

Cuba: Tito's Trouble with Communism | Worksheet Packet

Geography Focus

Map of Central America and the Caribbean



[Map of the Caribbean by [TUBS](#), licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0. Modified by PragerU Kids; changes include labeling and cropping.]

Directions:

- ☐ Label the approximate location of Havana, the capital of Cuba
- ☐ Label the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of America, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean
- ☐ Circle and label the islands in the Greater Antilles (Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica, Puerto Rico)
- ☐ Circle the Lesser Antilles and label (the islands are too small on this map to label individually).
- ☐ Label the eight countries that make up Central America (Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama)



Map of the Island of Cuba



1. Compass Rose Directions
 - ☐ Create and label a compass rose with the cardinal directions on the map: North, South, East, West.
2. Measuring Distances with the Scale: Using the scale bar (bottom, left), measure:
 - ☐ The total length of Cuba from Pinar del Rio to Guantánamo.
 - ☐ The widest part across the island from north to south.
 - ☐ The distance between Havana and Santiago de Cuba.
 - ☐ The distance from Isla de la Juventud to the Cayman Islands.
3. How can a country's proximity to another affect its history and development? Think about trade, travel, conflict, or cultural influence.

Vocabulary Focus & Sentence Writing

Word Bank:

communism	Fidel Castro	Cuban Revolution	nationalize	black market	free market
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Match the term to its definition:

1. _____ Individuals can own businesses, trade freely, and compete fairly.
2. _____ A parallel economy where people buy and sell goods outside of government control.
3. _____ A revolutionary leader who ruled Cuba from 1959 to 2008, turning it into a communist nation.
4. _____ When a government takes private property and turns it into state-owned property.
5. _____ A system where all property and resources are owned and controlled by the government.
6. _____ A political uprising that removed Batista from power and brought Fidel Castro into leadership in Cuba.

Write two sentences using any two words from the word bank above. Try to connect your sentence to the story.

7. _____

8. _____

Cause & Effect Chart

Use the chart below to track 2-3 challenges from the story and the policies or ideologies that cause them.

Problem	Policy/Ideology Behind It	Effect on the Character
<i>Example: Tito's father disappears after attending protests</i>	<i>Censorship and suppression of dissent under communism</i>	<i>The family loses its main source of income; Tito works two jobs to help his family</i>

Reading Comprehension and Personal Reflection

Answer the following questions based on your reading.

1. Why does Carolina get in trouble at school?

2. How does Tito help support his family, and what does this reveal about this character?

3. Describe two distinctly Cuban cultural features that are mentioned in the story.

Long Answer Response:

4. How do Carolina and Tito each respond to life under communism? Compare their actions and attitudes. Which response do you think is more powerful—and why?

Personal Reflection Prompt:

5. Tito's story shows how communism affects individuals and families by limiting freedom, choice, and opportunity. Why do you think liberty is important for human dignity? How would your life be different if you lived in Cuba?

Tito's Trouble with Communism | Answer Key

Geography Focus

Map of Central America and the Caribbean



Use the answers in the map above for grading.

Map of the Island of Cuba



1. Compass Rose Directions: Use the answers in the map above for grading.
2. Measuring Distances with the Scale: Using the scale bar (bottom, left), measure:
 - ☐ The total length of Cuba from Pinar del Rio to Guantánamo. Roughly 600 mi.
 - ☐ The widest part across the island from north to south. Roughly 100 mi.
 - ☐ The distance between Havana and Santiago de Cuba. Roughly 475 mi.
 - ☐ The distance from Isla de la Juventud to the Cayman Islands. Roughly 175-200 mi.
3. How can a country's proximity to another affect its history and development? Consider trade, travel, conflict, or cultural influence. Cuba's proximity to the U.S. gave it access to trade, tourism, and cultural exchange, but it also made it a key player in Cold War conflict, which influenced its turn to communism and isolation under the U.S. embargo.

Vocabulary Focus and Sentence Writing

Word Bank:

communism	Fidel Castro	Cuban Revolution	nationalize	black market	free market
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Match the term to its definition:

1. **Free market** Individuals can own businesses, trade freely, and compete fairly.
2. **Black market** A parallel economy where people buy and sell goods outside of government control.
3. **Fidel Castro** A revolutionary leader who ruled Cuba from 1959 to 2008, turning it into a communist nation.
4. **Nationalize** When a government takes private property and turns it into state-owned property.
5. **Communism** A system where all property and resources are owned and controlled by the government.
6. **Cuban Revolution** A political uprising that removed Batista from power and brought Fidel Castro into leadership in Cuba.

Write two sentences using any two words from the word bank above. Try to connect your sentence to the story. **Open-ended; examples will vary. Sample sentences:**

7. **Fidel Castro nationalized** the country by taking private property and businesses in the name of **communism**.
8. The **Cuban Revolution** led to decades of government control and suppression of basic freedoms.

Cause and Effect Chart

Use the chart below to track 2-3 challenges from the story and the policies or ideologies that cause them.

Problem	Policy/Ideology Behind It	Effect on the Character
<i>Example: Tito's father disappears after attending protests</i>	<i>Censorship and suppression of dissent under communism</i>	<i>The family loses its main source of income; Tito works two jobs to help his family</i>
Carolina is nearly expelled for speaking honestly about healthcare and her mother	Government control of education and censorship	She faces expulsion from school
Tito's boxing career depends on government approval	State control of sports and opportunities.	His ability to pursue athletic goals depends on government favor and not personal merit
Government rations do not provide enough to survive	Forced economic control and lack of a free market	Tito's family is forced to turn to the black market for basic necessities
Vital resources like electricity, medicine, and clean water are unreliable across the country	Centralized government control and failure to maintain infrastructure under communism	All Cubans—including Tito's family—suffer regular power outages, medical shortages, and water issues, making daily life difficult and unsafe.

Reading Comprehension and Personal Reflection

Answer the following questions based on your reading.

1. Why does Carolina get in trouble at school? Carolina speaks honestly in class about the problems her mother has faced in Cuba's healthcare system. The school threatens to expel her.
2. How does Tito help support his family, and what does this reveal about this character? Tito supports his family by working several jobs, shining shoes, selling crafts, and cleaning the boxing gym. This shows that he is responsible, determined, and selfless.

3. Describe two distinctly Cuban cultural features that are mentioned in the story. Cuban music and dance are important cultural features. The story also highlights traditional food like arroz con leche and family-centered traditions like quinceañeras.

Long Answer Response:

4. How do Carolina and Tito each respond to life under communism? Compare their actions and attitudes. Which response do you think is more powerful—and why?
Student responses will vary. Consider these cues when assessing responses:
 - Tito: patient, self-sacrificing, cautious
 - Carolina: outspoken, emotional, resistant.
 - More powerful? (subjective)—Students may choose Tito's steady discipline or Carolina's bold truth-telling, but they must justify it with textual examples.

Personal Reflection Prompt:

5. Tito's story shows how communism affects individuals and families by limiting freedom, choice, and opportunity. Why do you think liberty is important for human dignity? How would your life be different if you lived in Cuba?
Student responses will vary. Look for answers that reflect on freedom of speech, faith, education, or career choices.