

Life in the Caribbean

A Lesson by Sophomores from the Academy of Global Studies at Austin High School

**Station 1: Poverty in the Caribbean**

1. Which photo stands out the most to you? Why?
2. After looking at these images, what are some differences between Caribbean lifestyles and American lifestyles? What do you have that they don’t? What do they have that you don’t? What are some similarities?

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **America** | **Both** | **The Caribbean** |
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**Station 2: Oppression in the Caribbean**

*As you listen to the song, annotate for significant lyrics.*

Redemption Song by Bob Marley

Old pirates, yes, they rob I;

Sold I to the merchant ships,

Minutes after they took I

From the bottomless pit.

But my hand was made strong

By the 'and of the Almighty.

We forward in this generation

Triumphantly.

Won't you help to sing

This songs of freedom

'Cause all I ever have:

Redemption songs;

Redemption songs.

Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery;

None but ourselves can free our minds.

Have no fear for atomic energy,

'Cause none of them can stop the time.

How long shall they kill our prophets,

While we stand aside and look? Ooh!

Some say it's just a part of it:

We've got to fullfil the book.

Won't you help to sing

This songs of freedom-

'Cause all I ever have:

Redemption songs;

Redemption songs;

Redemption songs.

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/Guitar break/

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Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery;

None but ourselves can free our mind.

Wo! Have no fear for atomic energy,

'Cause none of them-a can-a stop-a the time.

How long shall they kill our prophets,

While we stand aside and look?

Yes, some say it's just a part of it:

We've got to fullfil the book.

Won't you have to sing

This songs of freedom? -

'Cause all I ever had:

Redemption songs -

All I ever had:

Redemption songs:

These songs of freedom,

Songs of freedom.

* What are some words in this song that stand out to you?
* What do you think is the meaning of the line, “How long shall they kill our prophets, while we stand aside and look?”
* What do you think “freedom” means to the people of Caribbean nations?

**Station 3: Post-Colonial Identity**

What makes up an identity?

“Magnanimous Warrior!...Hunting mother. She who forages. Who knows the ground… Mother who brews the most beautiful tea from the ugliest bush… Warrior who labors in the spirit…Into whose cauldron the Red Coats vanished.

What has become of this warrior? Now that we need her more than ever…

Her powers are known no longer. They are called by other names. She is not respected. She lies on an iron bedstead in a shack in Trench Town. She begs outside a rumshop in Spanish Town… We have forgotten her. Now that we need her more than ever…Can you remember how to love her?”

*No Telephone to Heaven* by Michelle Cliff, Pages 163-164