

# Leaders of the Revolution in Latin America

"When Napoleon Bonaparte of France invaded Spain in 1808 he did us a favor. He imprisoned the Spanish King. Napoleon put his own brother, Joseph Bonaparte, on the throne. All over Latin America we formed councils, called juntas, to defend our colonies against the French. This chance to rule ourselves planted ideas of freedom in our heads and open rebellion against the Spanish spread rapidly throughout Latin America."



**Why would Napoleons invasion of Spain help the people in Latin America?**

---

---

---



## Saint Domingue (Haiti) - French Colony

In Saint Domingue, 95% of the population were slaves who were brought by force from Africa. They worked on the plantations from sunrise to sundown with absolutely no rights. During the chaos brought on by the revolution in France in the early 1790s, they were encouraged by the ideas of the French Revolution: "Liberty, Fraternity (brotherhood), and Equality." **Toussaint L'Ouverture** was a freed slave whose former owner had taught him to read and write, and supplied him with books about Ancient Rome and Enlightenment thinkers. Led by L'ouverture, they revolted, setting fire to plantation homes and sugarcane fields. In order to inspire his men he said:

*"Do not disappoint me. Prove yourselves men who know how to value liberty and defend it ... We are fighting to preserve liberty for ourselves, for our children, for our brothers, for our fellow citizens."*  
Toussaint L' Ouverture (1791)

In 1802, Napoleon sent forces to take control of Haiti. A wave of yellow fever also aided the revolutionaries in their victory, however their leader, Toussaint L'Overture was captured and imprisoned in France. He then said:

*"In overthrowing me, the French have only felled the tree of black liberty in Haiti. It will shoot up again, for it is deep rooted, and it's roots are many."*

He died before his dream became a reality, but Haiti became the first black republic in the New World.



## Mexico -Spanish Colony

Mexico was a society where Indians and Mestizos made up the majority of the population. Almost all Mexicans were poor and we didn't have any say in the government. Creoles (people of Spanish ancestry born in the Latin America) and Spaniards were the ruling class and owned most of the land. Creoles wanted Mexico to be independent but they also wished to maintain their wealth and prestige. In 1810, a priest, **Father Hidalgo**, led an army of Indians and Mestizos on a "freedom march". They robbed cities and killed Spaniards and those who supported Spaniards on the way to Guadalajara. They called their army the People's army. Many joined the army along the way.

*"My Children, will you be free? Will you make the effort to recover the lands stolen from your forefathers by the hated Spaniards 300 years ago?"*

Father Miguel Hidalgo September 16, 1810

This rebellion was brutally crushed by the Creoles and Spaniards. Many Mestizos and Indians were killed, including Hidalgo. After, a Spanish soldier named Iturbide, led the Creoles in their own successful rebellion and Mexico became independent in 1821.




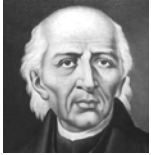

## The Spanish Colony of Gran Colombia - (Today known as Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Venezuela)

**Simon Bolivar** was an educated Creoles also inspired by the ideas of the American and French Revolutions. Bolivar, a brilliant general, led an army and earned the nickname of "The Liberator" by freeing the present day countries of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia between 1810 and 1824. As he entered a new town or city with his army, he would recruit new soldiers. He would say:

*"An army of your brothers has come to liberate you ... We are sent to destroy the Spanish ... and to reestablish the republican government... The states defended by our arms are again ... in full enjoyment of their liberty and independence. For our mission is designed to break the chains which imprison us."*

*"We are moved by your sufferings which you are forced to experience by the barbarous (uncivilized, cruel) Spaniard ... Justice demands revenge. Let the monsters who infect our soul be cast out forever; may their punishment be as enormous as the crimes they have committed upon us."*

*"Any Spaniard living among us, who does not take every action in his power to help us, Will be considered a traitor to his nation and will inevitably be shot by a firing squad."*

	1. What caused them to revolt?	2. How did they revolt?
Toussaint L' Ouverture 		
Father Hidalgo 		
Simon Bolivar 		

### ACTIVITY-

1. In your groups you will decide who was the most revolutionary. Fill in all spaces below with your group. Everyone must fill it in.
2. Designate a presenter that will share your decision on who was most revolutionary.
3. Be ready to debate your choice with the class.
4. We will take a class vote to decide an answer to the AIM for your band.

### FILL THIS IN:

As a group, we have decided that \_\_\_\_\_ was the most revolutionary leader. (you can choose from Father Hidalgo, Simon Bolivar, and Toussaint L' Ouverture)

### Provide specific reasons below for your decision:

Reason 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason 3: \_\_\_\_\_

