

Unit 9

PUERTO RICO

I. Pre-Reading

1. What do you know about Puerto Rico?
 2. How is Puerto Rico related to the United States?
 3. What is the difference between the weather and the climate?
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Puerto Rico is an island southeast of Florida and north of Venezuela, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. It is not far from Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Puerto Rico has many beautiful beaches that stretch for miles along the coast. It also has mountains and valleys with good land for farming. The climate in Puerto Rico is usually very warm. It is often humid during the summer months. Many people choose Puerto Rico as a vacation spot because of its lovely weather, beautiful coasts, and interesting history and culture.

Puerto Rico means “rich port” in Spanish. Christopher Columbus landed there in 1493. Fifteen years later, the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon settled there with people from Spain who came to live in the New World. Native Indians had lived on the island of Puerto Rico for hundreds of years. Tragically, many of them died in wars with the Spanish and from diseases brought from Europe. People from other places, like Africa, also came to live in Puerto Rico. Today Puerto Rico is an interesting mix of all these cultures. Visitors will notice the influence of Spain in the food, music, festivals, and customs of people. And, of course, the people in Puerto Rico speak Spanish—but they also speak English!

Puerto Rico has a special relationship with the United States. It is not one of the fifty states. It is called a commonwealth of the United States. The people of Puerto Rico are American citizens and can travel to the United States easily. However, they do not pay certain taxes and they do not vote in national elections for the president of

the United States. The United States has many businesses and schools in Puerto Rico, so many Puerto Ricans (the people of Puerto Rico) speak English. Although Puerto Rico has its own local government, the United States government also protects the island.

The capital city of Puerto Rico is San Juan. It is a modern, industrial city. San Juan is also a port, which is a place where ships come and go, carrying supplies to and from other places. Puerto Rico has several other large cities near the coast. Because much of the island is covered with mountains, most of the people live close together near the coast or in the valleys between mountains. In the mountains there are small villages and farming areas. People grow sugarcane, coffee, and coconuts and other fruits.

The history, culture, and beauty of Puerto Rico make it a wonderful place for a vacation. Every year many tourists from the United and other parts of the world go to relax in the warm and sunny climate of this island. There are many resorts and beautiful hotels along the beaches. Tourists can also enjoy local Spanish food and buy souvenirs in the old Spanish area of San Juan.

II. Working with Vocabulary

A. Focus on the Reading

Choose the best word for each sentence. If you need help, look at the reading again. (Use each word only once.)

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| citizens | customs | industrial | relationship |
| climate | diseases | influence | valleys |
| coast | elections | island | villages |
| cultures | humid | port | vote |

1. Puerto Rico is an _____ southeast of Florida and north of Venezuela.
2. Puerto Rico has many beautiful beaches that stretch for miles along the _____ .
3. The _____ in Puerto Rico is usually very warm. It is often _____ during the summer months.
4. Many of the native Indians died from _____ and war with the Spanish.

5. People from Spain and other countries came to live in Puerto Rico. Today it is an interesting mix of many _____.
6. Visitors to Puerto Rico will notice the _____ of Spain in the food, music, festivals, and customs of people.
7. Puerto Rico has a special _____ with the United States. It is not a state. It is called a commonwealth.
8. The people of Puerto Rico are American _____ but they do not _____ in national elections for the president of the United States.
9. The capital city of San Juan is a modern, _____ city. It is also a _____, where ships come and go.
10. Because much of the island is covered in mountains, most of the people live close together—near the coast or in the _____ between the mountains.

B. Focus on New Contexts

Here is more practice with the new words from the reading. Choose the best word for each sentence. (Use each word only once.)

| | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| citizens | customs | humid | relationship |
| climate | diseases | influence | port vote |
| coast | festival | island | cultures |

1. Hong Kong is an _____ in the South China Sea. It is a very important _____ for ships from all over the world.
2. Alaska and northern Canada have a very cold _____. It snows there for many months of the year.
3. In North America people usually shake hands when they meet. In Japan people usually bow. These are two different _____.
4. There is an _____ for the president of the United States every four years. Many American _____ have the right to _____ for the person they think it best for the job of president.
5. California is on the western _____ of the United States where the Pacific Ocean meets the lands.

6. Parts of South America are very hot and _____ all year.
7. If you go to Mexico, you can see the _____ of the Spanish and the Indian _____ in the food, clothing, and art of the people.

III. Understanding the Reading

A. Main idea

Check (✓) the two main ideas of the reading. These are the most important ideas of the reading.

- _____ 1. Puerto Rico has many tourists every year.
- _____ 2. Native Islands once lived on the island.
- _____ 3. Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States.
- _____ 4. Puerto Rico is an interesting mix of Spanish and other cultures.
- _____ 5. Coffee grows in the mountains of Puerto Rico.

B. Comprehension Questions

Answer the question about the reading. If you need to, look at the reading again.

1. What other countries are near Puerto Rico?

2. Why do many people go to Puerto Rico on vacation?

3. What does Puerto Rico mean in Spanish?

4. When did Christopher Columbus arrive in Puerto Rico?

5. What happened to the native Indians?

6. What is Puerto Rico's relationship with the United States?

7. Are Puerto Ricans American citizens?

8. What do you know about the capital city of Puerto Rico?

C. Details

Circle the number of the best answer.

1. Puerto Rico is _____.
 1. in the Pacific Ocean
 2. in the Atlantic Ocean
 3. between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean
 4. in the Dominican Republic
2. The climate in Puerto Rico is _____.
 1. usually warm and humid
 2. never very hot
 3. often cool
 4. hot and dry
3. Puerto Ricans are _____.
 1. students and business people
 2. not American citizens, but they pay tax
 3. American citizens who can vote for the president
 4. American citizens who cannot vote for the president
4. Examples of foods grown in Puerto Rico are _____.
 1. sugarcane, coconuts, and coffee
 2. coffee and tea
 3. rice, fruit, and vegetables
 4. rice and corn

IV. Wordy Study

A. Suffixes

The suffixes **-al**, **-able**, and **-ful** can be added to the end of some words. These suffixes mean that something “is full of something” or “has something.”

Here are some examples:

Roses are **beautiful** flowers. (full of beauty)

Puerto Rico has many **coastal** cities. (has a coast)

That is a very **comfortable** chair. (has comfort)

When you add these suffixes to a word, the new word becomes an adjective. An adjective describes a noun or a pronoun. It usually comes before a noun or after a verb **be**.

Practice making adjectives by adding the suffixes **-al**, **-able**, and **-ful** to the following words.

Spelling Note: Change *Y* to *i* before **-al** and **-ful**.

| Noun (add -al) | Adjective | Verb (add -able) | Adjective |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| coast | _____ | notice | _____ |
| season | _____ | agree | _____ |
| industry | _____ | enjoy | _____ |
| nation | _____ | | |

| Noun(add -ful) | Adjective |
|------------------------|-----------|
| beauty | _____ |
| help | _____ |
| wonder | _____ |

Complete each sentence with an adjective from the lists. Then underline the noun or pronoun that it describes. (The first has been done for you.)

- Most people in Puerto Rico live in coastal cities.
- The influence of Spain is very _____ in San Juan.
- The people of Puerto Rico are usually _____ to tourists.
- San Juan is a modern, _____ city.
- Puerto Ricans cannot vote in U.S. _____ elections.
- The beaches and mountains of Puerto Rico are _____.
- My cousins had a very _____ time visiting the old city of San Juan.
They bought some souvenirs and had a delicious lunch.
- In general, Puerto Rico is a _____ place to visit.

B. Context Clues

Practice using context clues. Choose the answer that is closest in meaning to each word in **bold** print.

1. Cars and other machines are made in many large, **industrial** cities in North America.
 1. small and quiet
 2. close to mountain
 3. having many factories and businesses
 4. residential
2. The west **coast** of the United States is a beautiful area with miles of sandy beaches.
 1. a place where an ocean and land meet
 2. a downtown area
 3. a place with mountains and valleys
 4. a main street
3. Every four years the American people **vote** for a new president. There are many candidates, but each voter must choose only one.
 1. talk to
 2. buy
 3. choose and select
 4. imagine
4. Scientists are finding many special plants in the rain forests that can be used as medicine to fight **disease** such as cancer.
 1. sickness
 2. plants in the rain forest
 3. beaches
 4. drugstores
5. Stella doesn't like the **climate** in Chicago. She says that it is too cold and there is too much snow in winter.
 1. lake
 2. buildings
 3. people
 4. weather
6. The state of Hawaii has many **islands** with beautiful mountains and beaches. it is a popular place for tourists to visit.
 1. pieces of land with water all around them
 2. warm places
 3. areas of water with land all around them
 4. cold places
7. I always feel happy when the sun is bright, and I am often sad when it's cold and rainy. The weather really **influences** my feeling.
 1. does not change
 2. makes changes in
 3. brightens
 4. darkens
