UNIDAD 2: LAS ANTILLAS

POR LAS ISLAS DEL CARIBE

Español Santillana 2 ~
Español II ~ Sra. Hubbard
Las Antillas

- Desafío 1. Andy and Janet will stay in Santo Domingo, where they must find the scale Sir Francis Drake used to weigh the gold he pirated from the townspeople.
- Desafío 2. Diana and Rita travel to Puerto Plata, in the Dominican Republic, where they must find a 200-million-year-old insect that is preserved in amber and in the home of amber collector María Luisa Ayala.
- Desafío 3. Tim and Mack will travel to the University of Puerto Rico in Ponce, Puerto Rico. There, they must learn and sing the words to a traditional serenata to serenade a student.
- Desafío 4. Tess and Patricia will travel to Aibonito, Puerto Rico. There, they have to serve as judges in the Festival of Aibonito.
Unidad 2: Las Antillas

Cuba
- La Habana
- cubano

República Dominicana
- Santo Domingo
- dominicano

Puerto Rico
- San Juan
- puertorriqueño
It is a group of islands located to the South of Florida, in the Caribbean Sea.

They are divided into Antillas Mayores (Greater Antilles: Cuba, Haití, República Dominicana, Jamaica, & Puerto Rico) and Antillas Menores (Lesser Antilles: the rest of the islands, except the Bahamas).

The three countries that speak Spanish are Cuba, República Dominicana, & Puerto Rico.

Cuba occupies the largest island. Dominican Republic shares “la Isla Española” with Haití, a country where creole and French are spoken.

Puerto Rico is la smallest island of the Greater Antilles. It is a self-governing commonwealth in association with the United States.
Did you know…? Ponce de León was coming from Puerto Rico, where he was the first governor appointed by the Crown. When his expedition arrived to La Florida, he thought it was another island.

In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Puerto Rico was invaded by the United States. As an outcome of the war, Spain ceded Puerto Rico to the U.S.

Puerto Rico began the 20th century under the military rule of the U.S. with officials, including the governor, appointed by the President of the United States.

In 1917, the U.S. granted Puerto Ricans U.S. citizenship.
Many of the cities in Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico are of Spanish origin and they conserve beautiful colonial neighborhoods with stone-paved streets, colorful houses, and defensive forts. The colonial neighborhoods in La Havana, Santo Domingo, and San Juan are very famous.

One of the oldest colonial streets is in Santo Domingo. It is called “Calle de las Damas (ladies)” because the ladies used to walk around there.
Music and Dance are elements typical of the Caribbean culture. There are many genres of Caribbean music. The most representative one is “la salsa”, which is influenced by African rhythms and jazz. Salsa was created in the 60’s by the Caribbean community in New York. Other known types of music are “el merengue” and “la bachata” from Dominican Republic, and “el son cubano”.
He was an English pirate, an explorer, and a sailor. He was a member of the Royal Marine and led several expeditions against the Spaniards in the Americas.

In 1586, he occupied Santo Domingo and asked for ransom in order to free the city. In the “Casa del Cordón”, he weighed the gold and the jewelry that the citizens had to bring to pay for the rescue. From there, he went to the Floridian coast and that same year he attacked and set San Agustín on fire.
The Cord House, or “La Casa del Cordón” is the first known house made entirely of stone in the Americas and it probably is the first two story house. It is in Santo Domingo and the construction began around 1502 (XVI century). The name of the house comes from a rope belt carved into the façade.
The colonial zone in Santo Domingo has very well conserved colonial buildings and monuments. The colonial style buildings are made of cobblestone or brick. The houses are organized around a courtyard which all the rooms face. These courtyards are decorated with fountains, plants, and tiles. The colonial zone in Santo Domingo was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1990.
The most important amber museum (a yellow, red, or brown translucent fossil resin used in jewelry) is in the city Ciudad de Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. This city is in the so-called “Costa del Ámbar”. In this coast, there are amber deposits which are more than 26 million years old.

The Dominican amber is very famous for its wide variety of colors. It is used to make ornaments and jewelry. Sometimes there are insects inside it because amber is formed from trees’ fossil resin.
UNIDAD 2: LAS ANTILLAS

Mi casa es tu casa, p. 97 (Desafío 2)

In Hispanic countries, it is a custom to show guests around the house. Guests use to make positive comments about the rooms or some piece of furniture.
The tradition of serenades is present in many Latin countries. This tradition comes from the custom of singing ballads to the beloved woman under the balcony of her house. The man in love normally goes with a small group of musicians, such as a “tuna” or mariachi band in Mexico, in order to sing to the woman and express his love for her.
UNIDAD 2: LAS ANTILLAS

Las Tunas, p. 105 (Desafío 3)

They are groups of university students that interpret songs with traditional themes and serenades. “Los tunos” wear a black cape with colorful ribbons and use instruments such as “la bandurria” (small 12-string guitar), “el laúd” (lute), the guitar, or “la pandereta” (tambourine).

Tunas started in Spanish universities in the Middle Age (13th century) and eventually arrived to other European and Latin American countries. In Puerto Rico, there are several of them, like “Tunamérica”, “la Tuna Bardos”, or “la Tuna Interamericana”.
Aibonito, a small city in Puerto Rico, is known as “la ciudad de las flores” (the city of the flowers) or “el jardín de P.R.” (the garden from Puerto Rico). The famous festival of the flowers has been celebrated there since 1969. In June or July, thousands of people go to Aibonito to see a large exhibition of all kinds of flowers and plants. During the festival, there are musical performances, contests, and other attractions for the visitors.
“Los Barrios” (neighborhoods) are the zones in which a city or a town is divided. The origin of a neighborhood may be due to administrative, historical, or urban reasons. In many cases, the name of a neighborhood is related to its origin or its characteristics. For example, “San Juan Antiguo” or “Viejo San Juan” (Old San Juan), or “Playa” in the city of Ponce.
In many colonial cities of Latin America – La Habana, Santiago de Chile, Quito (Ecuador), Cuzco (Perú), Lima (Perú) -, there is a main town square called “La Plaza de Armas”. Palaces, cathedrals, and other important buildings were built in these town squares.

During the Spanish colonization, this plaza was the meeting point for the people during an attack, so the town's ammunitions were stored in the main public buildings nearby.
The Caribbean is one of the main international tourist destinations. Many of the cruises around this area come from Florida. One of the Caribbean’s attractions is its colonial architecture. There are several places that have been declared “Patrimonio de la Humanidad” (World Heritage) by the UNESCO: el centro histórico (historic center) de La Habana (Cuba), la ciudad (city) colonial de Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), or El Viejo SanJuan (Old San Juan, Puerto Rico), among others.
UNIDAD 2: LAS ANTILLAS