









Colonial Latin American Society

The American and French Revolutions changed ideas around the world about who should control government. The ideas of the Enlightenment found their way across the seas into many of the European colonies in Latin America. In Latin America, many people resented the control that European powers had over them.



Use the information on the chart below to color in the map on the left. The map key will tell you which design to fill in each colony.

Portuguese Colonies 	French Colonies 	Spanish Colonies 
Brazil	Guianas, Haiti	Mexico, Cuba, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Colombia, Panama, Venezuela

Social Class	Who are they? What was their role in society?
 Peninsulares	
 Creoles	
 Mestizos	
 Slaves	
 Indians	

People of Latin America

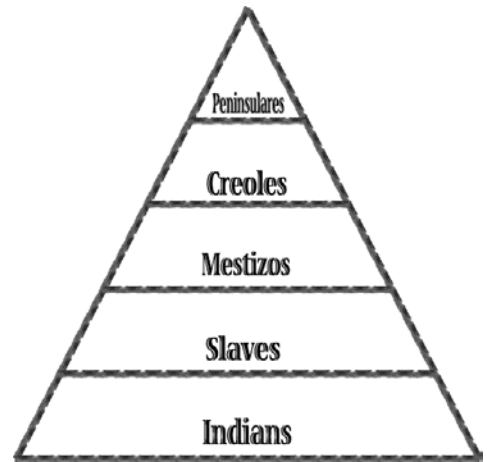
Latin American colonial society was sharply divided into classes based on birth. At the top of Spanish American society were **Peninsulares**; men who had been born in Spain. Only Peninsulares could hold high office in Spanish colonial government. **Creoles**, Spaniards born in Latin America, ranked after Peninsulares. Creoles could not hold high political offices, but they could serve in colonial armies and become officers. Together, these two minority groups controlled wealth and power in the Spanish colonies. Below the Creoles came the **Mestizos** (persons of mixed European and Indian ancestry). After the Mestizos came the **African slaves**. African slaves performed all of the hard labor for the colonists. Last were the **Indians**. Unlike enslaved Africans, Indians were of little economic value to the Spaniards. As a result they were more severely oppressed than any other group.



Who was ready for change?

Read each statement below and answer the following:

- Decide if a Peninsular, a Creole, a Mestizo, an Indian, or an African slave said the statement.
- Describe the goals of that group.



1. *"I consider myself a Spanish American. My parents came from Spain, but I was born in this new land. I appreciate my Spanish heritage, but I believe the time has come to be free from ties with Spain!"*

Who said it?	Goals of this group

2. *"This is my land! My people lived here long before any others. Then conquerors came from beyond the sea. They seized the land and made my people work for them like animals. They took our gold and silver. We want our freedom once again."*

Who said it?	Goals of this group

3. *"My father came from across the sea. My mother is a native of this land. Though some people scorn (hate) me, I feel that I combine the best of two cultures. I will fight for freedom and respect!"*

Who said it?	Goals of this group

4. *"We bring our culture, our knowledge and our religion to this savage land. We will rule this land and we - will civilize its people."*

Who said it?	Goals of this group

5. *"I am ready to stand up against the rulers of this land. They brought me here, against my will. They made me work for them but gave me nothing in return. I know I shall never see my homeland again, so I am ready to fight t make my new land free!"*

Who said it?	Goals of this group

DIRECTIONS: With a partner, first decide which groups were ready for a drastic change in Latin America. Then, using all of your background knowledge on the French Revolution, create a "plan of attack" for waging a revolution in Latin America. Use specific examples from the French Revolution to back up your strategy! The plan should be composed of a series of steps (List them as Step 1, Step 2 etc.). Be prepared to share your plan with the class

