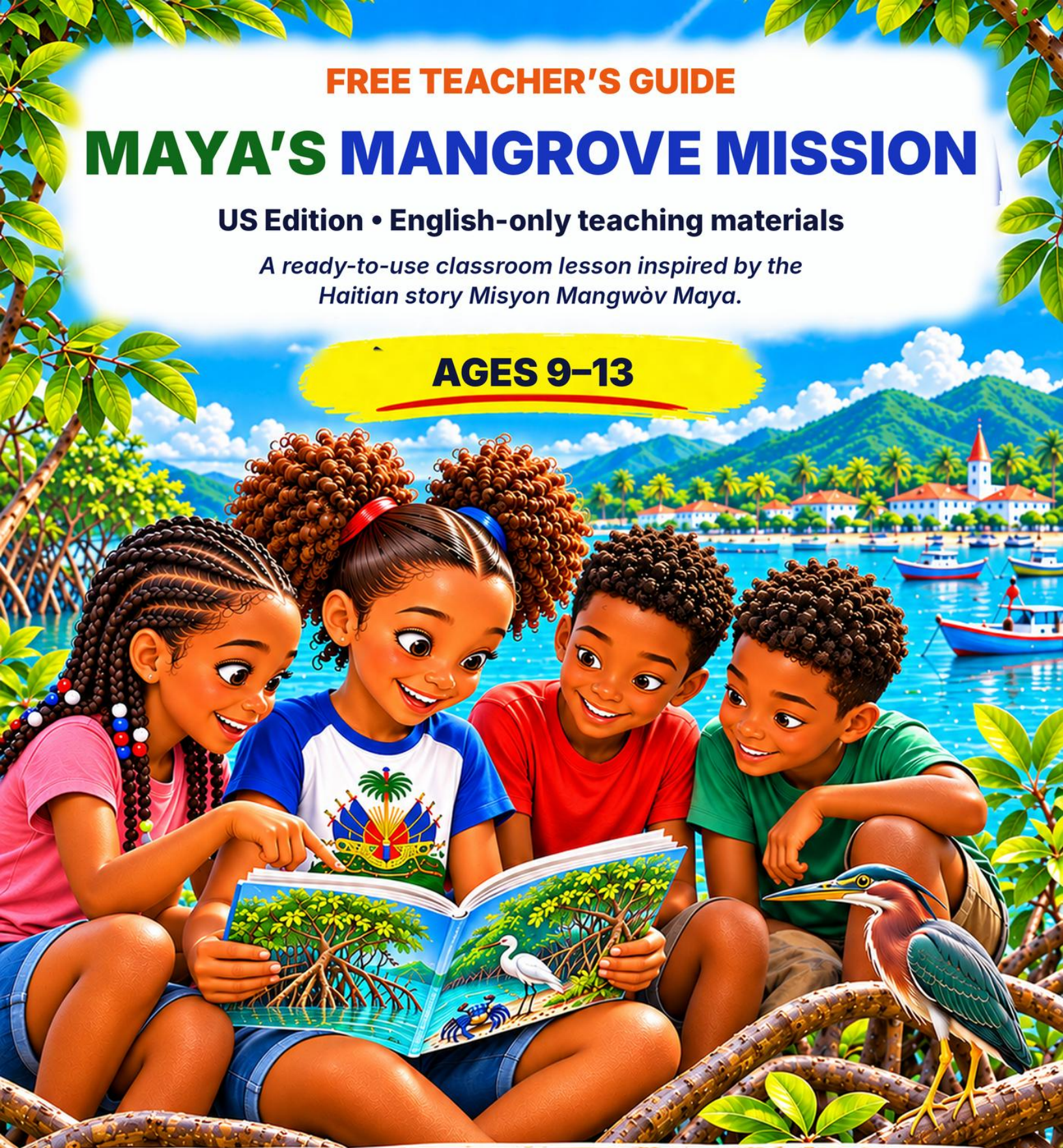
FREE TEACHER'S GUIDE

MAYA'S MANGROVE MISSION

US Edition • English-only teaching materials

A ready-to-use classroom lesson inspired by the Haitian story Misyon Mangwòv Maya.

AGES 9–13



Read, experiment, and protect the mangroves.

For classroom and library use. Not for resale.



How to Use This Guide

A complete 60-minute lesson built around Maya's Mangrove Mission. Teachers may read the story in a language appropriate to their class.

1 

15 min
Read the story aloud.

Need the book? Scan the codes on page 9.

2 

15 min
Discuss the questions on pages 3–4.

pages 3–4

3 

25 min
Complete the Mangrove Root Network activity (page 6).

page 6

4 

5 min
Review vocabulary, say the pledge together (page 10) and send home the family sheet.

pages 5 and 7

Materials Checklist

- ☐ Straws and modeling clay
- ☐ A tray and a small amount of water
- ☐ A small fan (optional; adult operated)
- ☐ Paper and pencils





Discussion Guide

1. **Why did Maya love looking at the mangroves?**

2. **What did Papa Jo say mangroves do during big storms?**

3. **How do mangroves help animals?**

4. **Why were the mangroves in trouble?**

5. **What did Maya and her friends do to help?**



Discussion Guide — Continued

6 How did the young mangroves survive the storm?

7 Maya says mangroves "stick together and support each other," like a family. What does she mean?

8 How are the mangroves in the story similar to coastal habitats in your region?

9 Why is it important to protect coastal habitats near you?

10 What is one action you can take to help protect nature, just as Maya did?



Vocabulary Cards

Cut out these cards for matching games. Ask students to explain each term using an example from the story.



MANGROVE

A coastal tree adapted to salty or brackish water.



BRACKISH WATER

Water that is partly salty and partly fresh.



COMMUNITY

A group of people who live or work together.



ENDANGERED

At risk of disappearing forever.



EROSION

When wind or water wears away soil or land.



ECOSYSTEM

Living things interacting with their environment.



COASTLINE

The boundary where land meets the sea.



CONSERVATION

Protecting and caring for the natural world.



HABITAT

A place where an organism lives.



BIODIVERSITY

The variety of living things in an area.



Mangrove Root Network

Objective: explore how a simple model of interconnected supports can affect stability. This is an analogy, not a simulation of actual hurricane or flood protection.

1. **Build a model forest:** place upright straws in clay, roughly 5 cm apart.
2. **Test without connections:** use a small fan at a fixed distance and setting. Record what moves.
3. **Add root-like supports:** connect or brace straws near their bases.
4. **Test again** using the same fan position and setting. Record what changes.

   Observation *Without supports:* _____ *With supports:* _____
5. **Optional:** add a little water to the tray and observe stability.

Reflection

1. **What changed after the supports were added?**

   _____

   _____

   _____

2. **What does this model show—and what can it not show?**

   _____

   _____

   _____

3. **How might living plant roots help stabilize soil?**

   _____

   _____

   _____



Take-Home Family Sheet

Maya's Challenge: Protect Our Planet!

Families can discuss the story and choose one practical way to care for their surroundings.

Questions for Home

1. **What did you learn about mangroves today?**

2. **Why are mangroves important for our planet?**

3. **What is one way you can help protect the environment?**

4. **Which habitats protect shorelines or riverbanks in your region?**

Our Family Promise

We will:

- ☐ care for nature
- ☐ reduce waste
- ☐ reuse and recycle

Read Maya's story at home!

Scan the code to read the complete Kreyòl story for free.

patwahpress.com/maya



Want the Full STEM Program?

This free guide is a classroom introduction. Educators and schools can request information about the complete Misyon Mangwòv Maya STEM Kit.

- **A 90-minute lesson plan and extended activities**
- **A second experiment: Engineer a Coastline**
- **Mathematics, observation and evidence recording**
- **Environmental investigations and STEM career connections**
- **Student quizzes, reflections and evaluation resources**

REQUEST THE FULL STEM KIT

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Teacher Implementation Notes

US Edition • English

1 TIMING AND FLEXIBILITY

The 60-minute lesson stands alone or may be extended to 90 minutes. Adapt activities to available time and learners' needs.

2 LANGUAGE AND INCLUSION

Use English to facilitate the lesson. Welcome discussion in students' home languages and accept spoken, written or drawn responses. No new Haitian Kreyòl translations are supplied in this guide.

3 MATERIALS AND SAFETY

Use clean, safe materials. Supervise clay, straws, fans and water. An adult should operate the fan. Avoid sharp objects, shared blowing straws and spills.

4 SIMPLE LEARNING CHECK

Before and after the lesson, ask students to name one benefit of mangroves and one action to protect habitats. Record group totals only; do not collect student names.

5 MODEL LIMITATIONS

The straw model illustrates support and stability. It does not reproduce real waves, flooding or coastal processes. Keep experimental conditions as consistent as possible.

6 LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Connect Haiti's mangroves to wetlands, riverbanks and coastlines near your school. Do not assume these ecosystems work identically.

Get the Book

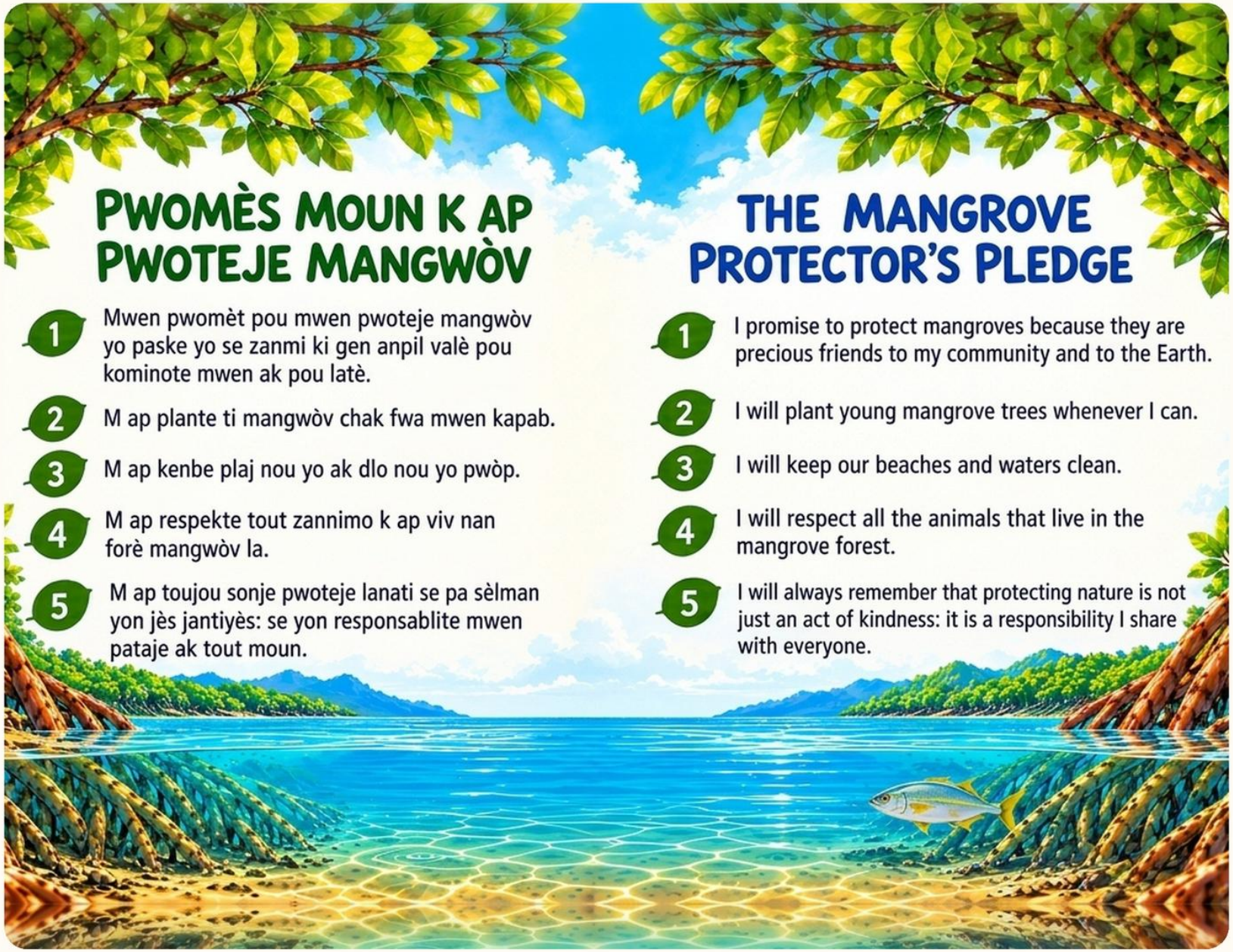
Buy the bilingual edition or find it through your library.

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Free Kreyòl Story

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