

HAITI

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Before the Earthquake Activity

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is to provide a safe environment for students to share their knowledge of Haiti and discuss Haiti's vulnerability to the earthquake.
- **Instructional method(s):** group discussion
- **Differentiated Instruction:**
 - Students use written language instead of verbal language, writing their responses down on paper.
- **Estimated time:** 15 - 20 minutes
- **Steps:**
 1. Ask students to sit in a circle.
 2. Explain that you will say a word and then each person will respond with the first word or statement that comes to mind.
 3. Say the word, "Haiti". Go around the circle to give everyone a chance to respond.
 4. When the sharing circle is complete, lead a more guided discussion about Haiti using the following suggested questions:
 - Where is Haiti located?
 - What language is spoken in Haiti?
 - What are residents of Haiti called?
 - What happened in Haiti on January 12, 2010?
 - Had you heard of Haiti before January 12, 2010? If so, what had you heard about this country?
 - What was the state of Haiti before the earthquake?
 - What are some of the reasons why the damage from the earthquake was so severe?
 - What have you heard about Haiti recently? Are the problems over?
 5. Throughout the course of this discussion, introduce additional questions and topics of discussion in order to ensure students have well rounded knowledge of Haiti before the earthquake.