

# Haiti in World History

## Republic of Haiti



- **First Black Republic in the world.**
- **Second independent country in the western hemisphere after the United States.**

# Haiti's Predominant Historical Symbol

## The Unknown Maroon



Haiti's pioneer freedom fighters: the "Unknown Maroon", in front of the National Palace in Haiti's Capital, represents the runaway slaves who preferred fleeing to the mountains instead of living with the chains on the plantations.

# Outstanding Individual in Haitian and World History

## Toussaint Louverture



1743-1803

**Francois Dominique Toussaint was born a slave near Cap-Haitien. When Napoleon Bonaparte sent a French expedition to re-establish slavery in the island, he fought against General Leclerc and declared himself Governor of Haiti. Known as the “Black Spartacus”, and the “Precursor” of the independence of Haiti, Toussaint is one of the founders and heroes of the Republic of Haiti.**

# Outstanding Individual in Haitian History

**Jean-Jacques Dessalines**



**1758 - 1806**

**Founder and first Head of State of Haiti, he was proclaimed Emperor under the name of "Jacques the 1<sup>st</sup>". As Commander-in-Chief of the indigenous Army, Dessalines is recognized as the father of the country's independence which was won with the defeat of the army of Napoleon at the Battle of Vertières on November 18, 1803.**



# Outstanding Individual in Haitian and U.S. History

## Henri Christophe



1767 - 1820

The First Crowned Monarch of the *New World* on 2 June 2, 1811 as “King Henry I”. Born in Grenada, he came to St. Domingue when he was 10 to be trained as a cook. He enlisted with the “*Chasseurs Volontaires*,” and fought memorably alongside George Washington’s troops at the Battle of Savannah in the war for American Independence. He is the prodigious Constructor of the *Citadelle* considered by Haitians as the eighth wonder of the world.

# The Haitian Flag

## May 2003: Bicentennial of the Haitian Flag



The Haitian flag was born on *May 18, 1803*. At a meeting in Arcahaie, the indigenous army decided to have their own flag. Under the order of Dessalines, a soldier ripped off the white section of the tricolor French flag and asked a seamstress, **Catherine Flon**, to put together the blue and the red parts. The Coat of Arms was later added to the center of the flag.

# Haiti's Key Historical Date



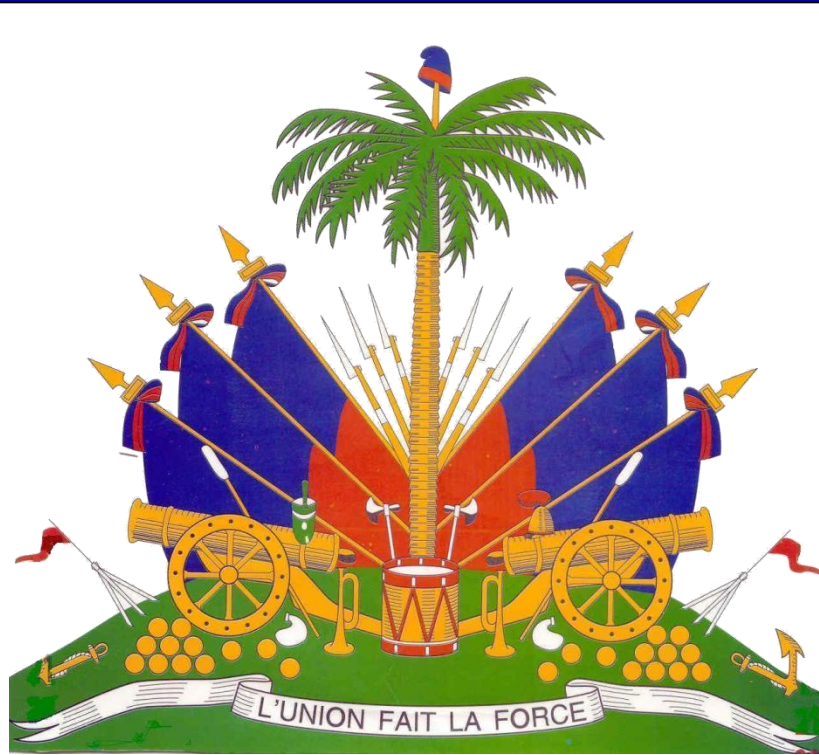
## Battle of Vertieres

November 18, 1803

The black indigenous Haitian revolutionary troops defeated the Napoleon expedition army to create the world's first black independent republic. As a direct result of the inability of France to defeat the Haitian revolution, Napoleon decided to sell French holdings in North America to the United States in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

# The Emblems of the Haitian Nation

## THE COAT OF ARMS



The **coat of arms** of the Republic shall be placed in the center of the flag, on a white square; It includes: a Palmette surrounded by the liberty cap, and under the palms a trophy with the legend: **IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH.**



# Haiti's Predominant Historical Symbol



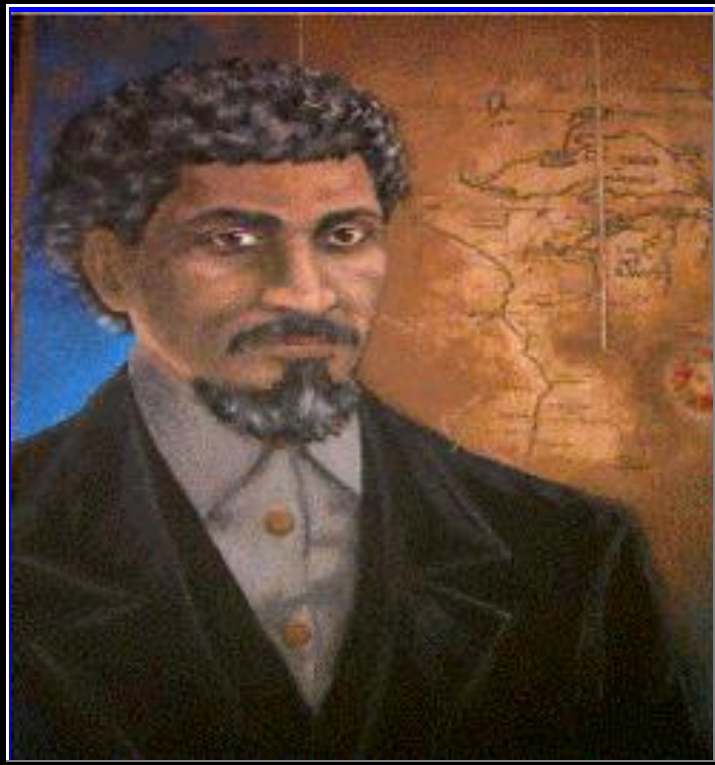
**Citadelle Laferriere**

The largest fortress in the Western Hemisphere. The Citadelle is located atop a 3,000-foot mountain called Bonnet-a-l'Eveque. It was built to protect the interior Haiti in case the French tried to retake the former colony. So impressive is the fortress, stretched across the mountains peak, with sheer cliffs on three sides and the only point of access subject to withering canon fire, that the United Nations

included it in the list of cultural treasures, along with the Acropolis and the pyramids of Egypt. Haitians proudly consider it as the eighth marvels of the world.

# Outstanding Haitian Individual in U. S. History

## Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable



The founder of Chicago

1745 - 1818

Born a free Black in St. Marc, Haiti, Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable, a Haitian trader, founded Chicago by establishing the first permanent dwelling near the mouth of the Chicago River. In the early 1770's he made his way up to Mississippi to the Chicago area. There he established a trading post on the North Bank of the Chicago River mouth. His business prospered and became the center of a permanent Chicago settlement. His trading post was the main supply station for white trappers, traders, *les coureurs des bois* and the natives.

# Outstanding Individual of Haitian Ancestry

## John James Audubon

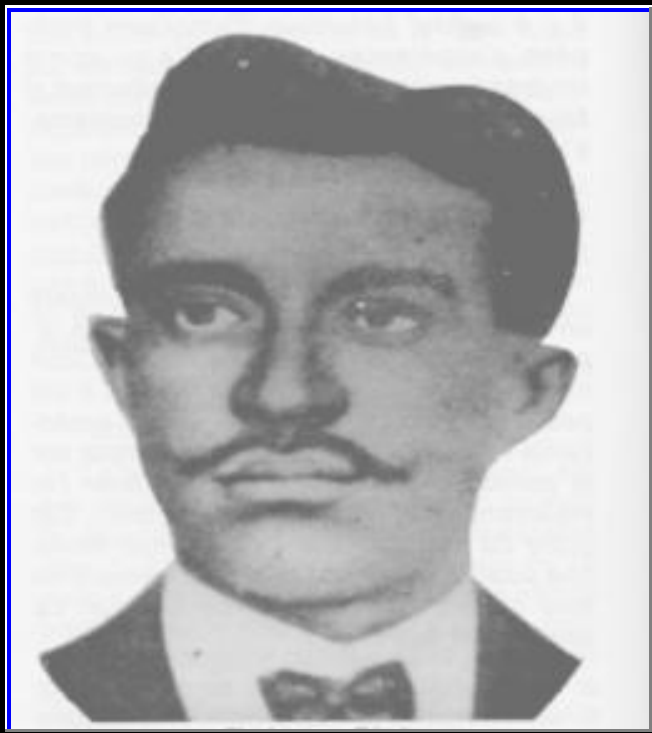


1785 - 1851

Born in Haiti and educated in France, John James Audubon, a naturalist, ornithologist, and artist, settled in the United States at age 18 and began compiling drawings and paintings of local wildlife. From 1827 to 1838, Audubon published “Birds of America”, a collection of life-sized, hand-colored folio plates of native birds. The National Audubon Society, formed to conserve natural habitats and preserve wildlife, was founded in his honor.

# Outstanding Individual in Haitian History

## Charlemagne Péralte



1886 - 1919

Born in Hinche, Haiti, Charlemagne Masséna Péralte is the Haitian charismatic and legendary hero who led the Haitian peasants revolt against the 1915 Occupation of Haiti by American forces. A former army officer who became Chief of the Cacos, Péralte embodies, to this day, Haitian patriotism and national resistance at their best. Betrayed by one of his compatriots and lieutenants who arranged for his assassination at a secret meeting, Péralte was killed by a Marine sergeant on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1919. His body was then crucified and exposed to the door of a police post with a crucifix and the Haitian flag as an example of intimidation for other Haitian Caco revolutionaries.