From Colony to Country

Trace causes, leadership, and outcomes across two revolutions.

SS24.WH.3 "Explain the causes and outcomes of the revolutions of Latin America and the Caribbean. 3a Identify the locations of colonial empires and post-revolutionary countries in Latin America and the Caribbean..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each European ruler and the place it controlled, circle causes of revolt, and box one action and one result for each leader.

Two Paths to Independence

1. Around 1800, European empires controlled much of Latin America and the Caribbean. Spain ruled colonies across mainland South America, including Venezuela and New Granada, in what is now Colombia. Portugal ruled Brazil, while France ruled Saint-Domingue on the western side of the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. Colonial officials held power, and many people faced unequal rights. Enslaved workers in Saint-Domingue were forced to grow sugar and coffee. In Spanish colonies, American-born elites resented Spain's limits on their political power and trade.

2. In 1791, enslaved people in Saint-Domingue rose against French rule and slavery. Toussaint Louverture became a leading general, organizing forces and shifting alliances as foreign armies threatened the colony. After France abolished slavery in its colonies in 1794, he defended freedom in Saint-Domingue. In 1802, Napoleon sent troops, and the French arrested Louverture. He died in prison in 1803, but the struggle continued. In 1804, other leaders declared Haiti independent, establishing the first independent Black republic.

3. In Spanish South America, Napoleon's 1808 invasion of Spain weakened royal control and sharpened demands for self-rule. Simón Bolívar led armies through difficult terrain, forged alliances, and argued for independence. His forces helped defeat Spanish armies in Venezuela, New Granada, and Ecuador. New Granada and Venezuela joined a new republic called Gran Colombia, which also included Ecuador. Bolívar's campaigns aided independence in Peru, and Bolivia later took his name. Independence ended Spanish colonial rule in these places, but disputes over power later split Gran Colombia.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which European power ruled Saint-Domingue, and which ruled Venezuela and New Granada?

2. How did a cause of revolt in Saint-Domingue differ from a cause in Spain's colonies?

3. What did Louverture do to defend freedom, and what happened after his arrest?

4. How did Bolívar's leadership help change who ruled Venezuela and New Granada?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short museum label comparing the two paths to independence. Name each place's European ruler, describe one action by each leader, and explain how the political outcomes differed.

ANSWER KEY

From Colony to Country

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each European ruler and the place it controlled, circle causes of revolt, and box one action and one result for each leader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which European power ruled Saint-Domingue, and which ruled Venezuela and New Granada?	**France ruled Saint-Domingue. Spain ruled Venezuela and New Granada.**
2	How did a cause of revolt in Saint-Domingue differ from a cause in Spain's colonies?	**Enslaved people in Saint-Domingue fought slavery; American-born elites in Spain's colonies resented limits on political power and trade.**
3	What did Louverture do to defend freedom, and what happened after his arrest?	**He organized forces and defended emancipation. After his arrest and death, the struggle continued, and other leaders declared Haiti independent.**
4	How did Bolívar's leadership help change who ruled Venezuela and New Granada?	**He led armies that helped defeat Spanish forces. Venezuela and New Granada joined the independent republic of Gran Colombia.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

France ruled Saint-Domingue, where slavery drove revolt. Louverture organized fighters and defended freedom, but he died before other leaders declared Haiti independent. Spain ruled Venezuela and New Granada. Bolívar led armies that helped defeat Spanish forces, and those territories joined Gran Colombia. Haiti became an independent Black republic, while Gran Colombia later split apart amid disputes over power.

Accept comparisons that accurately connect each ruler, leader action, and outcome. Students may also mention Napoleon's invasion of Spain as a cause of the Spanish American revolutions.