

Year 3: Spring 1: Our Beautiful World: Jamaica



Jamaica is an island in the **Caribbean**. It is located between the continents of **North and South America**. Jamaica and the other islands of the Antilles evolved from an arc of ancient volcanoes that rose from the sea millions of years ago. During periods of submersion, thick layers of limestone were laid down over the old igneous and metamorphic rock. In many places, the limestone is thousands of feet thick. The Caribbean is made up of 13 islands.



Trinidad and Tobago,



Barbados



Bermuda



Antigua and Barbuda



Grenada



Dominica



Haiti

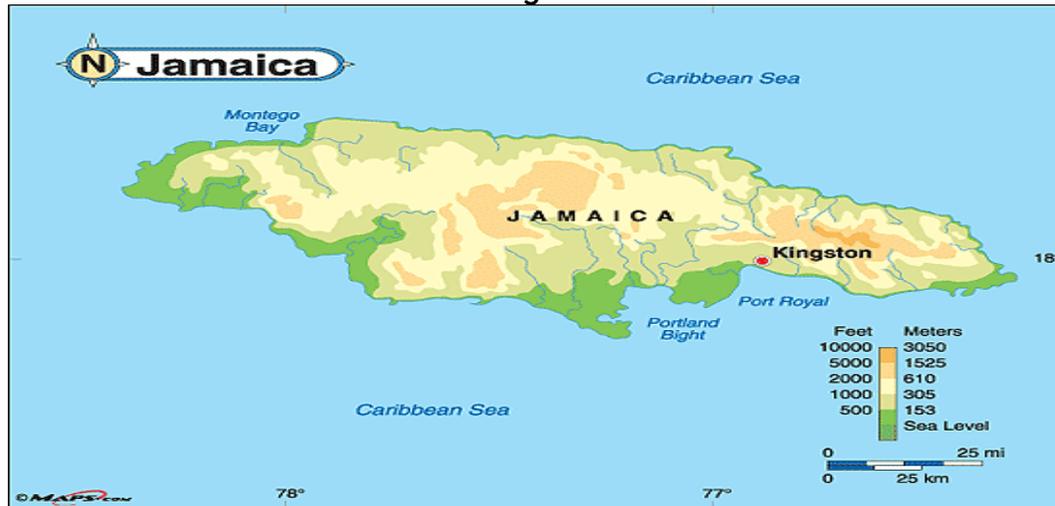


Cuba



St Kitts & Nevis

Present day Jamaica



Jamaica, a Caribbean island nation, has a lush topography of mountains, rainforests and reef-lined beaches. Many of its all-inclusive resorts are clustered in Montego Bay, with its British-colonial architecture, and Negril, known for its diving and snorkelling sites.

Tourism

The best time to visit Jamaica is during the start of 'winter', **November** to **mid-December**, with temperatures averaging 80°F. **Peak season** begins **mid-December** and ends **mid-April**. Visitors enjoy exploring the 23 beaches in different parishes.

Original Inhabitants

The original inhabitants of Jamaica are believed to be the Arawaks, also called Tainos. They came from South America 2,500 years ago and named the island Xaymaca, which meant "land of wood and water". The Arawaks were a mild and simple people by nature. Physically, they were light brown in colour, short and well-shaped with coarse, black hair. Their faces were broad and their noses flat.

They grew cassava, sweet potatoes, maize (corn), fruits, vegetables, cotton and tobacco. Tobacco was grown on a large scale as smoking was their most popular pastime. They built their villages all over the island but most of them settled on the coasts and near rivers as they fished to get food. Fish was also a major part of their diet. The Arawaks led quiet and peaceful lives until they were destroyed by the Spaniards some years after Christopher Columbus discovered the island in 1494.



The Arawaks Indians



Cassava, yams and sweet-potatoes



Famous Jamaicans

Jamaica is famed as the birthplace of reggae music, and its capital Kingston is home to the Bob Marley Museum, dedicated to the famous singer! Famous quote: *Don't worry about a thing, 'cause every little thing gonna be all right!*

Usain Bolt is a Jamaican former sprinter, widely considered to be the greatest sprinter of all time. He is a world record holder in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4 × 100 metres relay. In 2009 Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt set the world record in the 100-metre sprint at 9.58 seconds.



Beautiful paradise island



Beautiful wooden houses



Wonderful waterfalls



Organic food and welcoming people



Nice sunny weather

Project



Can you research any aspect of Jamaica from their location, language, religion, culture, food, beaches, music, climate or anything that you find fascinating? The project could be a model, painting, booklet and poster!

