper meanings), which have been passed along for many generations. Here are a few sayings that Haitians still sprinkle into their conversations. Write a few sentences that explain what you think each proverb means.

1. Many hands make the load lighter. _____

_____

2. A small dog is brave in front of its master's house. _____

_____

_____

3. A little tiger is still a tiger. _____

_____

_____

4. Before you climb a tree, see if you can climb down.

_____

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5. A leaky house can fool the sun, but it can't fool the rain. _____

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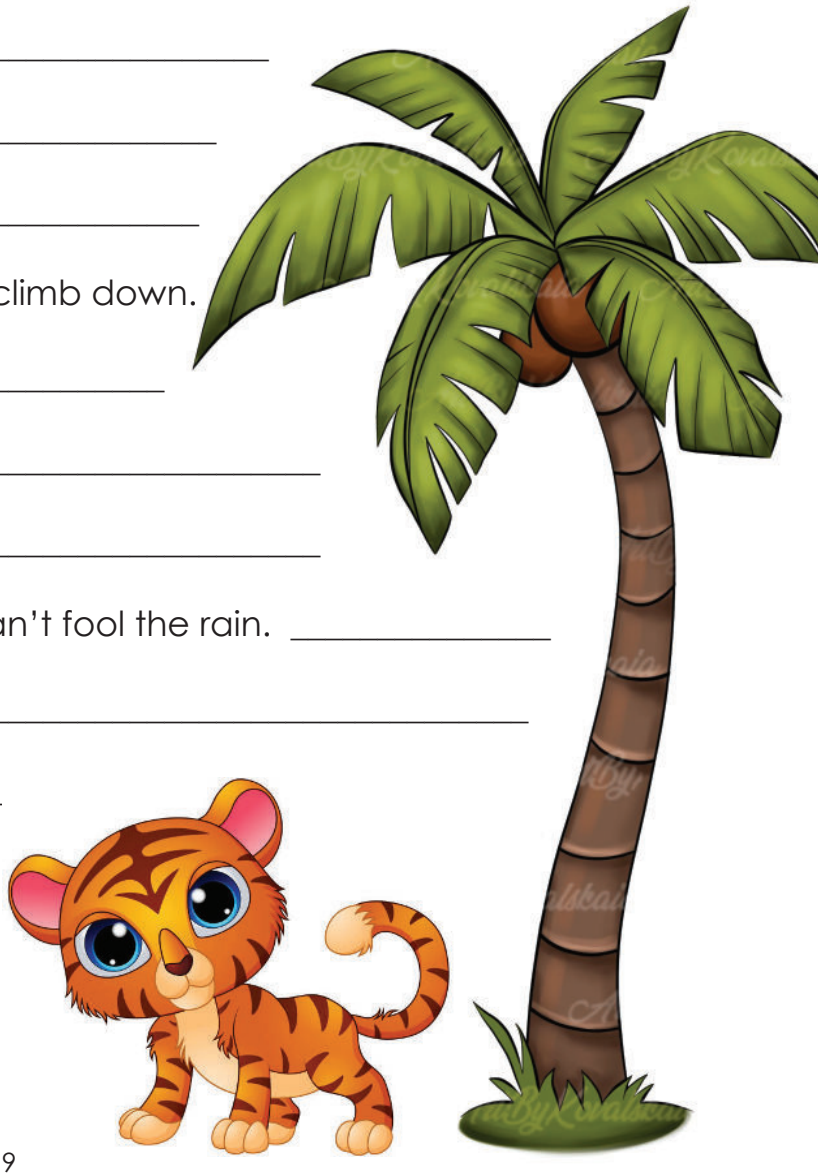

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