

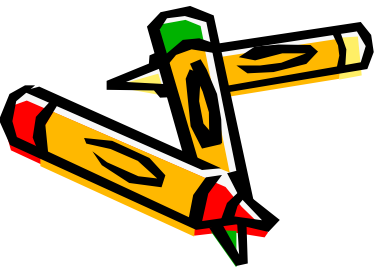


DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



History

- The Dominican Republic was explored and colonized by Christopher Columbus on his first voyage in 1492. He named it “La Hispaniola”, and his son, Diego, was its first governor. Originally the island was occupied by Tainos, they were an Arawak-speaking people, but subsequent colonizers were brutal, reducing the Taino population.



History

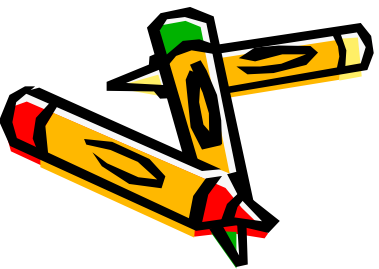
- The capital of the Dominican Republic is Santo Domingo and it was founded in 1496 it is the oldest European settlement in the Western Hemisphere.



Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

- Was an Italian explorer who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, hoping to find a route to India (in order to trade for spices). He made a total of four trips to the Caribbean and South America during the years 1492-1504.





Tainos

- The earliest inhabitants of the island of Hispaniola, on which the Dominican Republic is located.
- The Taínos were a seafaring branch of the South American Arawaks. *Taíno* means "the good" or "noble" in that native language.



Tainos Houses, Chozas or Bohíos





Dujo, a wooden chair
crafted by Taínos



Rock
petroglyph
overlayed with
chalk, tainos
drawings.



Geography

- The Dominican Republic is located in the West Indies, it occupies two-thirds of the eastern part of the island of “La Hispaniola”, which it shares with Haiti.
- Duarte Peak, at 10,417 ft (3,175 m), is the highest point in the West Indies and is found in central mountain range of the Dominican Republic.

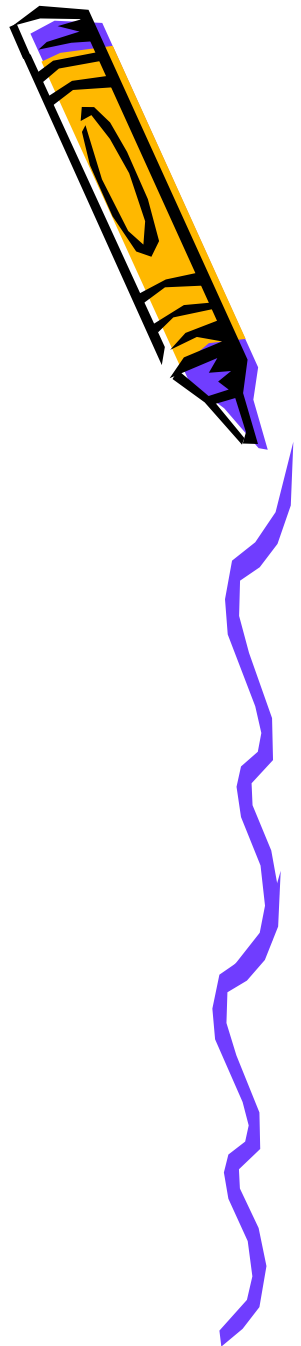


DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Facts

- **Population** (2006 est.): 9,183,984
- **Monetary unit**: Dominican Peso
- **Language**: Spanish

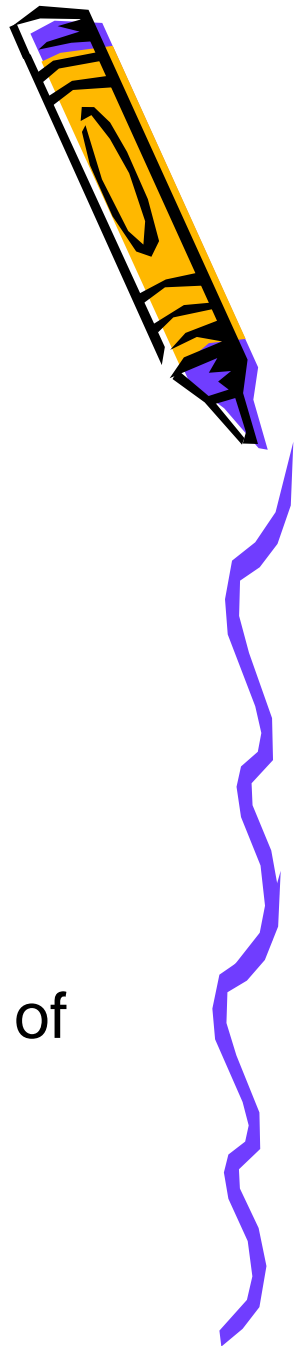


THE DOMINICAN FLAG





Symbolic value of the Dominican flag:



- The colors of the Dominican flag have a specific meaning:
- Blue represent the sky.
- Red represents the blood shed by the patriots.
- White represents dignity, the peaceful character of the Dominicans and their dedication to peace.



DOMINICAN FOLKLORE



DOMINICAN CARNIVAL

- The Dominican carnival is an explosion of joy. A show of cultural identity and spontaneity that encompasses many aspects of Dominican society.



DOMINICAN CARNIVAL

- The origin of carnival in The Dominican Republic is closely entwined with its history. Its mixed cultural heritage imparts it its own unique style even as it is celebrated in the different regions of the country.



DOMINICAN CARNIVAL

- This joy is evident every Sunday in every village square with the culminating carnival parades at the end of each season during the month of February.



DOMINICAN CARNIVAL

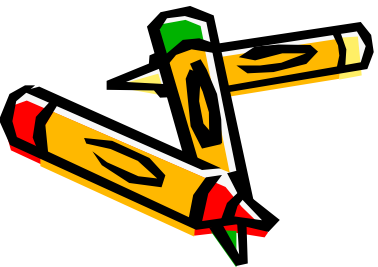
- At times, what shines through is that what is important at carnival time is that Dominicans share their joyous warmth, humility and passion for friendship.





Merengue

- The Merengue is the national dance of the Dominican Republic.
- Merengue is a combination of two dances, the African and the French Minuet, from the late 1700's - early 1800's.



Song/Poem

- Way back in 1492
All the people thought the world was flat
But young Columbus simply disagreed
The earth was round, he was sure of that.
- Way back in 1492
The queen of Spain gave him three strong ships.
He headed West on the ocean blue,
In search of the Indies and a treasure or two.
- Sail away Christopher Columbus
Sail away on the deep blue sea
Sail away Christopher Columbus
On the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa María
Look what you have found!
- Sail away Christopher Columbus
It's a new world big and round.
- Sail away!

