

# Haiti

**Official Name:** Republic of Haiti

**Capital:** Port-au-Prince (population: 3 million)

**Government Type:** Republic

**Population:** 10 million

**Area:** 10,714 square miles; about the size of Maryland

**Languages:** French (official), Creole (official)

**Year of Independence:** 1804

National Flag



**National Motto:**

“L’Union Foit La Force”

(French for: “*Strength Through Unity*”)

**Geography:** Haiti is located on the western edge of the Caribbean tropical island *Hispaniola* (shown above). Haiti shares the island with the *Dominican Republic*. Haiti has many mountains, coastal plains, and river valleys. Haiti receives a lot of rain through the hot summers and is dry in the winter.

**Creole phrases:**

Nou se zanmi = We are Friends

Mwen se Ayisyen = I am Haitian

**2010 Earthquake:** On January 12, 2010 a very large earthquake hit Haiti. The earthquake was so powerful that it killed many people and destroyed millions of homes. The people of Haiti are very poor and cannot afford medicines and supplies in their time of need. The Haitians need our help as they rebuild their lives and homes. Millions of Americans are pulling together to help Haiti.

**The People:** Citizens of Haiti are known as *Haitians*. Many Haitians trace their roots back to Africa and Europe and 70% of the people live in small towns. Haitians are very proud of their country.