

LESSON PLAN: THE STRUGGLE FOR GARIFUNA RIGHTS ACROSS THE AMERICAS

Created by: BSAA Garifuna Group, Spring 2023



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Overview

In this lesson plan, students will learn about the struggles of the Garifuna communities, including gentrification, displacement, political representation, and racial and gender discrimination, across the Americas. They will examine the historical, political, and social factors that shaped these struggles, and the role of important leaders in fighting for the rights of these communities. The students will read an article that highlight the struggles faced by the Garifuna in Honduras, New York (USA), Belize and Guatemala, and how leaders from the past (Thomas Vincent Ramos) and present (Miriam Miranda, Aida Lambert, Paul Joseph López Oro and Gloria Nunez) have advocated for their rights and fought for representation. They will also watch videos from an interview with Dr. Paul Joseph López Oro which will examine each of these issues in detail.

Audience

This lesson plan is intended for undergraduate learners.

Time frame

This lesson can be completed within three hours.

Resources

Articles:

“Garifuna leaders: the struggle for Garifuna rights across the Americas”

Videos:

Discussing “Garifuna Land Rights in Honduras & Miriam Miranda”

<https://youtu.be/NJPtwtSCpes>

Discussing “Garifuna Identity & Afro-latinidad” <https://youtu.be/3hMDfUNyvmQ>

Discussing “NYC Garifuna representation, politics and the American Dream”

<https://youtu.be/LOJffzqcUfs>

Discussing “Academia Based Activism” <https://youtu.be/dMpPbV2zOYw>

Discussing “Afro-Latinidad, Identity & Social Media”

https://youtu.be/No69dgAPG_k

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Discussing “Belize, Settlement Day & Thomas Vincent Ramos”

<https://youtu.be/RdDyvME3kIk>

Discussing “ Garifuna Womanhood & Activism” <https://youtu.be/BULVm-UrWRE>

Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the issues faced by the Garifuna communities in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and New York (USA)
2. Critically analyze the role played by historical, political, and social factors in creating the issues faced by Garifuna communities.
3. Examine the role played by community leaders across these countries in advocacy and the fight for the rights of the Garifuna people.

<p>Part I. Honduras</p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of the issues faced by the Garifuna communities in Honduras, especially with regards to displacement and land rights</p> <p>Critically analyze the role of the Honduran government in protecting Garifuna communities.</p> <p>Examine how both state actors and non-state actors have played a role in neglecting the injustice and violence faced by the Garifuna people in Honduras.</p>	<p>Student Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Read the sections on Honduras and Miriam Miranda in the article “Garifuna leaders: the struggle for Garifuna rights across the Americas” <p>Discussion questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) What factors have contributed to the displacement of the Garifuna community in Triunfo de la Cruz in Honduras?b) How have the Garifuna people been fighting back? In what ways have they been affected?c) In your opinion, has the government of Honduras protected the rights of the Garifuna people?d) What has been the stance and role of the U.S. in the issue of gentrification and violence faced by
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<p>Highlight the role played by community activists and “land-defenders”, specifically, Miriam Miranda, in fighting for the rights of the Garifuna people in Honduras.</p>	<p>the Garifuna in Honduras?</p> <p>2. Watch this video about Honduran Community leaders</p> <p>Discussing “Garifuna Land Rights in Honduras & Miriam Miranda” https://youtu.be/NJPtwtSCpes</p> <p>Discussing “Garifuna Identity & Afro-latinidad” https://youtu.be/3hMDfUNyvmQ</p> <p>Discussion questions:</p> <p>a) Professor López Oro stated many countries in Central America are narco states. What does this mean and what role could this fact play in the fight for land right and indigenous recognition?</p> <p>b) In what ways is the opposition to Garifuna land rights anti-Black?</p>
<p><i>New York City</i></p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of the history of migration of the Garifuna people in shaping their identities as residents of New York City.</p> <p>Examine how the complexity of</p>	<p>3. Read the section “The Garifuna in New York: navigating identity and political representation” in the article “Garifuna leaders: the struggle for Garifuna rights across the Americas”</p> <p>Discussion questions:</p> <p>a) Where all have the Garifuna people in New York City historically migrated from?</p>

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Garifuna identity influences their political involvement and representation.

- b) Why does defining the identity of the Garifuna people in New York City pose a challenge?
- c) In what ways do the challenges in defining the identity of the Garifuna in New York City create issues in political representation and activism?

4. Watch the videos:

Discussing “NYC Garifuna representation, politics and the American Dream”

<https://youtu.be/L0JffzcqUfs>

Discussing “Academia Based Activism”

<https://youtu.be/dMpPbV2zOYw>

Discussing “Afro-Latinidad, Identity & Social Media”

https://youtu.be/No69dgAPG_k

Discussion Questions

- a) In addition to what was discussed in the video, what do you see as the positive impacts of academia-based activism? What do you see as some possible disadvantages?
- b) More people are getting their information and news through social media. How does this affect cultural exchange and cultural self-identity?
- c) Do people still come to this country with idyllic views of the American

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	<p>dream and democracy? How attainable are those for Black people and immigrants of color?</p> <p>d) Despite the political and social climate in this country, why do people still hold onto the promise of a true democracy? Is it optimistic or unrealistic?</p> <p>e) In what specific ways does geography play into how one identifies?</p>
<p><i>Belize</i></p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of the issues faced by the Garifuna people in Belize because of the historic oppression and slavery faced by their communities.</p> <p>Examine the importance of the role played by Thomas Vincent Ramos in fighting for the rights of the Garifuna people in Belize?</p> <p>Highlight the importance of Settlement Day for the Garifuna people in Belize.</p>	<p>5. Read the section “Belize and the leadership of Thomas Vincent Ramos” in the article “Garifuna leaders: the struggle for Garifuna rights across the Americas”</p> <p>Discussion Questions:</p> <p>a) What role did Thomas Vincent Ramos play in fighting for the rights and preserving the culture of the Garifuna in Belize?</p> <p>6. Watch the video on Settlement Day in Belize</p> <p>Discussing “Belize, Settlement Day & Thomas Vincent Ramos” https://youtu.be/RdDyvME3kIk</p> <p>Discussion Questions:</p> <p>a) In cultural preservation and celebration, what aspects do you</p>

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	<p>see as most prevalent?</p>
<p><i>Guatemala</i></p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p>Demonstrate an understanding of how intersectionality plays an important role in determining the issues faced by the Garifuna women in Guatemala.</p> <p>Examine the ways in which the leadership of Gloria Nunez played an important role in advocating for the rights of Afro-descendant women in Guatemala.</p>	<p>7. Read the section “Gloria Núñez and Afro-descendant women’s rights in Guatemala” in the article “Garifuna leaders: the struggle for Garifuna rights across the Americas.”</p> <p>Discussion Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) What are some of the issues faced by the Garifuna women in Guatemala? b) What is intersectionality? How does it play a role in determining the socio-economic conditions of Afro-descendant women in Guatemala? c) In what ways has Gloria Nunez been advocating for the rights of Afro-descendant women in Guatemala? <p>Discussing “ Garifuna Womanhood & Activism” https://youtu.be/BULVm-UrWRE</p> <p>Discussion Questions:</p>

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	<p>a) In what ways do women face opposition outside of and within their community? Why do you think they continue to be driving forces in the fight for Garifuna rights and recognition throughout the world?</p> <p>b) In what ways are the arts political?</p>
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