



Latin American Culture

The Impact of European
Exploration

#1

- Countries that are included in the term Latin America are all of the in Central and South America and the Caribbean



- After Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue, Europeans began establishing colonies in Latin America.
- Spain and Portugal colonized most of Latin America.



- Spain's former colonies eventually became several Latin American nations.
- Portugal's former colony became the country of Brazil.





Latin American Culture

Europeans, Native
Americans, & Africans

#2

- Native Americans lived in this region before Europeans arrived.
 - Europeans enslaved them and a large number of Native died.
- Europeans brought Africans to the New World and forced them to work as slaves.
 - Descendants of these people live there today.

- Members of these groups have intermarried and/or had children together.
 - Developed a unique culture over time.



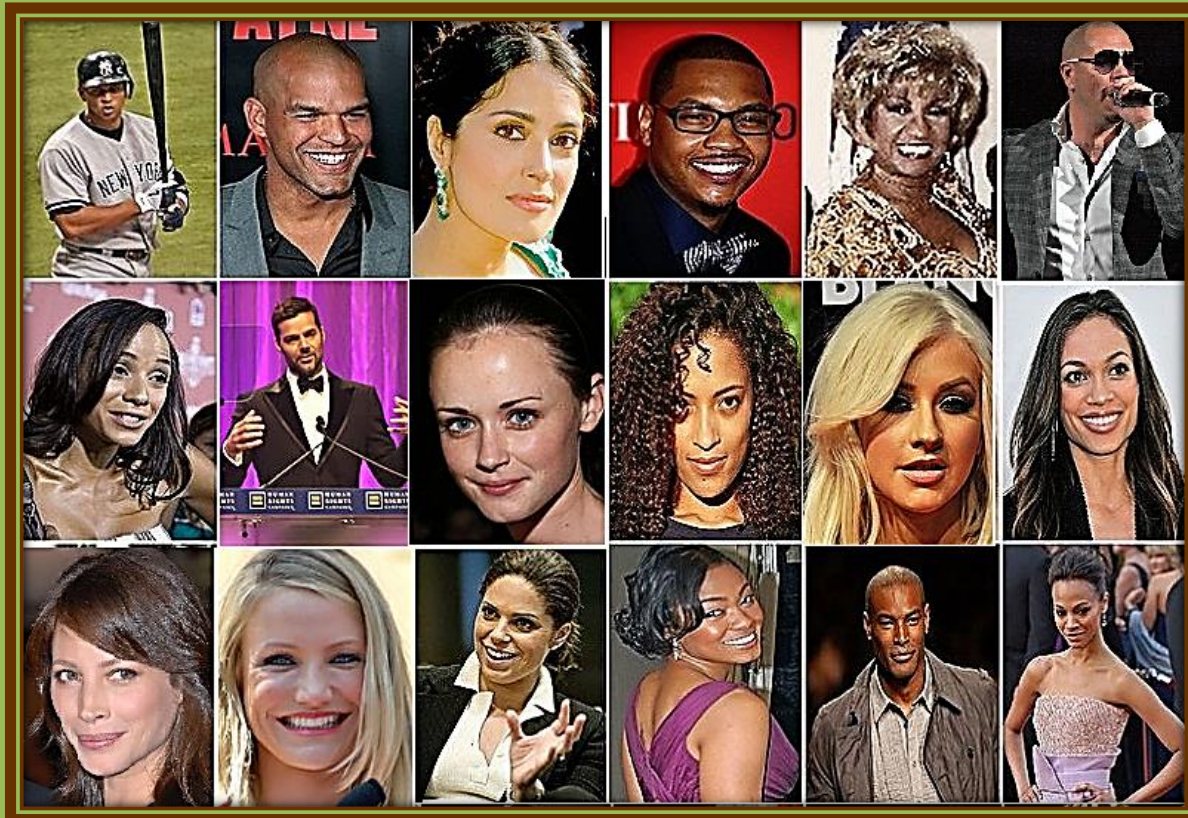


Latin American Culture

Mestizos & Mulattos

#3

- Mestizos are people of mixed European and Native American ancestry.
- Mulattos are people of mixed European and African ancestry.





Latin American Culture Languages #4

- Spanish is the official language of the countries that used to be part of the Spanish Empire.
- Portuguese is the official language of Brazil.
 - These languages are constant reminders of Europe's impact on these regions.





Latin American Culture Religion #5

- Portugal and Spain's predominant religion was Catholicism.
 - Because of the historic influence and the countries belong to their empires, many Latin Americans are Catholics.



- During colonization, Native American and African religions blended with Catholic beliefs.
 - A small percentage of Latin Americans practice these religions today.
- Examples:
 - Day of the Dead–Mix between Native religion & Catholicism
 - Santeria, Candomble, Vodou–Mix between African religions & Catholicism

