

## WebQuest: Why study Spanish? And where in the world is it spoken?

1. Why study Spanish? Give two reasons to learn Spanish according to the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, as explained on their website:  
[http://www.aatsp.org/?page=adv\\_why](http://www.aatsp.org/?page=adv_why)
2. From the same website, what are some of the cultural influences of Spanish in the United States today?
3. Visit the Washington Post's online article "The world's languages, in 7 maps and charts" (available at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2015/04/23/the-worlds-languages-in-7-maps-and-charts/>)
  - a. What two regions in the world are the **LEAST** linguistically diverse?
  - b. The AATSP website claimed that Spanish was the 2<sup>nd</sup> most common native language in the world, after Chinese. The Washington Post graphic shows Spanish as having the 5<sup>th</sup> most native speakers, but the website also cites another study claiming Spanish has more native speakers than English. How does the website explain this discrepancy?
  - c. What is the most commonly studied foreign language in the world?
4. Surprisingly, English is not the official language of the United States – we are one of the few countries in the world with no "official" language. However, American English is the predominate language in the United States. According to Olivet University (available at <http://graduate.olivet.edu/news-events/news/second-most-spoken-languages-around-world>),
  - a. what is the second most commonly spoken language in the U.S.?
  - b. What percent of Americans speak that language?
5. Using the U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts for Georgia (available at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13000.html>),
  - a. What percent of U.S. residents identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino?
  - b. What percent of Georgians identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino?
  - c. What percent of Thomas County residents identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino?
  - d. What percent of Colquitt County residents identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino?
  - e. In your opinion, what **might** account for the difference in population between Thomas County and Colquitt County (just 10 miles up the road from here)?

For the remainder of the questions in this WebQuest, you may use the CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>) or a search engine to find your answers.

6. Where does the name "México" come from?
7. What is the name of the river that borders Texas and Mexico?
8. What are the official languages that are spoken in Spain?
9. What mountains are between Spain and France?

10. What mountain range runs the full length of South America?
11. What is the only country in continental South America that does not Speak Spanish?
12. When did Puerto Ricans acquire U.S. citizenship?
13. What is the oldest capital city in the United States?
14. List three U.S. states that have names of Spanish origin.
15. Besides Texas and California, what 3 states have the largest Latino populations?
16. This country is about 30% the size of the United States. It has a mountain range and lots of rolling plains. This country produces a lot of agricultural products and is famous for its beef.  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_
17. This country has one of the lowest poverty rates of all Spanish speaking countries at around 15%. It produces a lot of mineral exports in its mines. Climate it partially mountainous, partially rolling plains and some desert areas.  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_
18. This country is part of the “banana republic”, but most of its income is generated from tourism. It has many different “microclimates” including tropical forests, mountainous zones, and beaches. This country has coastline on both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_
19. This country was visited by Christopher Columbus on his second trip to the Americas, and he exploited them for their silver, making the natives work in the mines until they died from exhaustion. Today it is not a sovereign country, but rather a territory belonging to another country, giving their citizens special rights, different than other Spanish speaking countries.  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_
20. This Central American country is the most densely populated per sq mile of all Spanish speaking countries. They experienced a civil war that lasted for 36 years! It’s a very poor country, with 54% of all citizens living below the poverty line. 20% of the population controls over 50% of the country’s wealth.  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_
21. This island nation was visited by Christopher Columbus on his first voyage to the Americas, and he confused them for the British West Indies. The majority of their population is of mixed ethnicity (black/Hispanic/white).  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_
22. This country was home to the capital of the Inca Empire, who once dominated the entire coast of South America. Their flag contains a tree, a Vicuna (cousin of the llama) and a cornucopia full of gold coins.  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_
23. This South American country is totally landlocked. They produce a wide variety of agricultural products as well as cement, textiles, and wood products. Throughout their history they have fought wars with Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and experienced a military dictatorship as their government until 1989.

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_

24. This South American country has a landmass about 2X the size of the state of Texas. They have coastal zones, rainforest and some mountainous areas. Environmentally they struggle with deforestation, pollution, water quality and overuse of pesticides. Many of this country's citizens have fled the country because of civil war with narcotrafficantes.

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_

25. This country suffers from unseasonably high winds, droughts and floods due to the fact that they have no mountains within their borders. It is the second smallest South American country and their flag is a copycat of the Argentine flag.

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_

26. This Caribbean nation was also visited by Christopher Columbus and the Spaniards imported a large population of African slaves to work in their sugar plantations. The leader of their country until recently was the longest ruling dictator in all of Latin American history. It is not legal for most US citizens to visit this country, although we have both a military base and a prison on their land.

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_

27. This country is roughly 3X the size of Texas. Its number one export is petroleum and its number one GDP revenue source is money sent home from citizens working abroad. This country has desert, mountain, tropical forest and coastal climates and exports a wide variety of agricultural products and manufactured goods, including textiles and automobiles.

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_

28. This country hosts the highest mountain from the center of the earth, and suffers frequent earthquakes, floods, landslides, droughts and volcanic eruptions due to its high altitude and mountainous terrain. The Galapagos islands "belong" to this country.

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_

29. This country is one of the poorest in all of Latin America and has the highest murder rate. Their population struggles with a high AIDS rate (#62 in the world) and this affects their average life expectancy. While less than 5% of the country is unemployed, 60% of their people live below the poverty rate with one third of the population being underemployed. (poorly paid for their skill set) While most of their exports are agricultural, this country also produces a lot of clothing sold in the United States.

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_

30. This is the smallest Central American country. They experienced a Civil war in the 1980's that cost 75,000 people their lives. They are the only Central American Country that does not have any coastline on the Caribbean Sea.

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Capital: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***BREAKING NEWS!!!***

31. According to the U.S. Census Bureau (reported at <http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/in-long-predicted-shift-california-latinos-outnumber-whites/ar-AAcJIY0>), what significant population shift recently occurred in California? What are the other U.S. states where whites are no longer the largest ethnic group?

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer Document for

**WebQuest: Why study Spanish? And where in the world is it spoken?**

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B. \_\_\_\_\_

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C. \_\_\_\_\_

4. A. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. A. \_\_\_\_\_

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