

Words and Worship

Trace how Spanish and Portuguese colonization shaped Latin American culture.

SS6H1.b "Describe the influence of the Spanish and the Portuguese on the language and religions of Latin America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline facts about language and circle facts about religion. Write 1 beside Spanish influences and 2 beside Portuguese influences to compare how colonization shaped Latin America.

A Lasting Colonial Influence

- ① When Spanish explorers and settlers arrived in much of the Americas, they brought the Spanish language with them. Spanish became important in government, trade, schools, and churches in many colonies. Over time, Indigenous peoples and people of African descent also shaped the way Spanish was spoken. Today, Spanish is the main language in most Latin American countries, although many Indigenous languages continue to be spoken in homes and communities. Words, accents, and local expressions vary from country to country.
- ② Portugal claimed Brazil and established colonies there. Portuguese became the language used by colonial officials, settlers, and Catholic missionaries. Because Brazil was governed by Portugal, Portuguese remains Brazil's official language today. Its pronunciation and vocabulary developed in Brazil, influenced by Indigenous and African languages. Portuguese sets Brazil apart from most nearby countries, where Spanish is more widely spoken. In Brazil, many Indigenous languages are also still used by different communities. Language reveals how colonial rule left a lasting mark.
- ③ Religion also changed as Spanish and Portuguese colonizers built Catholic churches and sent missionaries. Catholicism spread through conversion, mission settlements, and colonial laws. Many Indigenous and African people kept traditions from their own cultures, sometimes blending them with Catholic beliefs and practices. Today, Roman Catholicism is the largest Christian tradition in Latin America, but Protestant churches, Indigenous spiritual traditions, and African-influenced religions are also important in many places. Festivals, music, and community celebrations can show these blended influences.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two places or activities in Spanish colonies where Spanish became important.

2 Why is Portuguese Brazil's official language today, while Spanish is more widely spoken in most nearby countries?

3 According to the passage, name two ways Catholicism spread during colonization.

4 How does the passage show that Indigenous and African traditions continued even after colonization? Give one language or religion example.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence audio-guide script for visitors to Brazil and Mexico. Explain how colonization influenced language in each place, explain one religious influence, and include one sentence about Indigenous or African influences.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline facts about language and circle facts about religion. Write 1 beside Spanish influences and 2 beside Portuguese influences to compare how colonization shaped Latin America. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two places or activities in Spanish colonies where Spanish became important.	Any two: government, trade, schools, or churches.
2	Why is Portuguese Brazil's official language today, while Spanish is more widely spoken in most nearby countries?	Brazil was governed and colonized by Portugal, while most nearby Latin American countries were colonized by Spain.
3	According to the passage, name two ways Catholicism spread during colonization.	Any two: conversion, mission settlements, or colonial laws.
4	How does the passage show that Indigenous and African traditions continued even after colonization? Give one language or religion example.	Answers may note that Indigenous and African languages influenced Brazilian Portuguese, Indigenous languages are still spoken, or Indigenous and African traditions blended with Catholic beliefs and practices.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Brazil, Portuguese is the official language because Portugal ruled the colony. In Mexico, Spanish is the main language because Spain colonized the area. Roman Catholicism spread in both places through colonization and missionaries. Indigenous and African traditions have also influenced language and religious practices.

Accept accurate four-sentence responses that compare Portuguese influence in Brazil with Spanish influence in Mexico and explain a Catholic religious influence. The response should also accurately describe a continuing Indigenous or African influence.