

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

## Island Nation of Haiti Reels After Earthquake Causes 'Enormous' Damage

01/13/2010

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june10/haiti\\_01-13.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/jan-june10/haiti_01-13.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

**1. What happened in Haiti January 12, 2010?**

**2. Why did so many buildings collapse?**

**3. What is the relationship between Haiti and the United States?**

**4. How can Americans help the situation in Haiti?**

**5. What happened in Haiti in 1804?**

**6. Who was "Papa Doc"?**

**7. Who was Jean-Bertrand Aristide?**

**8. What is the Gonave microplate?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Why was Haiti ill-prepared for this earthquake?**

**2. What can the United States and other countries do to help Haiti?**

**3. What can individual Americans do? Research some other aid organizations beyond the one mentioned in the story.**

**4. Why does such dire poverty exist in Haiti?**

5. Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive told the NewsHour that "We want to get out of misery to get into poverty." [http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/social\\_issues/jan-june10/haiti\\_01-11.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/social_issues/jan-june10/haiti_01-11.html) What does that say about the situation in the country?

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra ([extra@newshour.org](mailto:extra@newshour.org)). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.