Haïti in the French Classroom

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Presenter Bio:

- Credit teacher/credit facilitator – 9 years – French Hackensack

- French/ESL teacher – 7 years – Southeastern Wisconsin

- Bachelors: University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire (French/ESL Teaching)

- Masters: University of Wisconsin – Madison (French/International Development)
Agenda:

- Why should we teach about Haiti?
- What can we do? (ideas for activities)
- How can we bridge the resource gap?
- Discussion ...
Haiti’s History:

- Inhabited by the Taìno (called Quisqueya and Ayiti)
- Settled by Christopher Columbus (called Hispaniola)
- French colony (called Saint-Domingue)
  - Violent slavery – mostly men, average African lived only a few years on the island
- Revolution leading to independence (1804)
- Instability, violent leaders, debt to France
- Official US Occupation (early 20\textsuperscript{th} century)
- Instability, violent leaders, debt to intl community
- Official UN Stabilization mission (since 2006)
French in Haitian Society:
- Haitian Creole created by slaves, based heavily on French vocabulary (80% of population monolingual Creole speakers)

Je voudrais du riz. -> *Mwen vle diri.*
Est-ce que vous allez aller au marché pour acheter de la nourriture?
-> *Eske ou prale marche achte manje?*

Tous les professeurs nous ont donné un examen. ->
*Tout profese yo te bay nou yon ekzamen.*

Je -> *Mwen*  
Tu -> *Ou*  
Il, Elle -> *Li*

Nous -> *Nou*  
Vous -> *Nou*  
Ils, Elles -> *Yo*

- French remains language of government, education, elitism, literature, etc.

- **Proverbs:**
  - *Bonjour se paspò ou* (Bonjour est votre passport – You have to speak French to have opportunities)
  - *Li pale franse* (Il parle français – He is tricking/lying to you)
Haiti in the Media:

Why?
What can we do?
School:

- Access limited
  - Half of Haiti doesn’t go
  - Little/no teacher training
  - Private, for profit schools
  - Expensive

- Creole vs. French
  - Most people speak Creole at home, but exams are in French.
  - Creole Law – Creole is beginning to be taught in schools during the first few years.
### Haitian Creole (Kreyol Ayisyen):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Word(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pineapple</td>
<td>anana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant woman</td>
<td>ansent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby</td>
<td>bebe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>chat</td>
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<td>Light switch</td>
<td>dwèt</td>
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<td>Gun</td>
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<td>Horned owl</td>
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<td>Rose</td>
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<td>Guitar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guitar</td>
<td>gita</td>
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<td>Hey</td>
<td>hey</td>
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<td>Long pants</td>
<td>inifòm</td>
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<td>Leg</td>
<td>jann</td>
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<td>Coffee</td>
<td>kafe</td>
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<td>Lamp</td>
<td>lanp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baby</td>
<td>manman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nosing</td>
<td>nen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>biling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- Some images are used to represent words.
- The chart includes a variety of objects and actions.
Haitian Creole (Kreyol Ayisyen):

0 zero 6 sis
1 en 7 sèt
2 de 8 uit
3 twa 9 nèf
4 kat 10 dis
5 senk
Music:
Most music produced in Haiti is in Creole.

Popular types of music:
- Zouk
- Konpa

Suggestions:
- Ayiti Cheri (song)
- Boukman Experyans (group)
- Muziklakay (website)
- Radio Kiskeya (online station)
Food:

- Limited Agriculture

- Street market

- Popular Recipes
  - Rice and beans (or bean sauce)
  - Fried plantains
  - Pikliz
  - Soupe Joumou (for Independence Day)
Kisa Kolera ye?

Kisa kolera ye ak kijan moun ka pran l?
- Kolera se yon jèm yo jwenn nan matyè fekal (poupou) yon moun ki te enfekte.
- Moun ka pran kolera nan dlo ki te kontamine avèk poupou moun ki enfekte ak kolera.

Yon moun ka trape kolera si li:
- Bwè dlo ki gen mikwòb kolera a.
- Manje manje tankou pwason, fwi, ak legim ki gen mikwòb kolera sou yo.
- Mete men l nan bouch li apre li fin manyen yon bagay ki gen mikwòb kolera sou li.
- Kolera pa transmèt nan bay lanmen oswa nan manyen yon moun ki enfekte.
Holidays:

- Independence Day (January 1st)
- Carnaval (leading up to Ash Wednesday)
- Toussaint l’Ouverture (April 7th)
- Jean-Jacques Dessalines (October 17th)
Resources

- Send questionnaires to Haitian people or people who have been to Haiti.
- Make connections with NGOs (in the community?)
- Research projects!
- Other ideas?