Dominican Republic

Digital Resources and Children’s Books

Updated 9/2021

Kid-Friendly YouTube Clips:

Dominican Republic, Interesting Facts:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3M3bjskDSc

Geography Now, DR: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQv3t5VCc3U

How Haiti and the Dominican Republic became Two Worlds:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WvKeYuwifc&t=9s

Santo Domingo, First City Founded in America:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7nZEGXnlAw

Art of the Taino People: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SHNgUtt5do

How the Taíno Culture Affects Us Today:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_RMy1Pz5S8

Dominican Culture Decoded (takes a while to upload, but worth waiting for):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=mLXzXsCTDgQ

National Carnival, Santo Domingo: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHn_84uiXUc

Dominican Republic’s Mask Making Tradition:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kE_wAstYFfA

Top 10 Dominican Dishes to Try: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAAKjS84IG4

Beauty and Diversity of the Dominican Republic, Nature at its Finest:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLXzXsCTDgQ

Dominoes, Traditional Game of the Dominican Republic:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZuOnhS18J4
Websites:
Overview of the Dominican Republic: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominican_Republic
Culture of the Dominican Republic: https://www.everyculture.com/Cr-Ga/Dominican-Republic.html
Religion in the Dominican Republic: http://countrystudies.us/dominican-republic/33.htm
Dominican Republic Arts: https://www.pinterest.com/godomrep/dominican-arts/
Dominican Republic Architecture: https://www.archdaily.com/country/dominican-republic
Merengue, the National Dance of Santo Domingo: http://websites.umich.edu/~ac213/student_projects06/dorir/Merengue.html
Caribbean Musical Instruments: http://websites.umich.edu/~ac213/student_projects06/dorir/instruments.html
A Dominican Republic Folktale: https://latinfolktales.wordpress.com/category/dominican-republic/
Dominos, Dominican Republic's National Sport: https://bestofpuntacana.com/blog/bop-goes-local/national-sport-punta-cana-dominoes/
Baseball in the Dominican Republic: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baseball_in_the_Dominican_Republic
Animals in the Dominican Republic: https://a-z-animals.com/animals/location/central-america/dominican-republic/

Lesson Plans:
Teaching about Tainos, Columbus and Indigenous Peoples: https://www.teachingforchange.org/teaching-about-tainos-columbus-indigenous
Dominican Republic, Teachers Pay Teachers: https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Browse/Search:dominican%20republic%20activities
Dominican Republic Culture, Worksheets: https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Browse/Search:dominican%20republic%20culture
Level 1 Merengue Dance Lesson, The Kennedy Center: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daaHI0tHlw
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: The Secret Footprints</th>
<th>Title: Growing up Pedro: How the Martinez Brothers Made It from the Dominican Republic All the Way to the Major Leagues</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author: Julia Alvarez</td>
<td>Author: Matt Tavares</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ages: 3-7 Years</td>
<td>Ages: 8-12 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publisher: Dragonfly Books</td>
<td>Publisher: Candlewick Press</td>
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<td>Summary: The Dominican legend of the Ciguapas is brought to life in this captivating picture book. Although the secretive Ciguapas normally avoid contact with humans, Guapa can’t help herself. When she is discovered by a young boy, Guapa must decide whether to remain hidden or reach out to form a new friendship.</td>
<td>Summary: Baseball season is the perfect time to celebrate one of the game’s great pitchers, Pedro Martínez, and his journey from the Dominican Republic to the major leagues. There’s plenty of baseball to be had, but the true beauty of the book is the moving story of two brothers and the bond they kept as Pedro traveled from their small hometown to the biggest ballparks in the United States.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Title:** Island Born  
**Author:** Junot Díaz  
**Ages:** 5-8 Years  
**Publisher:** Penguin Young Readers Group  
**ISBN:** 9780735229860  
**Summary:** In a school of immigrants, a teacher asks students to draw pictures about where their families come from. Unfortunately, one of the students, a young girl named Lola, can’t remember the island on which she was born. Thankfully, her family steps in to help her remember the vibrant colors, sounds, people, and history of the place they used to call home.

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**Title:** Before We Were Free  
**Author:** Julia Alvarez  
**Ages:** 10-14 Years  
**Publisher:** Random House Children’s Books  
**ISBN:** 9780399555497  
**Summary:** Julia Alvarez and her family fled the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic when she was ten, but in Before We Were Free, she writes about what life might have been like had she stayed. Told through the eyes of a young girl named Anita, Alvarez imagines a terrifying life of oppression in Latin America that far too many children had to endure.

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**Title:** If Dominican were a Color  
**Author:** Sili Recio  
**Grades:** 4 - 6  
**Publisher:** Denene Milner Books  
**EAN/UPC:** 9781534461796  
**Summary:** The colors of Hispaniola burst into life in this striking, evocative debut picture book that celebrates the joy of being Dominican. The palette of the Dominican Republic is exuberant and unlimited. *Maiz* comes up *amarillo*, the blue-black of dreams washes over sandy shores, and people's skin can be the shade of cinnamon in cocoa or of mahogany. This exuberantly colorful, softly rhyming picture book is a gentle reminder that a nation's hues are as wide as nature itself.