

****THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC****

Capital = Santo Domingo

Nationality = dominicano(a)

Monetary Unit = El peso

~ **THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** - It is a Democratic Republic. It is part of the island of Hispaniola.

It shares the island with the French-speaking nation, Haiti. Christopher Columbus discovered the island in 1492. His tomb was in the Saint Mary's Cathedral, but it is now in the lighthouse. The Dominican Republic has a population of 9 million people. The main language is Spanish but many speak a local dialect with African words. Dominicans often cut letters off of their words and they speak very quickly!

The majority of the people are Roman Catholic.

There are many mulatos (people of European and African descent). In the Dominican Republic, mulatos make up 73% of the population.

~ **CAPITAL** - The capital is Santo Domingo. Also, it is a main port for trade and tourism. The president is Danilo Medina Sánchez.

~ **INDIGENOUS PEOPLE** - The taínos are the indigenous people of the island. Many live in shacks.

~ **TOURISM** - The Dominican Republic is well known for its tourism. Punta Canta has many resorts, and many cruise ships stop in this country. The Dominicans depend on tourism to survive. There is much poverty and the social systems suffer because of this.

~ **ECONOMY** - Their economy is 65% agriculture. Sugar, gold, silver, tobacco and bananas are main products.

~ **MUSIC** - Merengue and bachata are popular styles of music and they are also popular dances on the island.

~ **FOODS** - El sancocho (a corn and meat soup), los pastelitos (sweet empanadas), el chicharrón (pork rinds), la bandera (a main dish of rice, meat and beans), el cacao (the seed that chocolate comes from) and avocado are popular foods.

~ **SPORTS** - Baseball is the most popular sport. 15% - 20% of the players in the Major Leagues are Dominican. It is also popular to horseback ride, fish and go sailing.

~ **COMMON ANIMALS** - Sea creatures include sharks, stingrays and jelly fish. Common land animals are donkeys and lizards.

~ **NATURE** - There are four mountain ranges. El Pico Duarte is the tallest. There are also many beautiful botanical gardens.

~ **PROBLEMS** - AIDS, the health care system, poverty, poor neighborhoods, serious illnesses, corruption and prostitution are some of the problems of the Dominican Republic.

~ **HOLIDAYS** - Dominicans celebrate Carnaval with costumes and masks. They observe Lent. Also, they celebrate Easter and Christmas.

~ **FAMOUS PEOPLE** -

~ **ÓSCAR DE LA RENTA** - Fashion designer

~ **FÉLIX SÁNCHEZ** - Olympic runner

~ **MANNY RAMÍREZ** - Professional baseball player

~ **LUIS CASTILLO** - Professional football player

~ **SAMMY SOSA** - Professional baseball player

~ **ARCÁNGEL** - Singer

~ **KAT DELUNA** - Singer

~ **LUNY TUNES** - Reggaeton singers

~ **ALBERTO PUJOLS** - Professional baseball player

~ **PEDRO MARTÍNEZ** - Professional baseball player

~ WHAT YOU SHOULD /SHOULD NOT DO IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

***YOU SHOULD...**

~ Be respectful to all isanders.

~ Try to speak Spanish.

~ Try authentic foods.

~ Be careful in the city.

~ Avoid poor neighborhoods.

~ Drink bottled water.

~ Take pictures of nature.

~ Barter in the markets.

***YOU SHOULD NOT...**

~ Be rude to Dominicans.

~ Be like Santa Clause and give gifts to children.

~ Pay for photos.

~ Litter.

~ Gather coral or harpoon fish.

~ Gather tropical fish, bother turtles or touch turtle

eggs.

~ Feed the fish.

~ Eat fruit or food from street vendors.

~ To see the awesome presentation that accompanies these notes, visit

http://www.sparkenthusiasm.com/el_caribe.html

Me llamo _____.

****LAS PREGUNTAS DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA****

1. What is the Dominican Republic's capital? _____

2. What is the nationality of the Dominican Republic? _____

3. What country shares an island with the Dominican Republic? What is the island called?

_____.

4. Tell me about the Dominican Republic's exports (Include a lot of information).

_____.

5. Write two facts about fun activities in which Dominicans participate.

_____.

6. Write about three famous Dominicans.

_____.

7. What are some main dishes in the Dominican Republic? What are they like?

_____.

8. Explain what type of music is popular in the Dominican Republic.

_____.

9. Tell me three cultural facts about this beautiful country.
