



LESSON 5.1.6 | WATCH | Crash Course World History #30 Haitian Revolutions

PURPOSE

In this video, you will examine familiar forces of revolution with regard to Haiti, but these revolutions are slightly different. For one, Haiti was the second free and independent nation state in the Americas. It also had one of the most successful slave revolts ever. Haiti became the first modern nation to be governed by people of African descent, and they also foiled Napoleon's attempts to build a big new world empire.

LINK

- [Crash Course World History #30 – Haitian Revolutions](#)

Watch the video on your own time, either at home, on your phone, or in the library.

PREVIEW

Ideas like liberty, freedom, and self-determination were hot stuff in the late 18th century, as evidenced by our recent revolutionary videos. Although freedom was breaking out all over, many of the societies that were touting these ideas relied on slave labor. Few places in the world relied so heavily on slave labor as Saint-Domingue, France's most profitable colony. Slaves made up nearly 90% of Saint-Domingue's population, and in 1789 they couldn't help but hear about the revolution underway in France. All the talk of liberty, equality, and fraternity sounds pretty good to a person in bondage, and so the slaves rebelled. This led to not one but two revolutions, and ended up with France, the rebels, Britain, and Spain all fighting in the territory. Spoiler alert: the slaves won. So how did the slaves of what would become Haiti throw off the yoke of one of the world's great empires? John Green tells how they did it, and what it has meant in Haiti and in the rest of the world.

PROCESS

As with all of the videos in the course, watch the video before class. Remember that John speaks quickly and you may benefit from having the captions turned on. If you missed something, have your teacher pause or rewind the video. As you watch the video, begin to consider what was significantly different about the Haitian revolutions? Most of the familiar players are involved in the Haitian revolutions, so why is this little island so important that we would devote attention to it?



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LESSON 5.1.6 | WATCH | Key Ideas – Factual

Think about the following questions as you watch the video.

1. Why in the 1700s was Haiti consider the most valuable colony in the West Indies?
2. Why were so many slaves in Haiti African-born?
3. What sparked Haitian unrest in 1789?
4. What occurred in August 1791?
5. How did slaves in Haiti receive freedom?



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6. After the freeing of slaves, what was the second phase of the Haitian Revolution?

7. How were the Haitians successful over the French during their fight for independence?

8. Why study the Haitian revolutions?