

Name: _____ Date: _____

Los Taínos

- I. Go to the site <http://welcome.topuertorico.org/reference/taino/shtml>
- II. Answer the following questions about the Taíno Indians

1. What islands did the Taíno Indians inhabit when Columbus arrived in the new world?

2. What is another term for the Taíno Indians?

3. The Taíno Indians lived in theocratic kingdoms and had hierarchically arranged chiefs otherwise known as:

- a) Caciques
- b) Porterares
- c) Rotiques
- d) Liñoteras

4. The Taínos were divided into 4 social classes. What were they?

SPANISH NAME ENGLISH MEANING

5. The Taínos were skilled at agriculture. Their main crops included: (list 5)

6. When the Spanish settlers first came to Puerto Rico in the year _____, there were about _____ Taíno Indians. (Indicate year and number of Indians).

7. Due to maltreatment, disease, flight and unsuccessful rebellion, the number of Taínos diminished to _____ by the year 1515 and in 1544, a bishop counted only _____ Taíno Indians.

8. There are 4 techniques of the Taínos that were copied directly by the Europeans. Name three of them: _____

True/False

9. Taínos had no calendar or writing system, and could count only up to twenty, using hands and feet. TRUE FALSE

10. Taíno place names are still used for such towns as Utuado, Mayaguez, Caguas, and Humacao. TRUE FALSE

11. The supreme creator in the Taíno religion was known as Maboya. TRUE
FALSE

Los Taínos

Theme: The Taíno Indians that inhabited the islands of the Caribbean, especially the island of Puerto Rico

Goal: To help the students understand the history of Puerto Rico a little better by allowing them to research and find information about the Taíno Indians who once lived on the island. This will help students to understand and appreciate the Puerto Rican culture a little better.

Level: *

Comments: This activity can be done in several ways. Students can work on the worksheet individually, and then compare answers with the class. The class can also be divided into small groups and each group can research the information together. After completing the assignment, the teacher can present several culture aspects of Puerto Rico and demonstrate how the Taíno influence has carried into every day life. The teacher can also follow up with an in depth lesson about Columbus, his voyage to the new world, and what happened when he arrived at the islands. Instead of just focusing on Puerto Rico, the class can also learn about the other islands in the Caribbean that were inhabited by the Taíno Indians such as The Dominican Republic, Cuba, Jamaica, and Haiti.

Related Websites: For more information about the Taíno Indians and their history visit these sites:
<http://welcome.topuertorico.org/history.shtml>
<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives143a/100.html>
For physical descriptions and facts about geography visit this site <http://welcome.topuertorico.org/descrip/html>