

Spanish & Portuguese Influence on Latin America

Unit 7 Notes

Discovery of the Americas

- **Christopher Columbus was sponsored by Spain.**
 - **His mission: find a quick and safe route to Asia**
- **Columbus never reached Asia; he landed in the Americas in 1492 and claimed the surrounding land for Spain.**



Columbus' First Landing



Spanish Colonization

- **Spanish explored, conquered, and settled areas of Florida, Mexico, and parts of Central and South America.**
 - **also claimed many islands in the Caribbean**
- **Today, most people in these areas speak Spanish.**



Portuguese Colonization

- **Portugal claimed the land from the Atlantic Ocean across South America to the Andes Mountains.**
 - **It covered most of the vast Amazon River region, in what is now present-day Brazil.**
- **Today, most people in this area (Brazil) speak Portuguese.**



Cultural Diffusion

- **The Spanish and Portuguese spread their culture and religion across the region:**
 - **developed colonies that were similar to the ones in Europe**
 - **conquered the natives and forced them to learn Spanish and Portuguese and convert to Roman Catholicism**



Languages in Latin America

green-Spanish

orange-Portuguese

blue-French

Latin America Today

- **The term “*Latin America*” started in the 1800s.**
- **It refers to the group of countries that spoke mostly languages based on the ancient Latin language.**
 - **Spanish and Portuguese are both derivatives of Latin.**
- **The shared history, culture, & languages have united the region.**