## The Haitian Revolution 1791-1804



#### Flow of ideas leading to each revolution Enlightenment

Gave people the idea that they had natural rights as humans

The

This would lead the British colonists to revolt against their king and fight for their freedom.

#### The American **Revolution**

This showed the people that a revolution against their government was possible This would lead the Haitian

This would lead to the Third Estate rising up in anger against the First and Second Estates for equal rights

> The French **Revolution**

French Revolutionists would aid the slaves in Haiti and try to rise up against the wealthy First and Second Estate members in Haiti

slaves to revolt against their

Wealthy land owners and fight

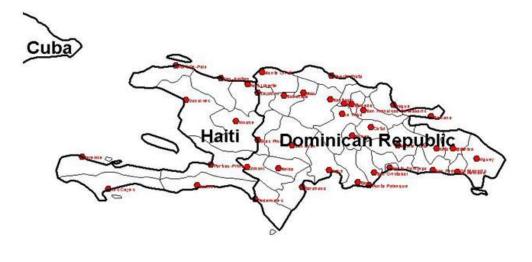
The Haitian Revolution

#### Where is Haiti?

- Saint-Domingue was the colony on the western half of the island of Hispaniola
- As the western part of Santo Domingo was neglected by the Spanish authorities, French buccaneers settled there, first on the lle de la Tortue (Tortuga, Tortoise), then on Grande Terre (mainland). Later Spain ceded the entire western portion of the island to France.

#### Island of Hispaniola

 Bold lines are country boundaries, thin lines are province boundaries, red dots represent larger cities





#### **Population of Haiti**

- 40,000 Whites
- 28,000 Free Blacks and mulattoes
- 450,000 Slaves

- White population
  - 10,000 wealthy aristocrats
  - 30,000 middle class
    - Shopkeepers, soldiers, artisans

These two had very little in common

 Allied with the wealthy whites were the mulattoes, many of whom were offspring of the white elite and wanted to share in their privileges. They did however face discrimination because of their racial background. They in turn despised the black slaves, as did the whites

### How was there 800,000 slaves imported, yet the population was only 450,000?

- Even though protected by law against abuse, slaves were in reality tortured, mutilated, or killed
- Death rate was very high due to overwork and inadequate food

### What were some causes of the Haitian Revolution?

- The abusive behavior against the slaves caused the slaves to band together and rise up against their wealthy landowners
- The French Revolution spilled over into Haiti as the elites were loyal to the king and the middle class supported the revolutionaries.

## What groups were fighting against each other?

- Slaves revolted against their French slave owners
  - They wanted freedom and vengeance
    - They would burn plantations and kill any white person they saw
- Great Britain and Spain would send invasion forces to try and stake claim in the island
  - Slaves would join forces with Spain to fight the French
  - After the French abolished slavery, many slaves would switch back to the French side.

## What were the impacts or consequences of the Revolution?

- Many people fled the island and poured into seaports in the United States and the colony of Louisiana. They would bring with them their language, religion, laws, education, and skills of growing sugar
- Napoleon's failure to take back control of Saint-Domingue would lead him to selling Louisiana to the U.S. (Louisiana Purchase)

#### **Toussaint L'Ouverture**

- L'Ouverture took control of Saint-Domingue just as Napoleon was taking control of France.
- Napoleon wanted to reinstate slavery
  - He tricked L'Ouverture onto a ship and had him sent to prison
- Napoleon sent a large army to take back the island and lost
  - Jean-Jacques Dessalines led the slaves against Napoleon's army and forced them back to France
  - The slaves then massacred and drove all of the whites off the island and renamed it Haiti.
    - Dessalines was later assassinated and Haiti was then led by many different factions struggling for power

# What criteria does this Revolution meet for being a true revolution?



## How did the following groups view the Haitian Revolution?

• American slave owners

Black slaves in America

• French Revolutionaries

• Absolute monarchs in Europe