

HAITI

SECONDARY LEVEL

Before the Earthquake Activity

- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is to introduce the country of Haiti in order to assess students' prior knowledge and understanding of the country.
- **Instructional method(s):** class discussion, independent work.
- **Differentiated Instruction:**
 - Students fill out personal written sheets and submit their answers to the teacher.
 - Class participates in a verbal discussion around the topics.
- **Estimated time:** 15-20 minutes
- **Steps:**
 1. Hang six sheets of chart paper around the classroom. On each sheet write one of the following titles: international aid, poverty, infrastructure, government, development and sustainability.
 2. Have students collect a writing utensil and rotate through the six topics. Under each heading they must write things they know about the topic, as well as questions they have.
 3. When they are finished circulating, read the comments aloud, identify common themes and clarify any confusion.
 4. Conduct a brainstorm around how these topics relate to each other.
 5. Explain that all of these topics are key issues plaguing the country of Haiti today.
 6. Next, ask students to revisit each topic with Haiti in mind, discussing how these topics play out in Haiti's vulnerability, especially before the earthquake.