

hello



How do you greet
someone in Haitian
Creole?

HAITI



bonjour

(Say "bohn-JOOH")

Most Haitians speak Haitian Creole, a language based on French and some African languages.

My name is Chrismone Decuis

Age: 10 Hometown: Desarmes, Haiti

I live with my mom and dad in the town of Desarmes. We have a house and a yard with trees and banana plants. I like to play in the yard with my friends. One thing we do is make a fort by setting up four sticks, draping a sheet over them and covering it with leaves.

My dad drives a truck that people ride in to go from town to town. It's called a Tap-Tap. My mom bakes cookies and sells them in front of our house.

Sometimes I help my mom by selling cookies for her.

At school, I am learning about trees. There are many kinds of trees in Haiti. Some give us fruit and some give us wood. They are all good for the earth.

To plant a tree, you dig a hole, put a tree seedling (a baby tree) in it and add soil. Then you water it so it can grow.

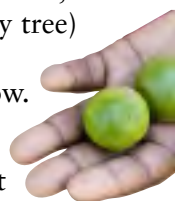
When I was 4 years old, I helped my parents plant a lime tree in our yard.

Now we get lots of fruit from it that we sell or use to make juice.

My favorite food: rice with butter beans and okra sauce

My favorite subject: social studies

What I want to be: a tailor



Limealicious!

Pucker up and bite into a green, juicy slice of lime.
Or try mango, guava, banana, papaya or pineapple.
Find them all in Haiti (and maybe at your market too).

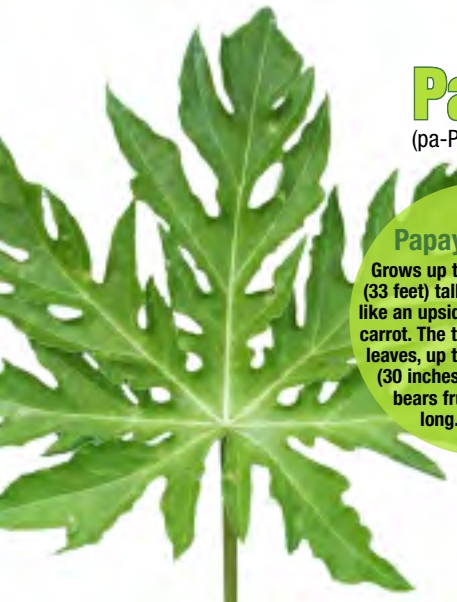
4 fun ways to care for creation and get to know the trees around you.

Solve a mystery. Below are a few of the many kinds of trees that grow in Haiti. What trees grow near you? Collect a variety of leaves. What are the names of the trees the leaves came from? Use a tree guide to help identify them.

Rub a leaf. Place a leaf on the table. Place a sheet of tracing paper on top. Rub the tracing paper with a crayon or soft pencil until the outline of the leaf shows through.

Take a census. Work in teams to count the different species of trees at your school, local park or another defined area. Use the survey data to create graphs.

Vote for a tree. Organize a tree election where teams research, nominate and create a campaign poster for a tree of their choice to be planted in an agreed upon location. Consider: What trees grow well in your area? What would you like your tree to provide? Shade? Fruit? Pretty blossoms? What location has the best soil? When is the best time of year to plant your tree? The tree that gets the most votes wins.



Papay (pa-PIE)

Papaya tree
Grows up to 10 meters (33 feet) tall. The trunk looks like an upside-down, gray carrot. The tree has huge leaves, up to 75 centimeters (30 inches) across, and bears fruit all year long.



Kasya (ka-SEE-yah)

Senna tree
Makes excellent firewood. It's also good for cabinet-making. The tree grows fast, up to 5 meters (16 feet) in three years. Farmers can cut it without having to replant because shoots grow where it is cut.



Kajou Peyi (ka-joo PAY-y)

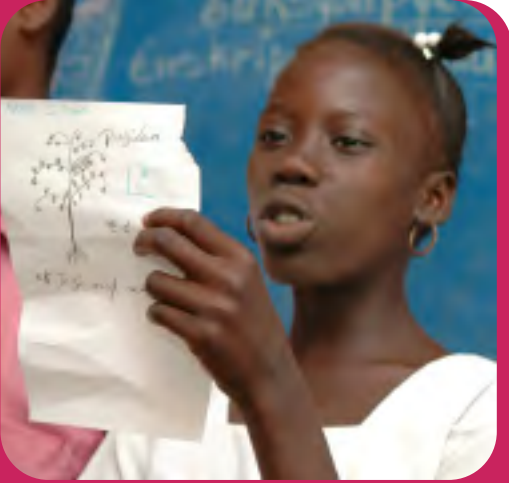
Mahogany tree
Provides good wood for furniture and for carving.



Meet a tree hero

Nnocent Vitana, 15, stands beside the papaya tree she planted. She and her classmates learned how to plant and care for trees through an MCC environmental program at their school. MCC has helped people in Haiti plant more than 6 million trees since 1983.





In a school classroom in Desarmes, Haiti, Asline Jerome presents her campaign poster to persuade her classmates to vote for the tree she wants to plant at the school.

How are you?

Can you match the Haitian Creole greeting with its meaning in English?



Answers on next page.

Good morning

Mèsi (messy)

Good afternoon

Bonjou (bohn-JOOH)

Good night

Ki jan ou rele? (key JOHN ooh ray-LAY)

What's your name?

Bonswa (bohn-SWAH)

My name is _____

Bonnwit (bohn-NWEET)

Please

Mwen rele _____ (mweh rey-LAY)

Thank you

Souple (su-PLAY)

Haiti was once covered with trees, but now nearly all the trees have been cut down. People cut trees and burn them to make charcoal. Why? Because most people cannot afford electric or gas stoves, so they cook their food over charcoal fires.



Neem

(neem)

Neem tree

Grows well even in stony, dry soil. It resists decay, insects and termites. Its dense and hard wood is excellent for construction or for tables and chairs.



Sisal cactus

Produces fibers that can be woven into ropes or rugs.



Tcha Tcha tree

Grows fast, but watch out for goats and cows — they like to gobble it up. It gets its name from the sound the leaves make when the wind blows.

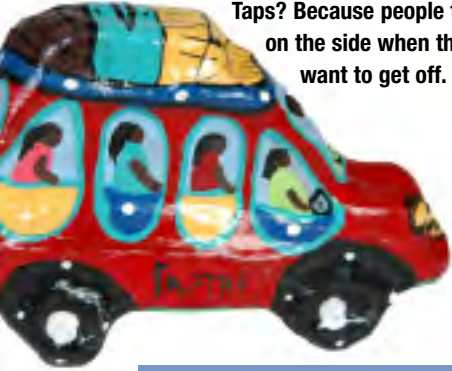


Tcha Tcha

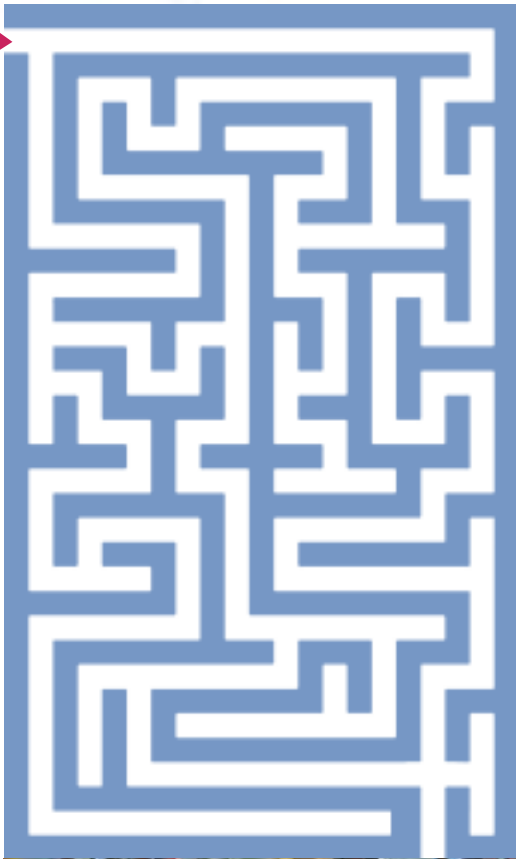
(cha cha)

Tap-Tap

Instead of buses, many people in Haiti get rides on Tap-Taps. They are usually pickup trucks with benches in the back and a cover overhead. Tap-Taps are often decorated with bright colors and designs. Most rides cost less than a dollar. But why are they called Tap-Taps? Because people tap on the side when they want to get off.



Help this Tap-Tap take its passengers to market.



Five Fun Facts

1 What percentage of people in Haiti are age 14 or younger?

- (a) 42%
- (b) 22%
- (c) 12%

2 Many words in Haitian Creole (what most Haitians speak) come from what language?

- (a) Italian
- (b) Spanish
- (c) French

3 Haiti shares an island with what country?

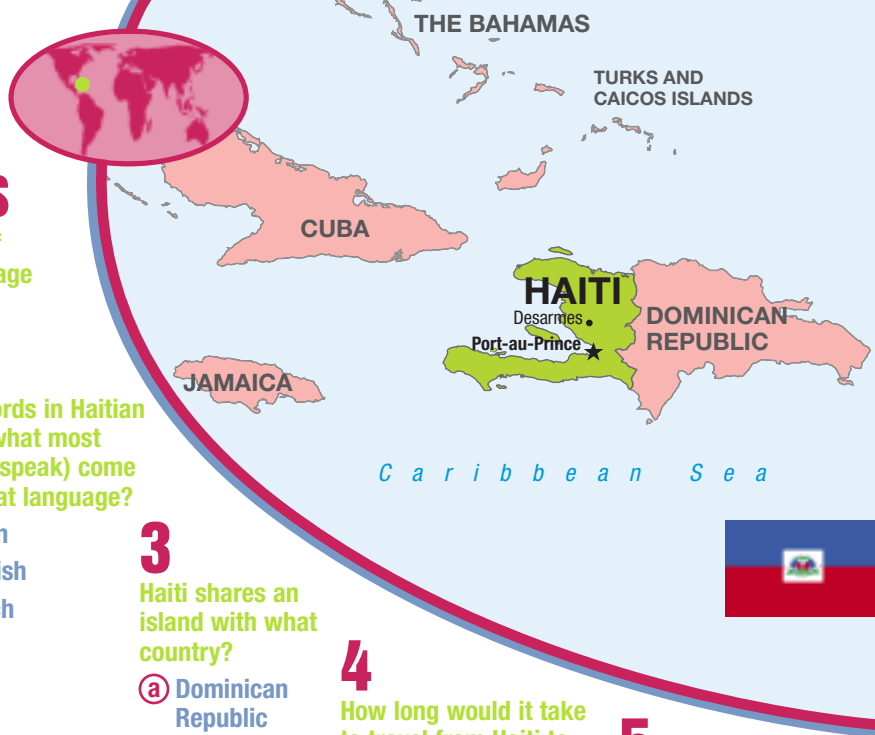
- (a) Dominican Republic
- (b) Puerto Rico
- (c) Cuba

4 How long would it take to travel from Haiti to Florida in a jet plane?

- (a) 1 1/2 hours
- (b) 5 hours
- (c) 12 hours

5 What is the most popular sport in Haiti?

- (a) baseball
- (b) volleyball
- (c) soccer



Someone like you

Peter Landis, age 13
Lancaster,
Pennsylvania

My friend and I helped count coins at the Pennsylvania Relief Sale. We started early in the morning and went until the evening. People stopped by with bags and boxes of coins to donate. This was all part of the Penny Power program. It was fun and I know it will help people. *Result: Using machines, Peter and the other volunteers counted 1.1 million pennies (that's \$11,000!) at the Pennsylvania Relief Sale in April. MCC will use the money to help people in need around the world. How have you helped make a difference in the world? E-mail hello@mcc.org.*



Five Fun Facts: 1. 42% 2. French 3. Dominican Republic 4. 1 1/2 hours 5. soccer
How are you? answers: Good morning—Bonjour Good afternoon—Bonsoir Good night—Bonwit
What's your name?—Ki jan ou rele? My name is—Mwen rele Please—Souple Thank you—Mesi

View a Haiti photo gallery at mcc.org/haiti



Find stories about Haiti in the May/June 2007 issue of MCC's magazine a Common Place. mcc.org/acp

Hello Vietnam
coming in
July 2007