

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Islands

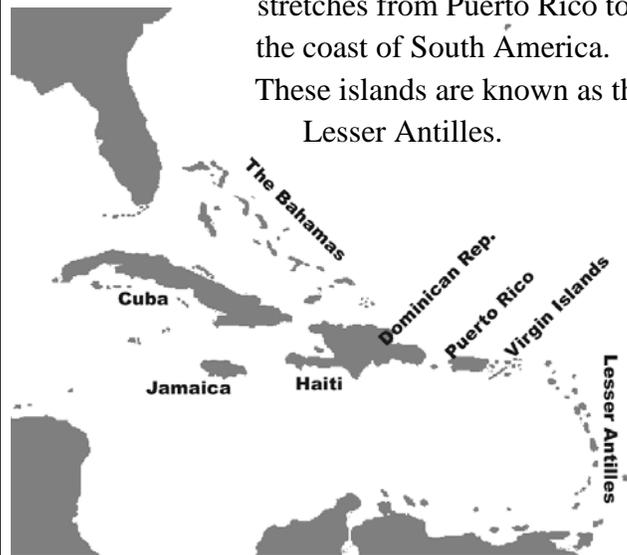
A vast volcanic mountain chain lies along the floor of the Caribbean Sea. The tops of some of the mountains extend beyond the water to form many of the islands of the region. Other islands are cays (pronounced *keez*), low-lying coral islands, formed over thousands of years from the accumulation the skeletal remains of tiny sea animals.

The islands of the region are divided into three main groups—the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, and the Lesser Antilles. The Bahamas is an archipelago, or a group of 700 islands north of the Caribbean Sea. People inhabit only about thirty of the Bahamian islands. South of the Bahamas are the largest islands of the Caribbean, called the Greater Antilles. The Greater Antilles include Cuba, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and Hispaniola. The largest islands of the Greater

Antilles have rugged mountains and lush, thick rain forests. Hispaniola is home to two nations: Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Most of the rest of the Caribbean islands form an arc that

stretches from Puerto Rico to the coast of South America.

These islands are known as the Lesser Antilles.



Fill in the Blanks

Many of the i_____ of the C_____ Sea are part of a vast *u_d_r_e_ mountain c_____. Other islands are c_____, low-lying c_____ islands formed from the *b_i_d_p of *s_a_l sea c_____.

The C_____ islands are divided into t_____ groups. The B_____ is an a_____ of more than s_____ hundred i_____ located n_____ of the C_____ Sea. The Greater Antilles, including C_____, Jamaica, H_____, and P_____ Rico, are the l_____ islands in the *r_____. Some of the islands have rugged m_____ and thick r_____ forests. The Lesser A_____ form an a_____ that stretches from P_____ R_____ to the c_____ of S_____. America. These islands are known as the L_____ A_____.

THE LESSER ANTILLES



Answer in complete sentences

*1. Why are most of the Bahamian islands uninhabited?

2. How were cays formed?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.