

#9067

CUBA: HAVANA

MARYKNOLL WORLD PRODUCTIONS

1999

Grade Levels: 4-8

14 minutes



DESCRIPTION

Fourteen-year-old Eduardo lives in a barrio in Havana, Cuba, and shares his viewpoint of Cuba's political history. He also reflects on the support his family gives him, activities they enjoy, transportation, and his dreams.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Geography--Environment and Society

- Standard: Understands how physical systems affect human systems
 - Benchmark: Knows the ways in which human systems develop in response to conditions in the physical environment (e.g., patterns of land use, economic livelihoods, architectural styles of buildings, building materials, flows of traffic, recreation activities)

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)

Subject Area: Geography--Places and Regions

- Standard: Understands the physical and human characteristics of place
 - Benchmark: Knows the human characteristics of places (e.g., cultural characteristics such as religion, language, politics, technology, family structure, gender; population characteristics; land uses; levels of development)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To introduce the country, geography, and people of Cuba.
2. To dramatize the life of a 14-year-old boy who lives in Havana, Cuba.
3. To examine the history of the old and new Havana.
4. To illustrate that some celebrations are similar across national boundaries, but some are unique to one country or people.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Write down the name of the teenager “Eduardo Bonilla Hernández” and his barrio “Cerro” on the blackboard.
2. Find Cuba on a map and its capital.
3. Do you know any Cuban people in your school, city or state? What language do they speak?
4. Do you know any Cuban entertainers or sport figures?
5. What do you know of Cuba from reading the newspapers? From talking with people, or with your parents?
6. Cuba is a communist state. What do you know of communism? Do you know any communists? What do you feel about communism?

AFTER SHOWING

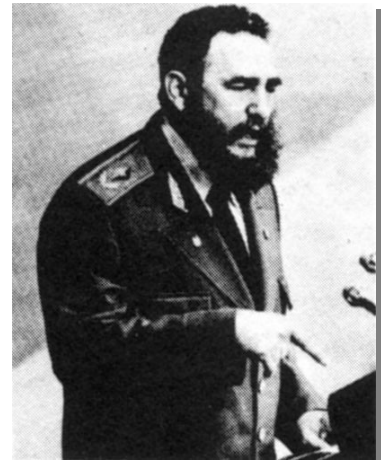
1. Eduardo has a bike. What does that tell you about him?
2. Did he say or do something that surprised you?
3. Do you know how to play dominoes? Can someone teach you?
4. Cuba was “discovered by Columbus” on one of his voyages. What do you know about the history of Cuba?
5. Cuba fought for their independence from Spain—what part did José Martí play in their struggle?
6. Havana is one of the most beautiful cities of Latin America. From what you saw in the video would you be interested in visiting it?
7. What do you think of the political differences in Eduardo’s parents—and how they work to resolve them?
8. From what you saw of Eduardo’s drawings, what do you think his chances are for going to art school?
9. People either love Fidel Castro—or hate him. Why do think that is so?

SUMMARY

Eduardo Bonilla Hernández is 14 years old. He, his twin brother and sister, and parents live in a working neighborhood of Havana called Cerro.

Eduardo introduces us to the city of Havana, both the old and the new. He also introduces us to a deeper knowledge of his unusual parents and their special value in preparing their children for the future. They make sure each child has a hobby and learns a musical instrument or something useful in life. They promote the interests of their children by telling them that their hobbies will help them greatly later on in life.

The video takes us to the house of Eduardo’s aunt where she celebrates her birthday with a Santería ceremony, popular among African Cubans. We visit a farmer’s market and see the food that the land produces. The video ends with a visit to the local church.



RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Cuba #2462
- Cuba: Pinar del Rio #9068
- Inside Castro's Cuba #3620



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.

- **CUBA**

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/cu.html>

From the CIA World Factbook, presents information on Cuba, such as a brief background on its history, economy, government; its geography; statistics on its literacy, birth and death, ethnic groups, and other rates; and more.

- **CUBAN EXPERIENCE**

<http://library.thinkquest.org/18355/?tqskipl=1&tqtime=0128>

A ThinkQuest site, click on one of the several links to read about Cuban culture, current events, history, people, places, politics. Take a virtual tour of Cuba or get involved in interactive activities!

- **AFROCUBAWEB**

<http://afrocubaweb.com/>

"Many people don't know that an estimated 70% of Cubans have African ancestors..." This site introduces different aspects of the African cultures of Cuba, such as music, art, theater, festivals, poets, and authors. Lists conferences and organizations that teach workshops and classes on African cultures of Cuba.

- **CUBAN HERITAGE DIGITAL COLLECTION**

<http://www.library.miami.edu/chcdigital/chcdigital.html>

Several collections of letters, documents, reports, and photographs from various periods in Cuba's history. Includes the Ten Year War; War of Independence; the Bay of Pigs Invasion; and more. From the University of Miami library.

