



Dominican Republic Comprehension

Lola's family came from the Spanish speaking Dominican Republic in the West Indies. The Dominican Republic is 5/8 of the island of Hispaniola. It is the most populous island in the Caribbean, and the region's second largest in area, after the main island of Cuba. The remaining part 3/8 of the island are known as Haiti where French rather than Spanish is spoken.

The Dominican Republic is home to the second largest gold mine in the world, the Pueblo Viejo mine. It is also home to the Palmchat, its national bird. The Palmchat is a very special bird because it is the only member of its family (Dulidae) and genus.

Palmchats are thick set birds, approximately 20cms in size, dark brown with an olive-green colour on the end of their wings. Their underneath is white with brown streaks. A very social bird they live in groups of up to 50 members who all share a communal roosting and nesting space atop palm trees in large stick-mounds. The communal nest is divided up into multiple nesting chambers, each pair has its own chamber.

1.) What language is spoken in the Dominican Republic?

2.) How much of Hispaniola is occupied by the Dominican Republic?

3.) What is the French speaking part of Hispaniola called?

4.) What is the Dominican Republic's national bird?

5.) Why is this bird unique?

