Empires and Independence

Locate colonial rule and new countries across Latin America and the Caribbean

SS24.WH.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 words that locate a place, circle the names of European colonial powers, and number the first mention of each country that gained independence in the early 1800s. Use your marks to track where colonial rule ended and where it continued.

A Changing Atlantic World

1 A sailor crossing the Atlantic in 1800 would encounter several European empires in Latin America and the Caribbean. Spain controlled Mexico and much of the mainland to its south, including lands along the Pacific coast of South America. Portugal controlled Brazil, a vast territory on South America's Atlantic coast. France held the western part of Hispaniola, a Caribbean island east of Cuba. Britain governed Jamaica, an island south of Cuba. Spain also held Cuba and Puerto Rico. These places were not all neighbors: imperial rule stretched from northern Mexico through the Caribbean to the southern reaches of South America.

2 Revolutions and wars of independence changed the political names on that route. In 1804, Haiti emerged from the former French colony on western Hispaniola. Mexico became independent from Spain in 1821, creating a new country in the southern part of North America. In 1822, Brazil broke from Portugal and became an independent empire rather than a republic. Farther south, Argentina and Chile won independence from Spain in the 1810s. Along the northern edge of South America, Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador also broke from Spanish rule. Their borders and governments changed over time, but these areas were no longer Spanish colonies.

3 Independence did not reach every island at the same time. Cuba, west of Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico, east of Hispaniola, remained under Spanish control through most of the nineteenth century. Jamaica, southwest of Hispaniola, remained a British colony in the early 1800s, even as nearby Haiti became independent. These contrasts make location important: an island in the Caribbean was not automatically part of the same empire as its neighbor. On the mainland, new countries appeared where Spain and Portugal had ruled; on several Caribbean islands, European empires continued to govern long after mainland independence movements succeeded.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which country became independent from Portugal, and where is it located in South America?

2. What country emerged from France's colony on western Hispaniola? Locate the island relative to Cuba.

3. Name three countries along the northern edge of South America that broke from Spanish rule.

4. Which two islands west and east of Hispaniola remained under Spanish control through most of the nineteenth century?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-stop travel route using two mainland places and two Caribbean islands from the passage. At each stop, give its location, colonial power, and status in the early 1800s; include a direction of travel between stops, at least two places that gained independence, and at least one that remained a colony.

ANSWER KEY

Empires and Independence

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.3a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline words that locate a place, circle the names of European colonial powers, and number the first mention of each country that gained independence in the early 1800s. Use your marks to track where colonial rule ended and where it continued. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which country became independent from Portugal, and where is it located in South America?	**Brazil became independent from Portugal. It is on South America's Atlantic coast.**
2	What country emerged from France's colony on western Hispaniola? Locate the island relative to Cuba.	**Haiti emerged on western Hispaniola, an island east of Cuba.**
3	Name three countries along the northern edge of South America that broke from Spanish rule.	**Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador.**
4	Which two islands west and east of Hispaniola remained under Spanish control through most of the nineteenth century?	**Cuba, west of Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico, east of Hispaniola.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I start in Mexico, on the southern part of the North American mainland, which became independent from Spain in 1821. I travel southeast to Brazil, on South America's Atlantic coast, which became independent from Portugal in 1822. I go northwest to Haiti, on western Hispaniola in the Caribbean, which gained independence from France in 1804. I travel southwest to Jamaica, a Caribbean island south of Cuba that remained a British colony in the early 1800s.

Accept other four-stop routes if all locations, colonial powers, political statuses, and directions are accurate. For the marking job, the independent countries are Haiti, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador.