

The Revolutionary Americas

Learn It — Comparing and Contrasting Primary and Secondary Sources on the Topic of the Haitian Revolution

Criteria for Comparison	Secondary Source #1	Secondary Source #2	Primary Source #1	Primary Source #2
Title of document	The Haitian Revolution	Overview Essay: Haitian Revolution	Haitian Declaration of Independence	Memoir of General Toussaint L'Ouverture
Date document created	Unknown	Unknown	January 1, 1804	After his 1802 capture and imprisonment by the French
Author of document	Unknown	Unknown	Commander in Chief (Dessalines)	Memoir of General Toussaint L'Ouverture
Purpose/Audience of document	To provide the reader with background information on the Haitian Revolution.	To provide the reader with an overview of the Haitian Revolution.	To unite the people of Haiti against the French and to support Haitian independence.	A report of his actions to the French government while he was imprisoned in a French jail.
Author's Point of View	The author believes that the French Revolution and the Declaration of the Rights of Man triggered the Haitian Revolution.	The author believes that economic factors influenced European actions, and the French Revolution played a small role in the Haitian Revolution.	Hatred for the French. Desire to live in peace with the Caribbean neighbors.	Under his command the colony of Saint Domingo (Haiti) prospered.

Criteria for Comparison	Secondary Source #1	Secondary Source #2	Primary Source #1	Primary Source #2
Information that is similar to other sources (corroborated information)	<p>The Haitian Revolution produced the first independent black nation in the western world.</p> <p>Toussaint was captured by the French.</p> <p>Jean Dessalines proclaimed himself ruler of Haiti.</p>	<p>The Haitian Revolution produced the first independent black nation in the western world.</p> <p>Napoleon Bonaparte captured Toussaint and sought to restore slavery.</p> <p>Jean Dessaline was the first ruler of Haiti.</p>	Dessalines declared Haitian independence in 1804.	General Toussaint L'Ouverture governed the French colony of Saint Domingo until his arrest and imprisonment by the French in 1802.
Information that is different from other sources	<p>Rebellion took 13 years to accomplish its goal.</p> <p>The French "Declaration of the Rights of Man" triggered the rebellion by free people of color demanding citizenship.</p> <p>Haiti means a "higher place."</p> <p>Toussaint was exiled by the French.</p>	<p>Rebellion took 12 years to accomplish its goal.</p> <p>The colony of St. Domingue (Haiti) was important to the French economy.</p> <p>The Black resistance to slavery began before the French Revolution.</p> <p>The loss of life during the 12-year rebellion is included.</p> <p>The reasons for the involvement of the Spanish and British forces are explained.</p>		General Toussaint L'Ouverture followed orders of the French government not to allow enemies of the [French] Republic to land on the island.

Criteria for Comparison	Secondary Source #1	Secondary Source #2	Primary Source #1	Primary Source #2
		<p>Toussaint died in a French prison.</p> <p>Dessalines declared Haiti's independence from France and proclaimed himself as its emperor.</p> <p>Dessalines was assassinated in 1806.</p>		