



**#3620**

## **INSIDE CASTRO'S CUBA**

Grade Levels: 9-13+

51 minutes

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### **DESCRIPTION**

Castro's Cuba faces massive problems since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Despite 35 years of socialist government and major societal improvements, the country finds itself isolated and without many outside resources. Identifies some of the problems and what Castro is doing to correct them. Interviews with Cubans reflect their sense of patriotism and reality.

### **ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

#### **Subject Area: Civics**

- ◆ Standard: Understands the impact of significant political and nonpolitical developments on the United States and other nations.
  - Benchmark: Understands the effects that significant American political developments have on other nations (e.g., immigration policies; opposition to Communism; promotion of human rights; foreign trade; economic, military, and humanitarian aid) (See Instructional Goal #2)
  - Benchmark: Understands the effects that significant world political developments have on the United States (e.g., the French, Russian, and Chinese Revolutions; rise of nationalism; World Wars I and II; decline of colonialism; terrorism; multiplication of nation-states and the proliferation of conflict within them; the emergence of regional organizations such as the European Union) (See Instructional Goals #2, #3)



### **INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS**

1. To examine the recent history of Cuba under Castro's rule and the effect of his governing style on the people and economy of the country.
2. To assess the political, social and economic ramifications of the economic sanctions towards Cuba.
3. To hypothesize reasons for the mass exodus of Cubans to the United States.

## VOCABULARY

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|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Communism    | 10. blockade/sanctions |
| 2. revolution   | 11. rations            |
| 3. Soviet Union | 12. queue              |
| 4. subsidies    | 13. tourism            |
| 5. fiasco       | 14. free enterprise    |
| 6. invasion     | 15. pharmaceuticals    |
| 7. propaganda   | 16. sabotage           |
| 8. Cold War     | 17. exile              |
| 9. visa         | 18. dregs              |

## BEFORE SHOWING

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1. Discuss the different types of government: Communist, Democratic, dictatorship, and others.
2. Locate Cuba on a map of North America. Determine the distance from Cuba to Florida.
3. Discuss the major demographics of Cuba.
4. Briefly summarize Castro's rise to power in 1959.

## DURING SHOWING

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### Discussion Items and Questions

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause after the description of Cuba under Batista's rule.
  - a. Summarize what life was like.
  - b. Explain what Castro did for the country.
3. Pause after the explanation of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Clarify, if necessary, the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis.
4. Pause after the explanation of Castro's governing plan.
  - a. What was Castro's new idea?
  - b. How could it both help and hinder the country?

## AFTER SHOWING

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### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Describe what makes Cuba a Communist country.
2. What was Cuba like before Castro?
  - a. What promises did Castro make?
  - b. Has he fulfilled those promises?
3. Discuss the reasons people are fleeing from Cuba to the United States. Why don't more people come legally? Who should shoulder the blame for this situation?

4. Describe the different views of Castro from inside Cuba. Why does such a disparity in opinions exist?
5. Explain the state of health care and education in Cuba. How have these changed during the reign of Castro?
6. Explain the significance of each event:
  - a. The Bay of Pigs--1961
  - b. The Cuban Missile Crisis--1962
7. How did the fall of the Soviet Union affect Cuba?
8. How has the United States reacted to Cuba under Castro's leadership?
  - a. Describe how the economic sanctions have affected Cuba.
  - b. Theorize why the United States won't lift these sanctions.
9. Compare and contrast the main attitude of the young people in Cuba with that of the young people in the United States.
10. What are the advantages and disadvantages of Castro's new scheme to help Cuba's economy? Analyze this in regards to agriculture and tourism.
11. What types of breakthroughs has Cuba made in pharmaceuticals? What have they done with this knowledge?
12. What does the future hold for Castro's revolution?
13. Discuss the following Cuban philosophy: "The state will become so strong that it can allow individuals to do what they want."
14. What is Cuba's attitude towards the United States?



### Applications and Activities

1. Obtain several newspaper clippings of recent events in Cuba.
  - a. Summarize each article.
  - b. Determine what common theme, if any, runs through the articles.
  - c. Decide if the article is pro-Cuba, anti-Cuba or neutral.
2. Research and write a report on Castro's rise to power in Cuba.
3. Structure a debate on the economic sanctions the United States has imposed on Cuba. Formulate arguments for and against these sanctions.
4. Research the effect that the 2 million Cuban immigrants have on the economy of Florida and the relations between the United States and Cuba.
5. Compare and contrast Cuba under the rule of Batista and Castro.
6. Compose a description (or newspaper article) of a journey made by the Cuban boat people. Use current media stories for examples.
7. Examine the propaganda efforts of both the United States and Cuba. How effective are these efforts?
8. Imagine being an advisor to Castro. The goal is to make Cuba an independent and self-sufficient state. How can this goal be accomplished?
9. Construct a timeline of events in Cuba during Castro's rule, 1959--present.

## RELATED RESOURCES

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### Captioned Media Program

- Assignment: China #3105
- Assignment: India #3106
- Cuba #2462
- Forms of Government: What's the Score? #3467
- Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Khrushchev #2091

### 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.

- **CASTRO SPEECH DATABASES**

<http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/cb/cuba/castro.html>

Interested in what Castro has to say? This site features most of Castro's speeches in chronological order.

- **CUBA**

[www.rose-hulman.edu/~delacova/cuba.htm](http://www.rose-hulman.edu/~delacova/cuba.htm)

Links to a plethora of information on Cuba. Mostly in the form of newspaper articles. Broken down into subject headings.

- **OUT THERE NEWS: EXPLORE CASTRO'S CUBA**

[www.megastories.com/cuba/](http://www.megastories.com/cuba/)

An average site with information on Castro, Cuba, rafters and a short quiz. Easily navigated.

- **VFW MAGAZINE—CASTRO'S COMMUNIST CUBA**

[www.vfw.org/magazine/jun98/20.shtml](http://www.vfw.org/magazine/jun98/20.shtml)

Another opinion on Castro's rule in Cuba by the Veterans of Foreign Wars magazine. A good opportunity to compare information from the video.