The Haitian Revolution

Toussaint Louverture and the Peoples of Ayiti

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

Grade 6 interdisciplinary Research Simulation Task

Essential question

How did collective resistance challenge slavery, and how did colonial power shape divisions among the connected peoples of one island?

NJSLS Social Studies

6.3.8.CivicsHR.1 develops an argument about human rights and protection. 6.3.8.CivicsPR.3 examines conflicting ideals. Historical inquiry practices guide source evaluation. These are civics connections, not a claim that the revolution falls within the middle school world history era sequence.

NJSLS English Language Arts

RI.CR.6.1 uses evidence. RI.AA.6.7 evaluates arguments. W.AW.6.1 develops evidence based arguments.

CCSS and CCLS literacy connections

RH.6–8.1 cites textual evidence. RH.6–8.2 identifies central ideas. RH.6–8.7 integrates visual information. WHST.6–8.1 develops arguments in history.

Interdisciplinary and Amistad alignment

History centers African diasporic resistance and emancipation. Civics examines freedom and authority. Geography studies a divided island. Mathematics compares time intervals. Science literacy separates ancestry from language, nationality, and racial labels.

Day 1 Ayiti Before and After Colonial Division

Do Now

Does a border tell us whether people share ancestors? Explain.

Source A One Island and Connected Histories

Ayiti is the Haitian Kreyòl spelling associated with the Indigenous name restored in Haiti’s national name. The island is also called Hispaniola. Before European conquest, Indigenous communities lived across it. Arawakan speaking peoples are often described in museum and historical sources as Taíno. Their descendants and cultural legacies survived colonial violence. [1, 2]

Spain colonized the island after Columbus arrived in 1492. France later established control in the west. Spain recognized French possession there in 1697. French Saint Domingue and Spanish Santo Domingo developed different colonial institutions. Today Haiti occupies the west and the Dominican Republic the east. Colonial boundaries and modern borders are not identical. [1]

People on both sides have overlapping African, Indigenous, and European ancestral histories, shaped by forced migration, family formation, and movement. That does not establish identical ancestry for every person. A language or passport cannot reveal a family tree. Shared roots can coexist with distinct national identities. [2, 3]

Quick Write

How did colonial division change government? Why does that division fail to prove that people on opposite sides had unrelated ancestry? Use Source A.