

Topic : Puerto Rico, the 51st state ?
AXE 6: English-speaking areas of America

KEY QUESTION: How does Puerto Rico's special status influence the lives and identity of Puerto Ricans?

LESSON 1

A strange status

I- Discovering Puerto Rico



Activity 1 : Puerto Rico in brief

1. **Look at the map and describe Puerto Rico's location using:** north of, south of, east of, west of, between, close to. (**describe the location of Puerto Rico** in relation to the U.S. mainland and two other Caribbean islands with different statuses.)

Where is Puerto Rico?
Is it part of North America?
Is it close to the USA?

2. **Complete the table below** by categorizing the **islands according to the country they are attached to.**

Attached to the USA	Attached to the UK	Attached to France	Independent Nations

3. Comparing Statutes (Oral Interaction)

Discuss with your partner. Use the map and your general knowledge to answer the following: How is the situation of a resident in Puerto Rico (USA) different from or similar to a resident in Guadeloupe (FR)?

Vocabulary

geography: island, Caribbean, territory, mainland

Language help

Both territories are...

Unlike Puerto Rico,...

In contrast,...

They are similar because...

They are different because...

Activity 2 : Puerto Rico, a US state?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3SzPlUQm6TE>

Listen to the video (from 1:31 to 2:42) and tick what is true

- Puerto Rico is a US state* ☐
- Puerto Rico is an independent state* ☐
- Puerto Rico became a US territory in 1898* ☐
- Puerto Ricans are US citizens* ☐
- They can vote for president* ☐
- Puerto Rico belongs to the US* ☐

Questions :

Is this normal? Is it fair? Why is it surprising?

In your opinion, is Puerto Rico part of the American Dream... or not? Discuss in pairs.

Dream	Reality

Next time, we will see if Puerto Rico is really a “paradise”... or something else.



Homework : The "51st State" Hypothesis (Writing)

Based on the map, if Puerto Rico became the 51st state of the USA, how would its relationship with its independent neighbours (like Haiti or the Dominican Republic) change? Use "If + Preterit / would".

In pairs, write one question about Puerto Rico's history. Hand it to the teacher on a piece of paper. Time to play the "Puerto Rico quiz" together.