

Topic : Puerto Rico, the 51st state ?

AXE 6: English-speaking areas of America

KEY QUESTION: How do Puerto Ricans live between their island and the USA?
How does Puerto Rico's ambiguous status shape the lives, identities and political choices of Puerto Ricans on the island and on the mainland?

LESSON 3-4

Between Inland and Mainland

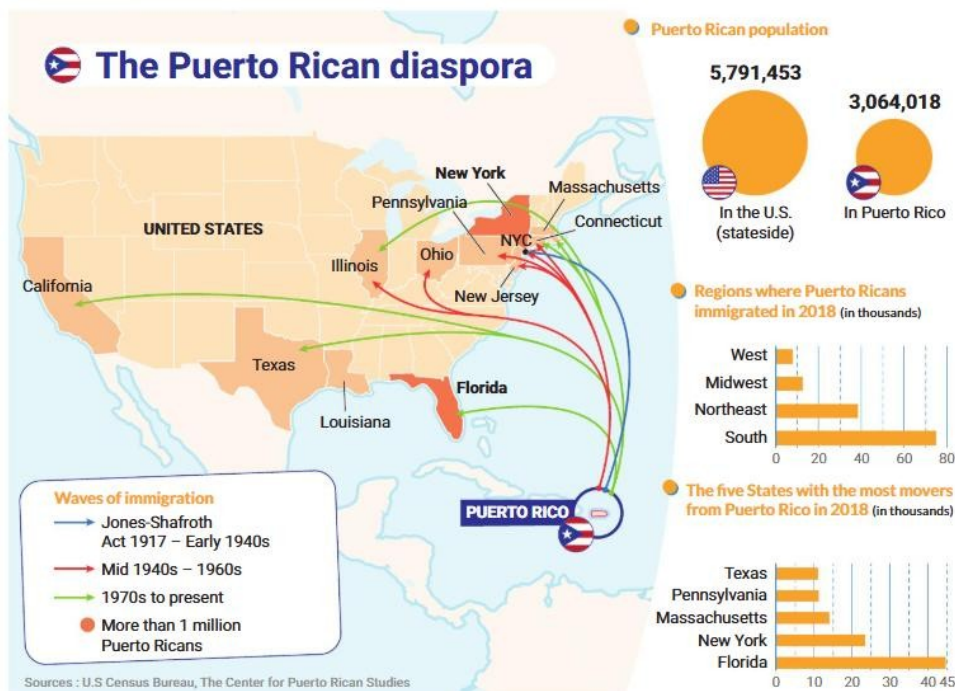
Key question : How do Puerto Ricans live between their island and the USA? / How does migration shape Puerto Rican identity?

LESSON 3

A) The Puerto Rican Dream vs. Reality (Culture & Migration)

Why do many Puerto Ricans move to the US mainland?

Activity 1 :The Puerto Rican diaspora



1- Sport the number of Puerto Ricans living on the island of Puerto Rico. Compare it to the number of Puerto Ricans living in the US and draw your own conclusions.

2- Focus on the dates of the three waves of immigration. Guess the reasons why these waves took place.

3- Read the Culture tip. Analyse the data about the migration of Puerto Ricans to the US in 2018. Say what it reveals.

4- Listen to the video, pick out numbers and link them to facts about waves of Puerto Rican migration to the US and NYC.

In the 1940s and 50s – by the 60s - by the 70s - since the 2010s

5- Your friend was not able to attend today's class. Explain the waves of immigration and the reasons why more Puerto Ricans live outside Puerto Rico?

6- Conclusion: What factors explain the growth of the Puerto Rican diaspora? What consequences does it have for Puerto Rico?

Culture tip : The **Jones-Shafroth Act** was signed on March 2, 1917 by President Wilson. Under this act, Puerto Ricans were granted US citizenship (with limitations). **Hurricane Maria** was a destructive tropical cyclone that struck the northeaster Caribbean in September 2017. It caused severe devastation, especially in Puerto Rico, where 2,975 people died.

Activity 2 : West Side Story - 2021 - « America » (From "West Side Story")

Directed by Academy Award® winner STEVEN SPIELBERG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hoQEddtFN3Q>

A) Before Watching (5 min)

Think-Pair-Share

Question :

1. Explain why people leave their country or island to live somewhere else.

→ Puerto Ricans are US citizens, but many leave the island to live in New York. Why?

B) First Viewing (5 min)

Watch the clip. What is the atmosphere? Who are the characters ? Do they all agree?

C) Second Viewing (10 min)

1. Watch the clip and complete the chart.

<i>Puerto Rico</i>	<i>America (New-York)</i>

2. Highlight the arguments supported by Anita and those supported by Bernardo. So, which country is supported by each of them?

3. Is either place perfect?

4. Sum up their views highlighting what the song reflects. Compare Puerto Rico and America using at least 3 comparative structures and 2 connectors of contrast.

Writing / Speaking Task

Writing Task (120 words):

Imagine you are a young Puerto Rican who has just moved from San Juan to New York. Write a message to a friend explaining:

- why you moved,
- what you like about New York,
- what you miss about Puerto Rico,
- whether you would like to return one day.

Activity 3 – Speaking Mediation (10 min)

Pairwork :

Student A = Anita

Convince your friend that America is the best place to live.

Student B = Bernardo

Convince your friend that Puerto Rico is the best place to live.

LESSON 4

B) Cultural and political impacts in the USA ?

How do Puerto Ricans preserve their identity while living in the United States?

GROUP WORK

GROUP 1 : Puerto Rican Identity in the US

Doc 1 : Puerto Rico in Chicago



1- Circle or highlight the words from the word list that match the mural.

*Heritage - identity - unity - fear - tourists - neighbours
rejection - pride - solidarity - hope - family - crowd*

2- Imagine one sentence that describes the mural. Use as many words as you can from the word list.

Doc 2 :Puertorriqueña in New York

In 2019, [...] I moved from my home country of Puerto Rico to New York City. [...] In Puerto Rico, we're taught the "colonizer" is always the "savior." We're taught that if it weren't for the United States, Puerto Rico would be nothing. We're uncivilized in comparison to Americans, and our native taínos are savages. This perspective [...] ingrained an aspiration to leave Puerto Rico for the United States in many people. [...]

Upon arriving in New York, my identity changed. Suddenly, I went from Angélica, with an accent on the e, to just Angelica. Angie went from a nickname lovingly said by friends and family to a name I'd tell people because they couldn't pronounce my full one. [...]

I'm bothered by how it's an American ideal to view this country as a sort of savior, and how many people portray themselves as advocates for all sorts of social and political causes. [...] I'm indignant at the thought that no one in this country cares that the United States has tried to erase our history and take away our culture, traditions and language in an attempt to assimilate us. It has put its own constitution over ours. It gentrifies our country and makes it hard for Puerto Ricans to live in our homeland. It imposes laws that affect us.

by Angélica Y. Díaz Diversé,
<https://www.prattleronline.com/post/puertorriqueña-in-new-york>,
March 24th 2022

1- Present the document : type, source, protagonist, setting (where and when)

2- In your own words, explain what Puerto Ricans are taught about the US at school.

3- Explain how the US affects Puerto Rico's culture, history or politics.

4- In your own words, explain how Angélica's experience reflects Puerto Rico's "in-between" status between independence and US statehood.

5- What difficulties does Angélica face in New York? How does she resist cultural assimilation?

GROUP 2 : Murals and Collective Memory

Doc 1 : Humboldt Park's murals help Puerto Ricans fight cultural 'amnesia to who we are'

Dozens of works of public art dot the neighborhood, many of them portraying the island's history and struggles and those of Puerto Ricans in Chicago.

Humboldt Park has some of the most controversial public art in Chicago, rooted in political commentary on the Puerto Rican community's struggles with police violence, displacement and self-determination. [...]

The murals reflect the identity crisis many Puerto Ricans must deal with, according to José López, executive director of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center. López says the main thing many know about their culture is their flag — a white star within a blue triangle, with red and white horizontal stripes. Even the public painting of that flag — a unifying thread among most murals in the neighborhood — often has been a political statement in itself.

"The Puerto Rico flag itself was an illegal symbol for many years, but it was the only thing that Puerto Ricans knew about Puerto Rico," López says. "Puerto Ricans didn't know anything about their history because it wasn't taught anywhere."

In Puerto Rico until 1952, it was a crime to display a flag or sing any patriotic songs that weren't in favor of the United States. In many ways, López says, Puerto Ricans outside of the island, which has been a U.S. territory and thus part of the United States since the late 1800s, kept the flag alive. [...]

"Painting that mural, I learned the importance of politicizing the public space and doing it through art," Roldán says. [...]

Such works are created to "rescue the collective memory" and move people to think more critically about history.

By Manny Ramos - Chicago Sun Times - Jul 19, 2019

Doc 2 : "UNIDOS PARA TRIUNFAR" mural



1- Read the text (doc 1) and pick out the themes the murals in Humboldt Park tackle and identify them on the mural.

2- Explain why José López says the Puerto Rican flag has special meaning for the community.

3- Create an audioguide about the mural

Doc 3 : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJE0MZTGIDc>

4- Why can art be considered a political tool for Puerto Rican communities in the United States?

GROUP 3 : Bad Bunny: A Global Voice for Puerto Rico

Doc 1:

Photograph by Elliot & Erick Jiménez for TIME

1- Look at the poster and describe what and who you can see.

2- What does "influential" mean?

3- Why might a singer be considered influential?

4- Can musicians influence society?

5- What do you think makes Bad Bunny influential?



Doc 2 : "Bad Bunny on Super Bowl Halftime Show: 'This is for my people'" (Good Morning America)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdmsFb3hu3w>

Before watching :

1- Focus on the title : Explain what he means "for my people".

After listening:



1- a) Pick out what Jay-Z says about him.

b) Explain how it shows the artist's past achievements and his influence today.

2- a) Explain why the artist believes his work is important.

b) Deduce why he uses “we” in “Tell your grandma we’ll be at the Super Bowl Halftime Show”.

3- Explain why the journalist says that the performance will be impactful.

4- Use your findings to show how this artist’s actions and its culture on the international stage. How does he promote Puerto Rico?

Bad Bunny promotes Puerto Rican culture by...

Going further:

5- How does Bad Bunny challenge stereotypes about Puerto Rico?

6- Why can culture sometimes have more influence than politics?

REPORT : Using all the documents answer the following question :

How do Puerto Ricans preserve and promote their identity in the United States and around the world?