

# JAMAICA COUNTRY STUDY

**BOOKS SET IN JAMAICA**

**PICTURE BOOKS**

- Big Tune Rise of the Dancehall Pri
- I Am a Promise (Pryce, 2020)
- I and I (Medina, 2009)
- Granny's Kitchen: A Jamaican St

**FICTION BOOKS**

- If You Read This (Getten, 202

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**JAMAICA**

CAPITAL \_\_\_\_\_

A person from \_\_\_\_\_ is called \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**JAMAICA**

**WHAT'S YOUR JAMAICA IQ?**

What are the six islands that make up the Greater Antilles?

Which two countries once colonized Jamaica? Name two Jamaican dishes! True or false: Jamaica borders Cuba.

What are some major industries in Jamaica? What kind of food is ackee?

What is unique about Jamaica's flag? What is the climate like in Jamaica?

What happened to Port Royal, Jamaica in 1692? What is this area like today?



**GRADES  
6-9**

# JAMAICA PRESENTATION

## JAMAICAN CUISINE

- Jamaican cuisine is a diverse mix of Amerindian, West African, English, French, Spanish, Chinese, and Indian foods.
- **Ackee and saltfish** – Ackee is a fruit introduced to Jamaica from West Africa. When cooked, ackee looks like scrambled eggs. Saltfish is cod sauteed with vegetables. It is often served with a side of dumplings, as seen here. This is a popular national dish of Jamaica.
- **Jerk chicken and pork** – Jerk is a flavorful Jamaican cooking style, seasoned and cooked over a pimento wood fire for a smoky flavor.
- **Gizzada** – coconut tart with a sweet, spiced filling



Ackee and saltfish

## SUNKEN PIRATE CITY

- In 1692, there was a major earthquake and tsunami near Kingston.
- 2/3 of the city of Port Royal, Jamaica sunk into the sea.
- Today, part of the city is still underwater, just off the Kingston coast.



17<sup>th</sup> Century cannons at Port Royal (the part that is on land)

- Port Royal was once a major hub for pirate activity.
- Though the movie was not filmed in Jamaica, this is the same Port Royal in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies.
- The sunken city is well-preserved underwater. Divers with permission to dive the Port Royal site can see sunken 17<sup>th</sup> Century cannons, pirate ships, cobblestone streets, pottery, coins, and tools. There is also vibrant coral and marine life.

- Slideshow guides teacher or homeschooling parent through the lesson
- Thoroughly researched by a certified school librarian and middle school classroom teacher.
- Explores Jamaica's history, landforms, economy, and culture.

# STUDENTS WILL LEARN ABOUT:

- Jamaica flag
- Jamaica on maps of North America, the Caribbean, and the world
- Greater Antilles
- Water and land borders
- Languages and people
- Brief history of colonization
- Marcus Garvey
- Bob Marley
- Religion – includes Rastafarianism
- Education
- Sports + famous Jamaican athletes
- Health and welfare
- Landforms
- Climate
- Plant and animal biodiversity
- Things to see and do
- Food – ackee and saltfish, jerk, and grizzada
- Port Royal (sunken city)
- Capital
- Government
- Economy
- Corruption Perceptions Index
- Problems and challenges
- Discussion question – Would you want to visit?

# DO YOU REMEMBER...?

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

What color is Jamaica on this map of Caribbean countries?

What is the Greater Antilles?  
What is the Lesser Antilles?



Review questions throughout the slideshow help students review information in the previous slides.

The review questions break up the slideshow logically into sections.

Assign sections to student groups or use them as a natural stopping point in the lesson.

# EDITABLE TEXT

Political information can change quickly! You can edit all text in all parts of the presentation and worksheets to update information or add, reword, or eliminate information.

## ANIMAL DIVERSITY

- Since Jamaica is an island, there is a large amount of diverse wildlife.
- Many endemic species! **Endemic species** are found nowhere else on earth.
- The Jamaican iguana is endemic to Jamaica. It was believed to be extinct, but in 1990, a small population was found in a remote area of Jamaica.
- Lots of colorful tropical birds such as the Jamaican Tody and the Jamaican Mango, and the Red-billed streamertail (also called a “doctor bird” and the national bird of Jamaica)
- Fruit bats, hutia (rodent), mongooses, Jamaican boas, tree frogs, crocodiles
- Marine life includes corals, tropical fish, sea turtles, dolphins, and whales

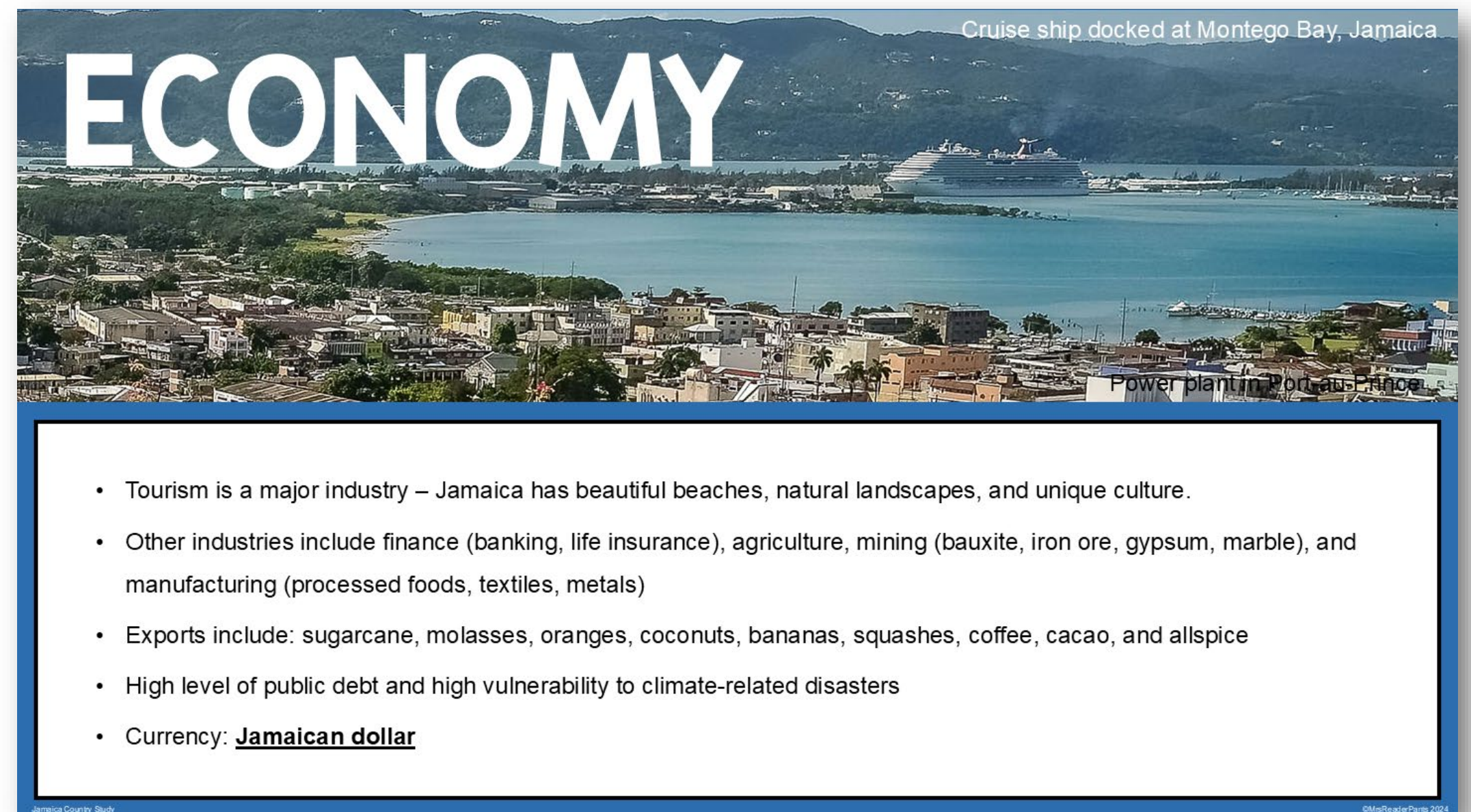
Jamaican iguana



## ECONOMY

- Tourism is a major industry – Jamaica has beautiful beaches, natural landscapes, and unique culture.
- Other industries include finance (banking, life insurance), agriculture, mining (bauxite, iron ore, gypsum, marble), and manufacturing (processed foods, textiles, metals)
- Exports include: sugarcane, molasses, oranges, coconuts, bananas, squashes, coffee, cacao, and allspice
- High level of public debt and high vulnerability to climate-related disasters
- Currency: **Jamaican dollar**

Cruise ship docked at Montego Bay, Jamaica



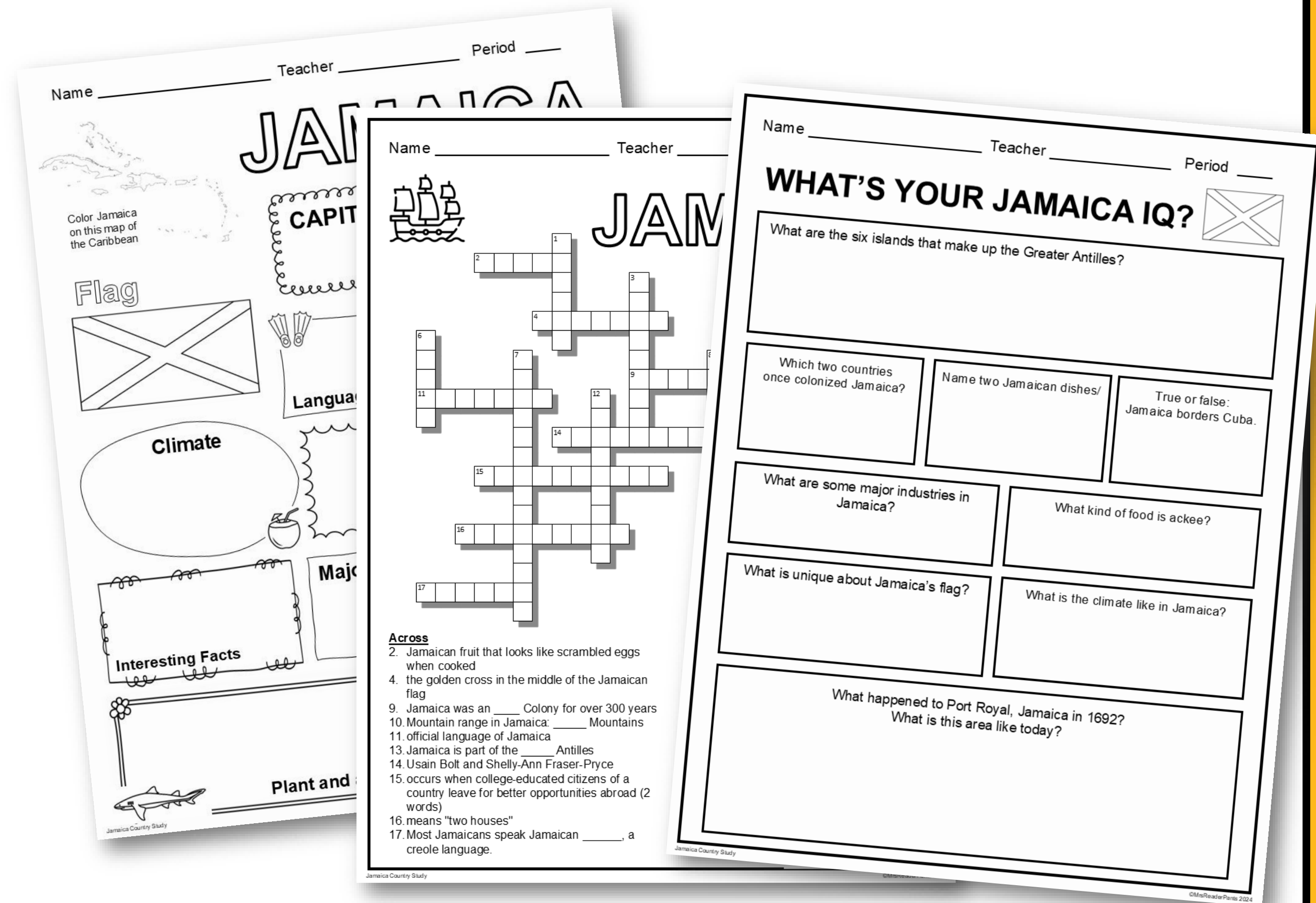
Power plant in Port-au-Prince

# ASSESSING PROGRESS

Students demonstrate learning with three Jamaica worksheets.

These work great as classwork, homework, group work, or assessment.

All text is editable, and answer keys are included.



# EXTENDING LEARNING

## BOOKS SET IN JAMAICA

### PICTURE BOOKS

- *Big Tune Rise of the Dancehall Prince* (Agostini, 2023)
- *I Am a Promise* (Pryce, 2020)
- *I and I* (Medina, 2009)
- *Granny's Kitchen: A Jamaican Story of Food and Family* (Smith, 2022)

### FICTION BOOKS

- *If You Read This* (Getten, 2022) – Grades 3-7
- *So Let Them Burn* (Cole, 2024) – Grades 7-12
- *Songs of Irie* (Bromfield, 2023) – Grades 9-12
- *Hurricane Summer* (Bromfield, 2021) – Grades 8-12
- *Your Corner Dark* (Hall, 2021) – Grades 9-12
- *Cane Warriors* (Wheatle, 2020) – Grades 7-12
- *Better Must Come* (Hall, 2024) - Grades 9-12



Students can further learn about Jamaican culture and history by reading picture books and novels set in Jamaica.

This list was curated by a certified school librarian (me!). All titles received at least two positive professional reviews for the grade levels listed for each book.