

# What is Culture?




**Watch the video below  
about culture.**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=o32l-U6nGY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o32l-U6nGY)

# What comes to mind when you think of South America's





Latin America has a unique culture. Let's examine some of the cultural characteristics of people who live in Latin America



**Essential Question:**

**What are the cultural characteristics of people who live in Latin America?**

# Standards:




- **SS6G4a. Describe the results of blending of ethnic groups in Latin America and the Caribbean.**
- **SS6G4b. Explain why Latin America is a region based on the languages of Portuguese and Spanish.**
- **SS6H2b. Describe the influence of the Spanish and the Portuguese on the language and religions of Latin America.**

# Background




Recall our studies earlier in the year on European exploration.

Think, Pair, Share – What were the three main reasons for exploration?

God 

Glory 

Gold 

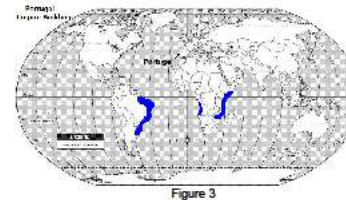
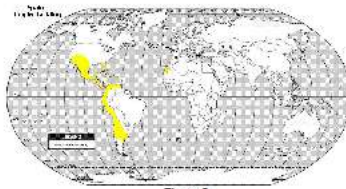




## Latin America Culture Investigation

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Use the maps below to answer the questions about Latin America.



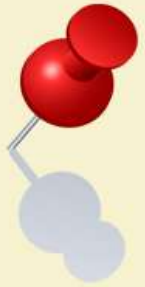
1. Based on Figure 1, what is the language of most Latin American countries? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Based on Figure 1, what is the language of Brazil? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Using Figures 1 and 2, explain the reasoning for the language of most Latin American countries. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Using Figures 1 and 3, explain the reasoning for the language of Brazil. \_\_\_\_\_



5. Using Figure 4, what religion is most of Latin America? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Using Figures 4 and 5, explain the reasoning for the religion of most of Latin America. \_\_\_\_\_

# Latin American Culture Investigation

# Use your Graphic Organizer to record Notes



**Culture of Latin America**

Cultural Diversity of Latin America

Languages of Latin America

Religion of Latin America

The graphic organizer features a central map of Latin America with the title "Culture of Latin America" overlaid. Three empty, rounded rectangular boxes are positioned around the map for note-taking: one on the left labeled "Cultural Diversity of Latin America", one on the top right labeled "Languages of Latin America", and one on the bottom right labeled "Religion of Latin America".





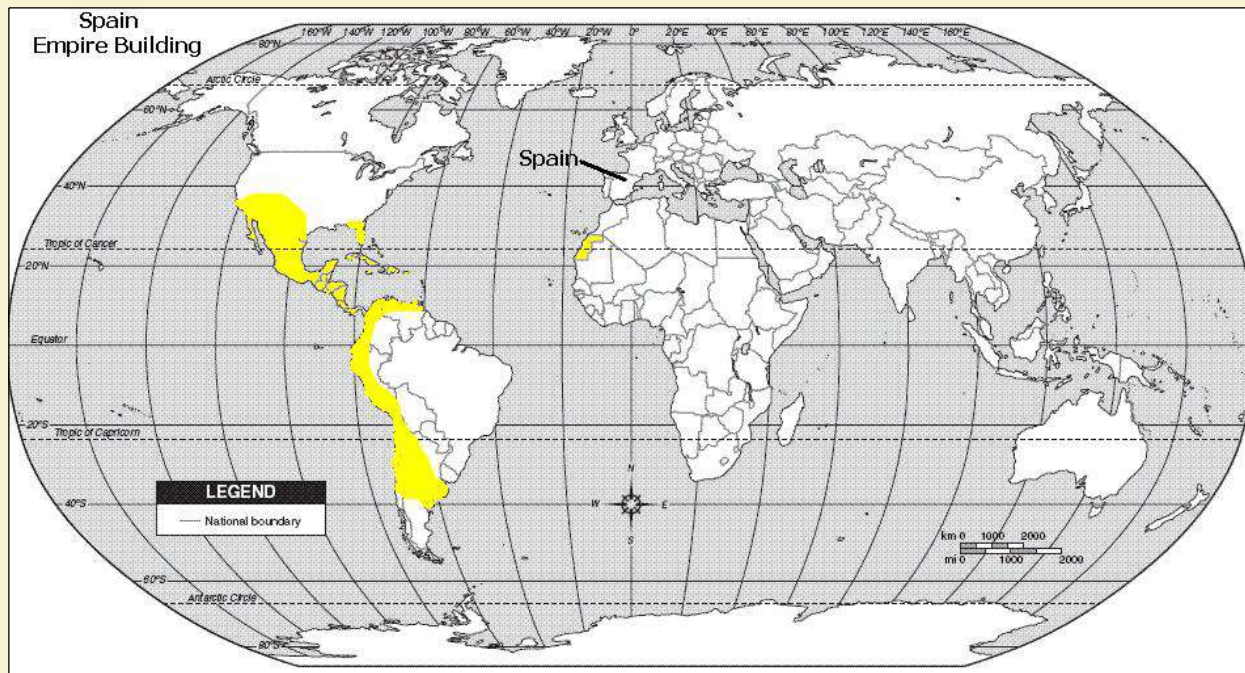
**During European exploration and colonization, European countries that conquered other regions often usurped [took over] the native language and religion of that region.**

**This is true for Latin America.**

# Languages of Latin America



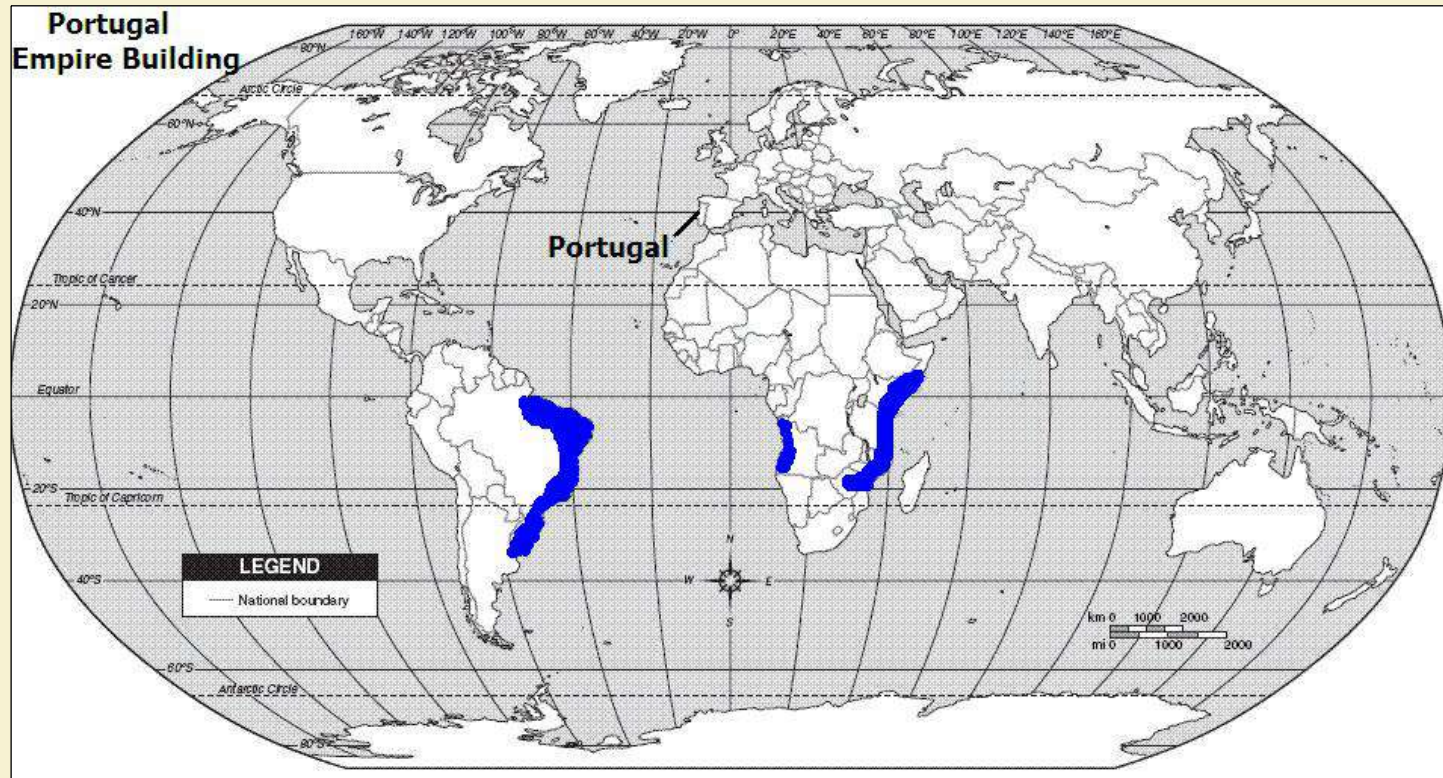
Most Latin American countries speak Spanish because Spain built an empire in most Latin American countries.



# Languages of Latin America



Portuguese is spoken in Brazil because Portugal built an empire in this area.



The name Latin America comes from the fact that Spanish, Portuguese and French came from the Latin language.



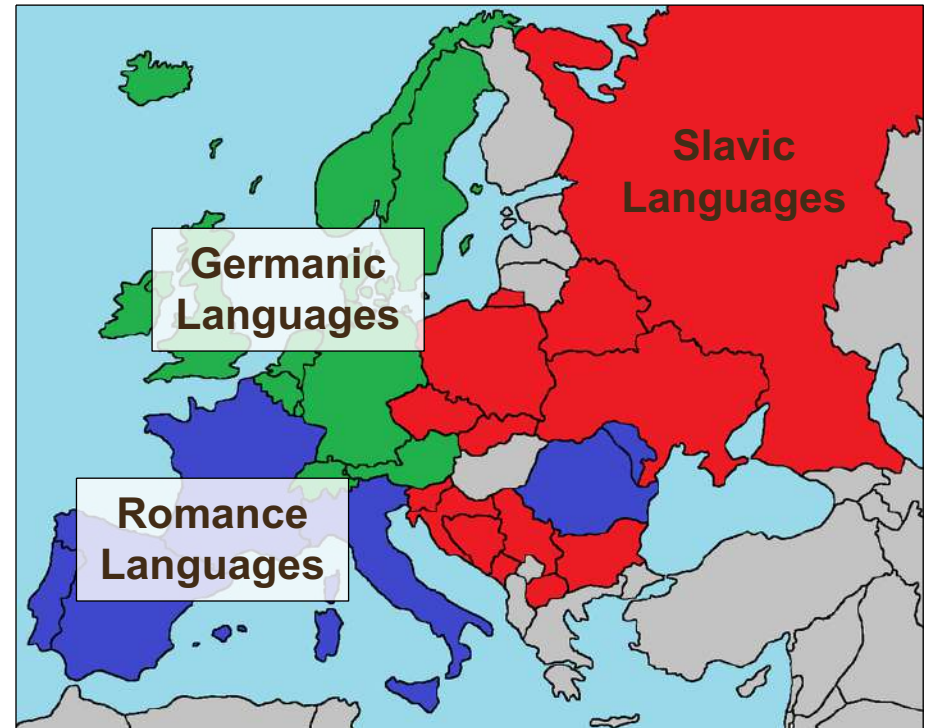
These languages are called Romance languages because they all came from medieval [out-of-date] Latin dialects [languages] spoken in areas of Europe ruled by the Roman Empire.



# History of Romance Languages



## Roots of European Languages



The Spanish and Portuguese languages are called Romance languages because they came from old languages used during the Roman Empire.

# Religion in Latin America



Latin America's dominant religion is Roman Catholicism. Over 90% of people in the region claim to be Catholic.

Catholic values and attitudes are part of life in almost every country in Latin America.



**If you lived here which language would you speak? Why? Which religion?**



Although Latin America has the same basic language and religion, its culture is very diverse. What caused this diversity?



European colonization not only brought changes in language and religion to Latin America, it also influenced other aspects of culture.



The people and culture of Latin America are an interesting blend of the indigenous [native] people and the countries that established colonies there.

Once Europeans settled in Latin American, ethnic groups began to blend together.

# What's an ethnic group?



An ethnic group shares many common characteristics such as language, physical appearance, customs, and traditions.



Think, Pair, Share:

Identify a group that could be considered an ethnic group.

Italian, Hispanic, Asian,  
Arab, Dutch, Greek, Irish,  
Persian, etc.

The American Indians  
[indigenous people] married  
Spanish people.



Mestizos were the  
people of mixed  
European and  
Indian ancestry.



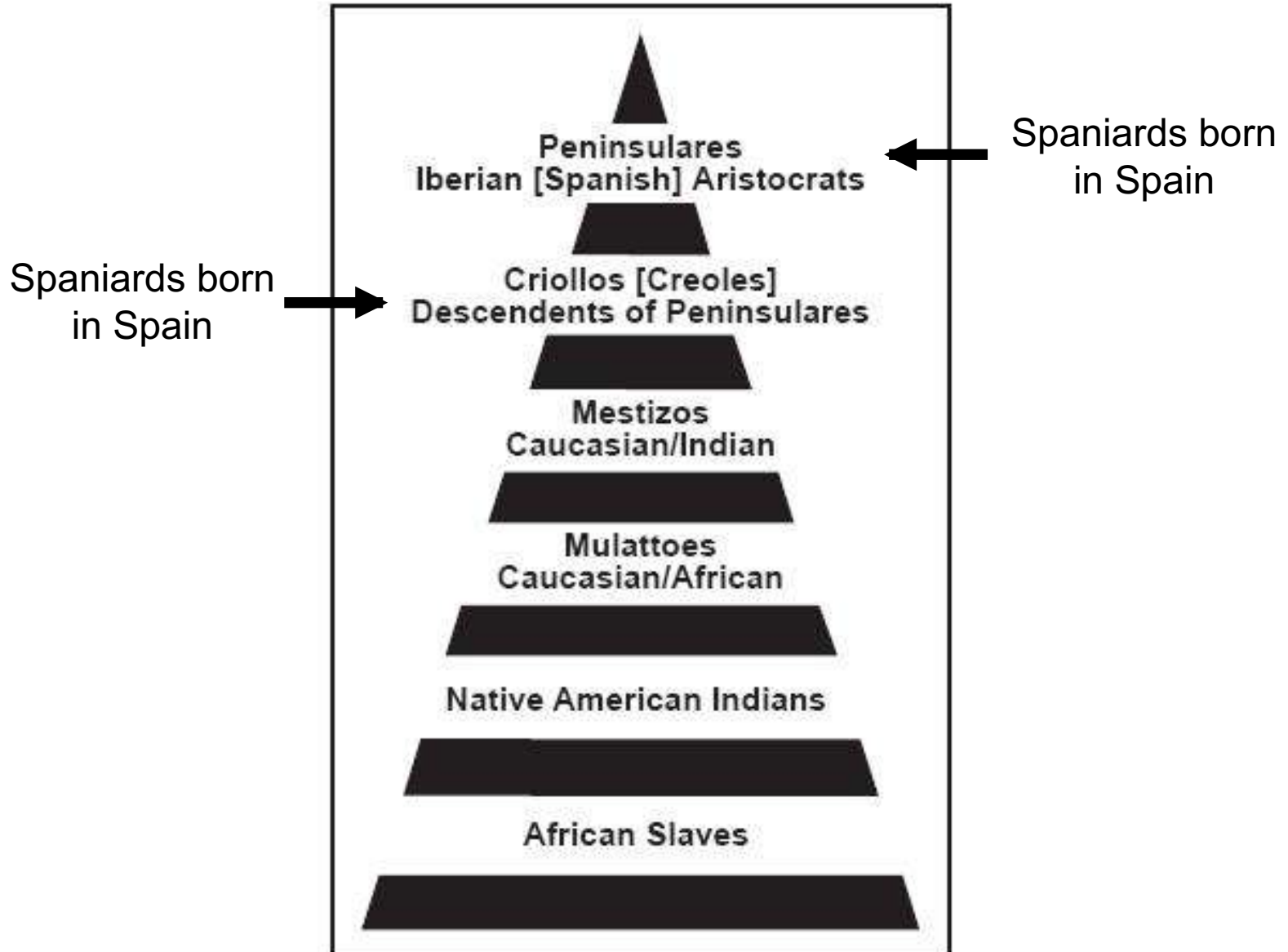


The Europeans also married black slaves that were brought to Latin America from Africa.

Mulattoes are people of mixed black & European descent.



## Social Classes in Spanish Colonies



Source: John Osborne et al., *Global Studies*,  
N & N Publishing (adapted)



# **Geography of the World: Latin America: The People**

**[22 minutes]**



# **Summarizer:**

**Describe how European settlers influenced the language, religion, and culture of Latin America.**