



Latin American independence

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for World History

Target audience – World history learners

Time required – 15 minutes

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| Activity | Explore the factors leading to the independence movement of Latin American colonies. |
| Standards | C3: D2.His.1.9-12. Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place, as well as broader historical contexts. C3: D2.His.14.9-12. Analyze multiple and complex causes and effects of past events. |
| Learning Outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will be able to compare and contrast the societal constructs in Saint-Domingue (Haiti) to other Latin American countries.• Students will be able to identify the progression of and factors leading to the independence of Latin American countries. |

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/worldHistoryGeoInquiry14>

Ask

What countries held land in Latin America in 1784?

- Click the link above to launch the map.
- ? Which two European countries had the largest holdings in the Americas? [*Spain and Portugal*]

Acquire

What ideas provided the foundation for decolonization in Latin America?

- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select French Revolution.
- Read the pop-up aloud.
- Repeat the two previous steps for the American Revolution.
- Click their respective symbols, and read each pop-up.
- ? How are the goals of each revolution similar? [*All human beings are born free with equal rights.*]

Explore

What was the driving factor that initiated Latin American decolonization?

- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Saint Domingue.
- On the map, click the black diamond and investigate the diagram.
- Close the pop-up, click the black star, and read the text.
- In the map, click the Default Extent home button (House icon), and click the red diamond.
- Compare this diagram to the Saint-Domingue diagram.
- ? How do you think other Latin American colonies viewed the Saint-Domingue slave revolt and subsequent independence? [*With similar societal structures, other colonies were encouraged that they too could obtain independence.*]
- With the Details button depressed, click the button, Contents.
- Deselect the checkbox left of the layer name, Latin America – 1784.

Analyze

How did the Latin American independence movements unfold?

- Turn on the layer, Latin American Countries – Independence.
- Click the layer name to show its legend, Latin American Countries – Independence.
- ? What was the pattern of the progression of the countries gaining their independence? [*South American colonies, then Central American colonies, then Caribbean colonies with a few exceptions*]
- For the layer Latin American Countries – Independence, open the table. [*See the View a Table tip below for details.*]
- Sort descending on the field, Date of Independence.
- Which colony was the last to gain its independence? From whom? [*Belize; Great Britain*]
- ? Looking at the map, which places in Latin America are not independent today? [*Answers will vary; 15 remain*]

Act

How did the Monroe Doctrine affect the independence of Latin American countries?

- Turn on the layer, Revolutions.
- Select the bookmark, Monroe Doctrine. Click the red star symbol and read the text.
- ? What patterns do you notice in the independence dates in the table? [*Five colonies gained independence in 1821. Ten countries gained independence in 1821 and 1822. The remaining 10 countries took another 160 years.*]
- ? If two-thirds of Latin American countries were already liberated by 1823, what was the point of the Monroe Doctrine? [*Answers will vary, though a key factor was the warning by the U.S. to Europe to keep away from the New World colonies.*]

ZOOM TO A BOOKMARK

- Click Bookmarks.
- Click a bookmark name to zoom to a map location and scale.

VIEW A TABLE

- Tables are only available for certain map layers.
- In the Contents pane, point to a layer and click the Show Table icon that appears under the layer name.
- Click the field name and choose Sort Ascending or Sort Descending.

Next Steps

DID YOU KNOW? ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

THEN TRY THIS...

- Create a story map recounting the heroes of revolutions in a selected Latin American country or trace Simon Bolivar's movements through South America.
- Use the ArcGIS Online Spatial Selection analysis tool to see which current-day Latin American countries emerged from former Spanish-held areas.



TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these high school texts.

- *World History* by Glencoe — Chapter 21
- *World History* by Prentice Hall — Chapter 20
- *World History: Human Journey* by Holt — Chapter 15
- *Patterns of Interaction* by McDougal Littell — Chapter 24