

Cuba At the Crossroads

Lesson 1

90 Miles: Eleguá



1591 De Bry and Le Moyne Map of Florida and Cuba

Essential Questions

- How do artists express their most important political views?
- How can we learn about the history and culture of a country through music?
- What are examples of the African influence in Cuban culture?
- What factors contributed to a break in Cuban-US relations?
- What are the push-pull factors for immigration?
- How do immigrants express patriotism?

The award winning Cuban-American singer and songwriter Gloria Estefan is famous as a crossover artist who combines Latin rhythms mixed with contemporary pop music. Her music reflects the sounds of Cuban culture as well as the nostalgic sentiments of Cuban-Americans.

What can we learn about Cuban history and culture by listening to Gloria Estefan's music?

Estefan's song "90 Millas" from the album of the same name begins:

*Echodara Agoile, Agó Echure Oh
Elegua, Elegua ele, Elegua Eleguara*

Noventa Millas vienen, Noventa Millas faltan

Spanish speaking students will recognize the words 90 miles and the verbs venir and faltar but, *Echodara Agoile, Agó Echure Oh Elegua, Elegua ele, Elegua Eleguara*, what do they mean? What language is this? What does 90 miles represent to Gloria Estefan, a Cuban-American?

In Lesson 1 learn about Cuban music, Cuban emigration to the United States and how Cuban-American musicians express their patriotism through music. Discover why Estefan entitled one of her Spanish albums *90 Millas*.