

Cuba at the Crossroads

Subject: Social Studies, Spanish

Level: Grades 11-12

1 Unit (3 Lessons) -2 weeks

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Introduction

In December 2014, President Obama announced that the United States will begin to normalize relations with Cuba. In his statement, the President acknowledged that the United States and Cuba have a complicated history. In *Cuba at the Crossroads*, students will unravel some of these complications by studying Cuban history and culture through the arts as expressed by a Cuban-American musician, a US cartoonist, a Cuban graphic artist and a Cuban-American poet.

Goals

Students will be able to:

- identify the push-pull factors of Cuban migration to the United States
- explain the causes and effects of the Special Period of Cuban history
- recognize the challenges of normalizing relations between Cuba and the United States
- analyze and evaluate music lyrics and art as they relate to Cuban culture, history and politics.

Essential Questions

- How do artists express their most important socio-political concerns?
- How can we learn about history and culture through the arts?
- What are the push-pull factors of migration?
- How do immigrants express patriotic sentiments?
- What can we learn about Cuban history and culture from a foreigner's perspective?
- What lessons from the past can be applied to Cuba's dependency on other countries?
- How do nations bridge differences and forge new relationships?

Lesson 1 90 Milas Eleguá

Activity 1 Biography of Gloria Estefan

Activity 2 Homework- *Harvest of Empire: Cubans as Special Refugees*

Activity 3 Homework- the Del Rosario Family

Activity 4 The Cuban beat

Activity 4 Spanish Version

Activity 5 Essay

Activity 5 Spanish Version

Focus: Cuban culture, migration, music; Afro-Cuban contributions to music and religion

Perspective: Cuban-American singer Gloria Estefan

Lesson 2 Cuba: The Reality Tour

Activity 1 *Cuba: The Reality Tour*

Activity 2 The Special Period of Cuban History

Activity 3 *Cuba Uncovered: Zippy Goes to Cuba*

Activity 4 Spanish Version Cuba: The Reality Tour

Focus: Cuba during the 1990's Special Period of economic crisis after the dissolution of the Soviet Union

Perspective: American cartoonist Bill Griffith

Lesson 3 Superheroes of the 21st Century

Activity 1 Superheroes

Activity 2 *Los tres magnificos*

Activity 3 Democracy Now: Cut Lose the Shackles

Activity 4 Dreams: Challenges and Progress

Activity 5 "Matters of the Sea"

Activity 5 Spanish Version "Cosas del mar"

Focus: Normalization of US relations with Cuba

Perspective: Cuban artist Pablo Borges; Cuban-American poet Richard Blanco

Assessments

Student response sheets

Class discussion

Presentation

Essay

Foreign Language Standards and Benchmarks

- 1 Students will communicate in languages other than English
 - 1.1 Students engage in conversation , provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions
 - 1.2 Students understand and interpret written language on a variety of topics
 - 1.3 Students understand and interpret spoken language on a variety of topics
 - 1.4 Students convey information, concepts and ideas to listeners for a variety of purposes
 - 1.5 Students convey information, concepts, and ideas to readers for a variety of purposes
- 2 Students will develop insight into the nature of language and culture
 - 2.1 Students recognize that different languages use different patterns to communicate and can apply this knowledge to their own language
 - 2.2 Students recognize that cultures use different patterns of interaction and can apply this knowledge to their own culture
- 3 Students will gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures
 - 3.1 Students understand the relationship between the perspectives (meanings, attitudes, ideas, values) and practices (patterns of social interaction) of cultures studied and use this knowledge to interact effectively in cultural contexts

- 3.2 Students understand the relationship between the perspectives (meanings, values, ideas) and products/contributions (books, tools, food, art, laws, music, games) of the cultures studied
- 4 Students will connect with other disciplines and acquire information
 - 4.1 Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through foreign languages
 - 4.2 Students acquire information and perspectives through authentic materials in the foreign languages and within the cultures
- 5 Students will participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world
 - 5.1 Students apply language skills and cultural knowledge within and beyond the school setting

English Language Arts Standards » History/Social Studies » Grade 11-12

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.7 Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g. visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1 Key Ideas and Details

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.6 Craft and Structure

Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text in which the rhetoric is particularly effective, analyzing how style and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness or beauty of the text.

Credits and Permissions

Lesson 1 90 Millas Eleguá

Activity 1:

Debry and Le Moyne Map of Florida and Cuba -Floridae Americae Provinciae Recens & Exactissima Descriptio Auctore Iacobo Le

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3A1591_De_Bry_and_Le_Moyne_Map_of_Florida_and_Cuba_-_Geographicus_-_Florida-debry-1591.jpg

Activity 2:

Balseros <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dukeunivlibraries/3678067217>

Activity 4:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ABata_drums.jpg

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ABongos_\(public_domain\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ABongos_(public_domain).jpg)

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AMarimbula_player.jpg

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3A2006-06-03_Congas1.JPG

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AConga's_01.jpg

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AGuiro_cubano.jpg

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3ATres_cubano.jpg
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3APuente_timbales.JPG

Weisenbach, E. Benny Moré

Weisenbach, E. Los Muñequitos de Matanzas

Weisenbach, E. La Virgen de La Caridad del Cobre

Weisenbach, E. Los Mogotes, Valle de Viñales Cuba

Lesson 2 Cuba the Reality Tour

Special thanks to Bill Griffith for permission to use *Cuba: The Reality Tour* and *Cuba Uncovered: Zippy Goes to Cuba*.

Lesson 3 Superheroes of the 21st Century

Special thanks to Pablo Borges for permission to use *Los tres magnificos*.
Photograph- Weisenbach, E. US Embassy, Havana