

# First Grade Focus: Jamaica

*Global Week 2019 - Lower School*

Mrs. Gray's first graders had an amazing week learning about Jamaica! Many of our main highlights included songs, literature, poems, crafts, and lots of culture.

The students discovered many fun facts about this wonderful country. They were fascinated to learn that the Doctor bird or Swallow Tail Hummingbird is one of the most outstanding of the species and lives only in Jamaica. The Doctor Bird's wings flap 80 times per second and make a humming sound. The wings help them to hover like a helicopter. Their legs are only used for perching so they need to fly everywhere. The students had an opportunity to make their own Doctor bird both in the classroom and in art class.

They also learned that English is the official language of Jamaica, but most Jamaicans speak Patois. They had fun learning some of the more popular sayings such as "Ya, Mon (ok or no problem), Waa Gwaan (What's up or what's going on?), and Hail up (Hello).

Reggae music was definitely the highlight of our adventures. The students learned that Jamaica is known for its music. Each morning we began our day listening to Bob Marley who was a famous Jamaican singer and song writer. The students loved his songs so much they began to ask for specific songs each day. Three Little Birds was definitely the most popular.

We also had several Jamaican artifacts in our room. The maracas and the Rasta hat with dreadlocks were among the student's favorites. Maya Andrews also brought in her Jamaican magnet and spin drum to share with the class. The students enjoyed taking turns playing the spin drum and then creating one of their own. The Snare Drum and Electric Drum are also two popular instruments in Jamaica that make Reggae songs successful.

Throughout the week we enjoyed many fiction and non-fiction stories learning about where Jamaica is located, foods such as Jamaican Patties, Ackee and Salt Fish, habitats, and the Jamaican Flag. It was certainly an adventurous week full of discovery!