



10162 FAMILIES OF PUERTO RICO

MASTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC., 2000

Grade Level: 3-7

30 mins.

DESCRIPTION

Follows Jose and Laura, young Puerto Ricans, through a typical day. Jose chronicles his life in a city; Laura narrates her life on a farm. Accompanies each child through a typical day from morning wake-up call to breakfast, school, afternoon activities, chores, dinner, and bed. Shows preparing for a hurricane and growing bananas. Shares facts about Puerto Rican history, politics, and ties to the United States.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Geography–Human Systems

- Standard: Understands the nature and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics
 - ◆ Benchmark: Knows the similarities and differences in characteristics of culture in different regions (e.g., in terms of environment and resources, technology, food, shelter, social organization, beliefs and customs, schooling, what girls and boys are allowed to do) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 2.)
 - ◆ Benchmark: Understands cultural change (in terms of, e.g., the role of women in society, the role of children in society, clothing styles, modes of transportation, food preferences, types of housing, attitudes toward the environment and resources) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 2.)

Subject Area: Geography–Physical Systems

- Standard: Knows the physical processes that shape patterns on Earth's surface
 - ◆ Benchmark: Knows the consequences of a specific physical process operating on Earth's surface (e.g., effects of an extreme weather phenomenon such as a hurricane's impact on a coastal ecosystem, effects of heavy rainfall on hill slopes, effects of the continued movement of Earth's tectonic plates) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To present a brief overview of two Puerto Rican children in their daily lives.
2. To compare life in modern Puerto Rico of a young girl with that of a young boy.
3. To emphasize the impact weather conditions, specifically a hurricane, can have on all residents in Puerto Rico.

VOCABULARY

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Caribbean Sea | 8. kidney | 15. tobacco |
| 2. commonwealth | 9. machete | 16. tourists |
| 3. coquis | 10. manners | 17. tropical |
| 4. erosion | 11. patchouli | 18. veterinarian |
| 5. fertilizer | 12. private | 19. weigh |
| 6. hurricane | 13. Spanish | |
| 7. independent | 14. sugarcane | |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Find Puerto Rico on a map or globe. Locate San Juan and the North Central region of the island where Laura lives.
2. Discuss good manners children should display in America. From a group discussion choose and record the five most important manners. Save for reference after the video.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. How does a potential hurricane affect Puerto Ricans' daily lives? What does Jose's family do to prepare for a hurricane?
2. Why do tourists like to come to Puerto Rico? What are some tourist attractions here in the United States?
3. What does the name "Puerto Rico" mean? Explain Puerto Rico's history with Spain and with the United States.
4. What does it mean when Jose says that Puerto Ricans would rather be safe than sorry? Name personal examples of being more safe than sorry.
5. Discuss why some schools have rules to wear uniforms.
6. Retell the three perspectives Laura gives on Puerto Rico being a commonwealth of the United States. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of each.
7. How can more bananas grow after the banana plant is cut? What happens to the cuttings?
8. What are the pros and cons of growing flowers to make money? Name practical and impractical crops to grow on a farm. Cite reasons for each.
9. How is patchouli helpful to farms?
10. How do ads on TV try to make people buy things? Analyze how popular TV ads do this successfully.
11. Why do people in Puerto Rico welcome coquis into their homes?
12. Recall why Laura's bed is in the living room. Discuss viewers' experiences when their living quarters were temporarily disrupted or changed. Tell a brief story about it.



13. Explain why Puerto Rico is a mixture of many cultures. Compare this with America's multicultural societies.

Applications and Activities

1. Find the population of Puerto Rico in an atlas. Compare the per capita population of Puerto Rico with other world islands.
2. What is a commonwealth? Define how a citizen in Puerto Rico is different from a citizen in the U.S. Research other commonwealths of the U.S. and other countries.
3. Review the list of manners generated in BEFORE SHOWING. Compare them with Jose's list of manners.
 - a. Don't look adults in the eye.
 - b. Don't stare.
 - c. Don't show anger in front of strangers.
 - d. Don't call older people by their first names.
 - e. Don't yell.
 - f. Don't enter or leave a room without permission.
4. Research hurricanes. Find out how and where they form and strike and when the hurricane season is.
5. What other crops grow readily in the tropics besides sugarcane and tobacco? What are Puerto Rico's main exports?
6. Research the following topics: coquis, bananas, islands, the Caribbean, tobacco, sugarcane, animals of Puerto Rico. Make and share picture posters with labels and captions explaining the information.
7. If appropriate to the local area, set up a rain gauge. Chart rain amounts for a day, a week, and a month. Compare the numbers with Puerto Rico's rainfall for the same month.
8. Practice peeling an orange the same way Laura's mother did to use the orange itself as a cup.
9. Create Puerto Rico postcards.
 - a. On 5" x 7" index cards, draw pictures of Puerto Rico.
 - b. On the reverse side, write a short summary of the picture.
 - c. Send the postcards through a mock post office to other students.



CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [Andres Orosco of Mexico #3434](#)
- [Brazil: Breno and His Dolphin #8653](#)
- [Guatemala #9065](#)

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **ISLANDS OF THE WORLD**

<http://www.henry.k12.ga.us/pges/kid-pages/islands/default.htm>

A Web page for kids created by kids. Click the link to Puerto Rico to find basic facts about this country.

- **BORICUA KIDS**

<http://www.elboricua.com/BoricuaKids.html>

Check out this simple yet thorough Web site for both kids and teachers. It includes two maps of Puerto Rico, a fact sheet, and an introduction. It also has links to coquis, Taino people, rain forests, and lesson guides for teachers.

- **HURRICANES**

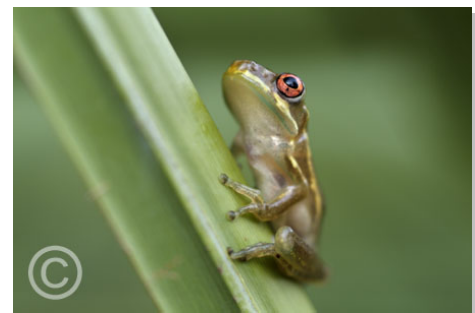
<http://www.fema.gov/kids/hurr.htm>

Everything you want kids to know about hurricanes in a kid-friendly, informative Web site. Information from defining and tracking a hurricane, to a Kid Activity Survival Kit, to photos, storm history, and much more. Great for class reports.

- **COQUI FROGS**

<http://ltmtnele.tripod.com/elyunque/id7.html>

Photographs of these tiny creatures who reside in Puerto Rico. This photographer has dozens of other photos of Puerto Rico as well. Just click on the links at the top right of the screen.



- **SEARCH PUERTO RICO!**

<http://www.elyunque.com/Photos.htm>

This Web site features Puerto Rico's "beauty spots." Scroll down for the menu listings. In the Photo Gallery, click the "El Yunque Rainforest" link for a slide show of Puerto Rico's forests, or choose the "History of Puerto Rico" link to obtain information regarding Puerto Rico's past. Contains links to other photo pages and topics of interest in Puerto Rico.