

Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

After Two Years, Haiti Still Struggles to Rebuild

01/12/2012

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/world/july-dec12/haiti_01-12.html

Estimated Time: One 45-minute class period with possible extension

[Student Worksheet](#) (reading comprehension and discussion questions without answers)

PROCEDURE

1. WARM UP

Use initiating questions to introduce the topic and find out how much your students know.

2. MAIN ACTIVITY

Have students read NewsHour Extra's feature story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions on the student handout.

3. DISCUSSION

Use discussion questions to encourage students to think about how the issues outlined in the story affect their lives and express and debate different opinions.]

INITIATING QUESTIONS

1. Find Haiti on a map. What do you know about the country?

2. What is an earthquake?

3. Have you or anyone you know lived through a natural disaster like an earthquake or hurricane? Describe the experience.

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS – [Student Worksheet](#)

1. What date marks the two-year anniversary of the catastrophic earthquake that struck Haiti?
January 12

2. What did the earthquake measure on the Richter scale, a device used to rate the amount of energy an earthquake releases?
7.0

3. According to the story, the earthquake killed approximately how many people?
An estimated 316,000 people

4. How much rubble does the United Nations estimate has been left by the earthquake?
The United Nations estimates that 50% of the rubble left by the earthquake still litters the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

5. What percent of Haitians live below the poverty line?
70 percent of the population

6. What is the minimum wage in Haiti?
\$5 a day

7. According to the story, most Haitians survive on much money per day?

Most Haitians survive on less than \$2 per day

8. How much did Americans pledge to Haiti disaster relief efforts?

In the United States, Americans pledged more than a billion dollars to Haiti disaster relief efforts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

- 1. Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world. How might a natural disaster like an earthquake affect a poor country compared to a rich country?**
- 2. What are some of the challenges Haiti has faced during the rebuilding process?**
- 3. Millions of dollars worldwide have been raised to assist the Haitian people. If you were in control of those funds, how would you spend them?**
- 4. What are some ways that you or your classmates can help the people of Haiti?**
- 5. Do you suppose aid money is going toward the wrong activities in Haiti? How can charities keep track of money so that cities and towns are able to use it to their benefit?**

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). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.