INSIDE DISASTER HAITI

Study Guide 2011



A GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS



Inside Disaster Haiti is a multi-platform documentary project about the Haiti earthquake and humanitarian work. The documentary series, the interactive experience, and the resource website work in tandem to provide a full learning spectrum. The project explores several themes relevant to a diverse range of courses, having broad implications for student growth and development.

The *Inside Disaster Haiti* study guide has been designed to help teachers incorporate the documentary series, resource website, and the interactive experience in high school and post secondary classrooms. This multimedia educational package provides a 3-part documentary video along with a comprehensive interactive website at **www.insidedisaster.com**

ABOUT THE DOCUMENTARY

Inside Disaster Haiti is a 3-part documentary detailing the humanitarian efforts of Red Cross relief teams in Haiti after one of the most deadly earthquakes in history. Filmed over six months, each episode documents a different phase of the disaster response — **Emergency**, **Relief** and **Recovery**. The story is a first-person account told from the perspective of key players on the Red Cross response team. Through their struggles, passion and determination, we explore the profound and complex role of humanitarian aid in disasters.

PART 1: EMERGENCY

Thirty-six hours after one of the deadliest earthquakes in history, a team from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is travelling overland into Haiti. Over the next 21 days Haiti will become the largest single-country response operation in the IFRC's history. The team begins by setting priorities – 300,000 are injured, 1.5 million are homeless, and hundreds are still buried alive under the rubble.



PART 2: RELIEF

Two weeks after the earthquake people are increasingly desperate. Military food drops and chaotic distributions are creating an atmosphere of anxiety and fear. More than a million people need food, water, and tarpaulins. 21 Emergency Response Units are operational, distributing clean drinking water, medical care, and emergency supplies to the camps. But the overwhelming emergency needs have caused a delay in shelter planning, and Haiti's rainy season is less than a month away.

PART 3: RECOVERY

Six months later, more than a million people are still struggling to survive in camps. Land rights and political instability stand in the way of reconstruction, along with 20 million cubic tons of debris. Less than 10 percent of the rubble has been cleared, and the construction of shelters is stalled. The Red Cross is one of the few organizations still distributing aid. In the run-up to a presidential election, Haitians are searching for a leader to save them from disaster.

INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

Inside the Haiti Earthquake is a groundbreaking first-person simulation about the Haiti earthquake and humanitarian work. An excellent accompaniment to the documentary, the Interactive Experience gives users the opportunity to experience the earthquake from the perspective of a survivor, a journalist or an aid worker. Students are taken through a variety of scenarios, supported by live footage from the disaster. In each situation they must make critical decisions that have both practical and ethical consequences.

www.insidethehaitiearthquake.com

Winner: 2010 Applied Arts Interactive Awards (Gaming)
Nominee: 2010 Canadian New Media Awards (Best Web-Based Game)
Nominee: 2010 Social Impact Games (Best Social Impact Game)
Nominee: 2011 History Makers (Best Interactive Production)



ABOUT THE WEBSITE

InsideDisaster.com features extensive educational and interactive content that allows users to explore the complexities of humanitarian work in the 21st century.

The website is filled with original research, interactive elements, and video clips from the documentary to deepen students' understanding of the Haiti earthquake and its aftermath.

The *Inside Disaster* website is divided into three main categories: *The Haiti Earthquake*, *Inside Humanitarianism*, and *Inside the Documentary.*

- *The Haiti Earthquake* is designed to help users understand the "big picture" of the disaster, why the devastation was so great, how both Haitians and the international community responded to the crisis, and the challenges facing the reconstruction.
- *Inside Humanitarianism* allows users to explore the past, present and future of humanitarian work. Through timelines, quizzes, and full interviews from the documentary, students are invited to learn about the history of humanitarianism, and the challenges facing the industry today.
- *Inside the Documentary* provides behind-the-scenes interviews with the filmmakers; learn what it's like to make a documentary in a disaster zone. Find bios for each of the documentary's main characters, and full interview transcripts for key member of the Red Cross response team.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

THE EARTHQUAKE IN CONTEXT

All too often in the midst of reporting on the tragedy in Haiti, we hear that the country is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere without the infrastructure to deal with the disaster. But little explanation is provided as to why. While students should be encouraged to contribute to relief efforts, it is also important to gain a deeper understanding of the history and the roots of the poverty in Haiti. As informed citizens, we can advocate for respectful and constructive relations with Haiti in the months and years ahead.

HAITI'S HISTORY

The story of Haiti is unique. It is a country whose population was created by the enslavement of hundreds of thousands of Africans by Spain and France in the 17th and 18th centuries. The descendants of these slaves are the people of Haiti today. It is a land of great misery and poverty, populated by people of amazing strength and spirit.

Spain and France divided the island of Hispanola in the early 1700s, the western third became Haiti, ruled by the French. In the 18th century Haiti became France's most valuable colonial possession, and one of the most brutally efficient slave colonies ever created. Santo Domingo, as it was then called, was the leading port of call for slave ships; on the eve of the French Revolution, it was supplying two-thirds of all of Europe's tropical produce. In 1804 the French slaves revolted, creating the world's first black republic. Unfortunately for Haitians, their dominant neighbour, the United States, still condoned slavery. In 1825, under threat of another French invasion and the restoration of slavery, Haitian officials signed the document which was to prove the beginning of the end for any hope of autonomy. The French king agreed to recognise Haiti's independence only if the new republic paid France an indemnity of 150 million francs.

Northern and southern Haiti initially developed as two separate entities, ruled by all-powerful Haitian emperors. Having experienced dozens of leaders and dictators, each one replaced by a coup d'etat, Haiti transformed into a single political state in 1820. But for the past 200 years, foreign commercial interests have continued to control Haiti's economy, creating a very small and dominant upper class and a vast peasantry.

The United States occupied Haiti from 1915 through 1934 in the interests of commercial control, killing thousands of "rebels" in the process. They imposed martial law and Jim Crow segregation laws, dissolved the Haitian parliament, censored the press, and took control of the government's sources of revenue. The Americans altered the Haitian constitution to allow foreign ownership of land, and created Haiti's national army, which has terrorized the population through much of the 20th century.

Francois “Papa Doc” Duvalier declared himself president-for-life in 1964, established a dictatorship, and quickly unleashed a brutal and repressive regime. Duvalier died in 1971 and his son, Jean-Claude “Baby Doc”, succeeded him as president-for-life. In the family’s 30 years in power, the Duvaliers stole approximately $900 million from the Haitian state.

A popular revolt saw Baby Doc flee the island in 1986. A priest and advocate of the poor, Jean-Bertrand Aristide became president in Haiti’s first free elections in 1990. Eight months later Aristide was removed from power in a coup supported by Haiti’s military and economic elite. From exile in the U.S., under international pressure Aristide agreed to implement neo-liberal economic reforms if he was returned to power.

The Clinton government reinstated Aristide in 1994 to complete the final year of his 5-year term. In the 1995 elections, Aristide’s handpicked successor Rene Preval took office, but political differences between the two leaders caused a split in the Lavalas Party. In 2000, Aristide won a second term, raised the minimum wage, and refused to privatize Haiti’s national corporations. The Bush administration cut off economic aid, and convinced the international community to do the same. During Aristide’s term in office there were allegations of intimidation, violence and corruption. In February 2004, Aristide was successfully overthrown by U.S. funded opposition groups and flown into exile by the U.S. government.

The United States, Canada and France oversaw the formation of an interim government led by Gerard Latortue, reduced the minimum wage and implemented business-friendly economic policies. Meanwhile, the country was shaken by violent political instability and a wave of kidnappings. A United Nations’ stabilization force, MINUSTAH, arrived in Haiti, where it remains to this day.

Though relative stability returned to Haiti after 2006, the legacy of the country’s political and economic history continues. Haiti is not only the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, but also has the greatest economic inequality. Three-quarters of Haiti’s population live on less than $2 per day. Five per cent of the population owns 75% of the country’s arable land, and less than 2% of Haiti’s original forests are still standing. Haiti’s “vulnerability” to disasters has been created over time the; the political and economic disasters of Haiti’s past have exacerbated the “natural” disasters of its present.

Haiti, today, has no public health care for the majority of its population, almost all is delivered by missionary projects. Food is largely imported, donated by the UN and other foreign philanthropies, and because of foreign embargoes virtually no industry or infrastructure exists.

Our Interactive slideshow on the Haiti’s History page outlines a history timeline:

http://insidedisaster.com/haiti/the-quake/haitis-history

KEY THEMES

POLITICS OF AID

Examine the relationship between politics, economics and humanitarian assistance through the international response in Haiti.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Use the massive destruction caused by the Haiti earthquake to illustrate the link between disaster and poverty. Explain why developing countries are hardest hit by natural disasters.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Learn why a strong government and judiciary are necessary to mitigate and recover from natural disasters.

DISASTER REPORTING

Examine the moral and ethical questions that surround disaster reporting, and the importance of historical context in journalism.

HUMANITARIANISM: THE FUTURE

Explore the challenges that face the growing industry of humanitarianism in a world of increasing natural disaster and conflict.

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Learn about Haitian culture, and its citizen's decades-long struggle for independence.

NATURAL DISASTERS: WHAT, WHERE, WHEN?

Explore the types and causes of natural disasters, and how we can mitigate their catastrophic effects.

VIEWING THE FILM WITH STUDENTS

There are important themes in this 3-part documentary that have broad implications for students and their futures. Take time to expand your students' knowledge and understanding of these issues before viewing. Each of the three parts — EMERGENCY, RELIEF, RECOVERY — is broken down into six Chapters (approx. 10 minutes each), to facilitate viewing and discussion in the classroom.

The following two subsections, on this page, are intended to provide you with a range of pre-viewing and post-viewing activities. They are followed by a set of questions relevant to each Chapter in the 3-part documetary, some follow-up thematic quotations from the documentary, and web links for further investigation.

PRE-VIEWING EXERCISES:

Inside Disaster Haiti explores many broad themes, which will spark important discussions in your classroom. Before screening the documentary ask students to discuss their preconceptions of the key issues raised in the series (see p.9).

Have your students watch news clips of the Haiti earthquake on the web, either for homework or in your classroom (news clips can easily be found on YouTube and news websites). Ask them to discuss what they learned about the earthquake and the humanitarian response from news media. Also, discuss how they felt about the clips after watching them. Please be advised that both news reports and the documentary contain graphic images.

Before screening the documentary print the relevant quotations (p.13) on individual sheets of paper. Have students work in small groups or with partners to discuss if they agree with the ideas. Have them share their statements and what they think or believe about them with the class.

POST-VIEWING:

Show the students the quotations from the pre-viewing activity and see if their minds were changed or opinions altered or enhanced by the film.

Discuss with students their initial reactions to the various characters and situations confronted in the film. Use the discussion points developed for each episode to further explore important questions raised in the documentary.

Have students complete an exit note (single small sheet of paper with one phrase or idea written on it) that demonstrates one thing they have learned, felt or decided as a result of watching the documentary.

DISCUSSION POINTS

PART 1: EMERGENCY

Chapter 1

1. Why do emergency responders set priorities?
2. What was the media reporting in the early days of the disaster?
3. What is a journalist's responsibility when reporting on disasters?

Chapter 2

1. What were Hossam Elsharkawi's main challenges in setting up the field hospital?
2. What were the logistical challenges faced by emergency responders in Haiti?
3. Who should set the priorities for a disaster response?

Chapter 3

1. What is the difference between a looter and a survivor in the wake of a disaster?
2. Should property laws be suspended immediately after a natural disaster?

Chapter 4

1. Should military and police be involved in aid distribution? If yes, how?
2. How can media pressure affect aid distribution?

Chapter 5

1. What are secondary disasters and how can they complicate a relief operation?
2. Why must disaster responders be self-sufficient in a disaster zone?

Chapter 6

1. What qualities make a good humanitarian worker in the field?
2. What does J.P. mean when he says "disaster relief is part of a bigger whole"?

PART 2: RELIEF

Chapter 1

1. How should a safe and egalitarian relief distribution be organized?
2. What can be done to ensure the most vulnerable receive assistance?
3. What are the pros and cons of using planes vs ships to transport aid?

Chapter 2

1. Why is it more complicated to distribute food, than non-food items?
2. What went wrong at the Colombian food distribution?

Chapter 3

1. If you were Louken, and the doctors were leaving your camp, what would you do?
2. Discuss ways for people to overcome the psychological impact of disasters.
3. Why is it important for international aid agencies to work with local people?

Chapter 4

1. Should politicians and movie stars be involved in the delivery of aid?
2. Did Sean Penn help or hinder the response operation in Haiti?
3. How can aid be used to kick-start economies in the wake of natural disasters?

Chapter 5

1. Why was the Red Cross and other NGOs slow in providing emergency shelter?
2. How could the shelter response have been improved?
3. What could have been done to prevent the cholera epidemic in Haiti?

Chapter 6

1. Was the international community's emergency response successful in Haiti?
2. How can we improve our response for next time?

PART 3: RECOVERY

Chapter 1

1. Six months after the disaster, why are over a million people still living in camps?
2. Why can't the Haitian government find suitable land for people to live?

Chapter 2

1. Why is it important for Haitians to take a lead role in their recovery?
2. Should relief distributions be stopped once the emergency phase of a disaster is over?
3. Should Louken and the others in Camp Juvenat be allowed to stay on the Church's property?

Chapter 3

1. Why is land title important in the reconstruction phase of a disaster response?
2. In what other countries has land ownership hindered reconstruction following a disaster?
3. How can a strong government and judiciary speed the pace of recovery?

Chapter 4

1. Should Haiti have held an election less than one year after the earthquake?
2. Why doesn't Marcel go to the bank for a loan?
3. Explain what Martelly means by "structure in a society."

Chapter 5

1. Why did the Church Brothers build a fence around Camp Juvenat?
2. Should the Red Cross have built shelters in a flood zone?
3. How can building codes save lives?
4. What can be done to prevent vigilantism in the camps?

Chapter 6

1. Should the American-Haitian woman be distributing food to Camp Juvenat?
2. How do you feel about what happened to Magalie and her daughter Aquina?
3. Every year hurricanes kill hundreds of people in Haiti. How can these lives be saved?

QUOTES FROM THE SERIES

EPISODE 1 - EMERGENCY



"You try to influence, but you don't have the final say over which airplane lands in Port-au-Prince and which one gets rerouted because you're competing for limited airspace, and there's dozens of other agencies trying to get their planes in at the same time."

— Jean-Pierre Taschereau, Team Leader



"The challenge we have had is that there are just too many surgeons, not enough nurses, not enough tents, not enough beds. And many of those surgical teams, well-meaning volunteers, they come here, but essentially they become a burden. They have nothing. They have no food, no water, no set-up. They need everything provided for them."

— Hossam Elsharkawi, Field Hospital Co-ordiantor



"We're the only ones in this whole operation that don't have MINUSTAH UN armed guards at the distributions, and there's a reason for that."

— Steve McAndrew, Relief Distribution



"There was an unprecedented response, I would say, from the donor community. Because you donate when you see people suffering on TV. I've never been able to fathom out why some countries get more spotlight than others."

— Ian Heigh, Logistics Co-ordinator

EPISODE 2 – RELIEF



"You really need to take a look at what you're doing, and take a look at the impact it's going to have on civil society, and on the economy."
— Steve McAndrew, Relief Distribution



"We cannot come in here just plant ourselves in here and be the leadership."
— Eric Baranick, Relief Distribution



"We could have definitely improved our response in shelter, that's for sure. If I were to do the operation again, I would put a lot more emphasis on bringing dedicated resources to shelter from the day one."
— Jean-Pierre Taschereau, Team Leader

EPISODE 3 – RECOVERY



"The lead for this story is that there are many actors in the process, and that's what explains the complexity of it all. Because it's very easy to point fingers at the Red Cross or another agency or the government authorities."
— Gennike Mayers, Communications Officer



"Some people, they actually like the situation in which they are right now because the situation they had before was not better than that, because the poverty in Haiti is very high."
— Yves-Marie Duperval, Relief Distribution

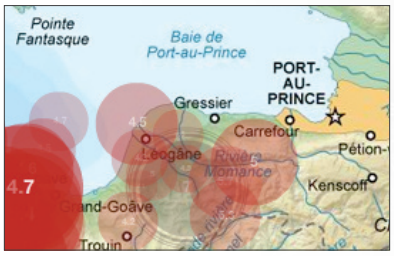


"We are approaching government at a high level to assist with this and their first response is, "You can't build on somebody's land that is owned by another person. You have to have their permission."
— Tom Carnegie, Shelter Lead



"If someone like this [Marcel] was surrounded by a structure, he would be a huge businessman in the country."
— Michel Martelly, Presidential Candidate

INSIDEDISASTER.COM RESOURCES



Quake Map

Track the initial earthquake and aftershocks on our interactive map; see a bird's-eye video view of the devastation.



Haiti's History

Explore the proud and brutal moments in the country's history through this interactive slideshow.



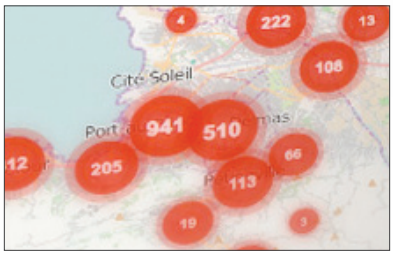
Destruction Slideshow

The slideshow combines striking images and statistics to capture the massive scale of the destruction in Haiti.



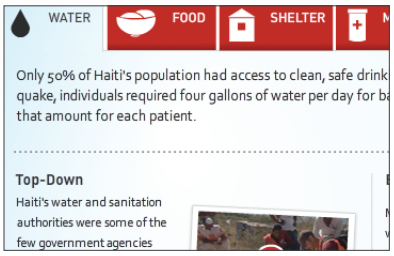
Transformations

This interactive chart breaks down the before-and-after states of five key issues in Haiti: agriculture, debt, education, land ownership, and sexual violence.



Technological Solutions

Explore the cutting-edge and familiar technologies that played frontline roles in the global response to the quake.



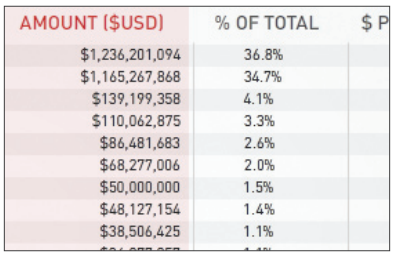
Survival

How did people survive after the quake, both with and without access to international aid?



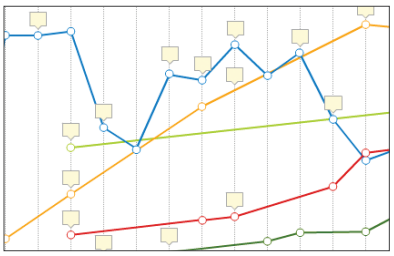
Major Players

Who were the major organizations on the ground after the quake, and how was their impact felt in Haiti?



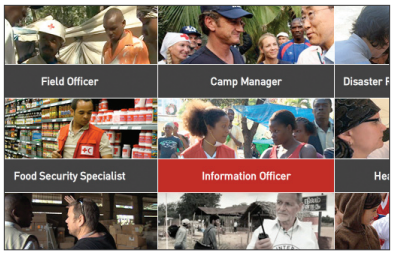
Donations

Which countries sent the most to Haiti, in total and per capita?



By the Numbers

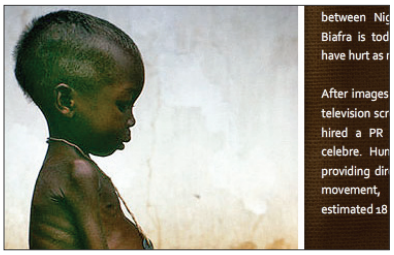
Track media coverage, the changes in estimated and actual death tolls, and the rise in pledged donations to Haiti in the weeks after the quake.



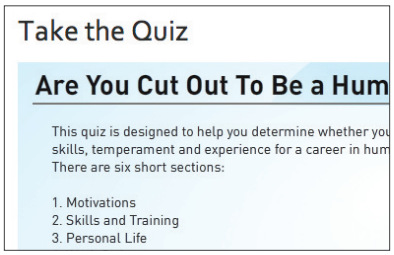
Humanitarian Careers
Explore the range of careers available, the training they require, and watch short videos of professionals in action in the field.



Studying Humanitarianism
Learn more about the field of humanitarianism with this list of programs from around the world to get you started.



History of Humanitarianism
Learn about the fascinating, and sometimes controversial history of humanitarian aid in this interactive slideshow.



Take the Quiz
Are you cut out to be a humanitarian? Take our interactive quiz to find out.



Donations Hall of Shame
Learn about which well-intentioned efforts made it into our Donations Hall of Shame that made their recipients' lives worse, not better.



Best Practices
Before you donate, review these tips and reminders to make sure your efforts have the positive impact you're hoping for.



Diary of an Aid Worker
Follow the relief effort through the perspective of Red Cross FACT team leader J.P. Taschereau.



Behind the Scenes
Find out what it's like to make a documentary in the middle of a major disaster with exclusive content from the director and production team.



The Filmmakers
Meet the filmmaking team behind the 3-part documentary series and feature film, *Inside Disaster Haiti.*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

HAITI RESOURCES

A curated list of books, films, and websites about Haiti.

http://insidedisaster.com/haiti/the-quake/haiti-resources

HUMANITARIAN RESOURCES

A shortlist of blogs, books and films for those interested in digging further into the world of humanitarian aid.

http://insidedisaster.com/haiti/the-aid-industry/humanitarian-resources

ABOUT PTV

PTV Productions Inc. is an established, diverse and innovative producer of multi-platform documentaries, lifestyle and factual series. It is owned and operated by Andrea Nemtin and Ian Dunbar. PTV Productions works with broadcasters and co-producers in Canada and around the world, and owns a growing library of over 60 hours of award-winning and award-nominated documentaries and series.

If you have questions or comments about Inside Disaster, please contact us at:

PTV Productions Inc.
67 Portland Street
Toronto ON
M5V 2M9

P: 416 531 0100
info@ptvproductions.ca

Now available on DVD

INSIDE DISASTER HAITI

Most people run away from disaster…
others run to the heart of it.





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Private use: $39
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Runtime: 152 minutes

INSIDE DISASTER HAITI: FEATURE VERSION*

Private use: $20
Institutional use: $150
Runtime: 87 minutes

AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH & FRENCH.



INSIDE THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE: INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

Private use: $20
Institutional use: $150

Inside Disaster Haiti is a 3-part documentary detailing the humanitarian efforts of Red Cross relief teams in Haiti after one of the most deadly earthquakes in history.

Filmed over six months, each 1-hour episode documents a different phase of the disaster response – Emergency, Relief and Recovery. The story is a first-person account told from the perspective of key players on the Red Cross response team. Through their struggles, passion and determination, we explore the profound and complex role of humanitarian aid in disasters.

*The feature version contains the first two episodes of the 3-part series.

Inside the Haiti Earthquake is a ground-breaking first-person simulation about the Haiti earthquake and humanitarian work. The Interactive Experience gives users the opportunity to experience the earthquake from the perspective of a survivor, a journalist or an aid worker.

WINNER:
2010 Applied Arts Interactive Awards

To order your copy please go online at **www.insidedisaster.com**,
call **416.531.0100** or email us at **info@ptvproductions.ca**

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