ANSWER KEY

**History of Latin America**

Study Guide

1. Describe the location of the Aztec empire:

Present day Mexico City

1. Describe the location of the Incan empire:

Present day Peru (Andes Mountains)

1. What role did Cortes play in the destruction of the Aztec empire?

He was the Spanish conquistador who conquered the Aztecs; Aztecs believed he was a god

1. Who was Montezuma?

Leader of the Aztecs when Cortes arrived in Mexico

1. How did Pizarro conquer the Inca?

surprised the emperor’s army and took the emperor hostage

1. What happened to Atahualpa?

He was kidnapped and promised to be set free in exchange for a room full of gold and a room full of silver – he did but was killed

1. What three things were “traded” in the Columbian Exchange?

Plants, animals, and diseases

1. What impact did the Columbian Exchange have on the native population of the Americas?

European diseases wiped out much of the native population

1. Which two land regions were affected by Columbian Exchange?

Old World (Europe) and New World (Americas)

1. What is the primary difference between the Columbian Exchange and the Triangular Trade route?

Slaves from Africa were introduced during the Triangular Trade.

1. What impact has the Triangular Trade had on Latin America today?

Many Latin Americans have ancestors who are of African descent

1. What is the main language spoken and religion practiced in Latin America today? Why?

Spanish – Spain colonized most of the area

1. List three adjectives to describe the Spanish conquistadors:

Powerful, cruel, risk-takers, greedy, etc.

1. How did a small band of conquistadors defeat the large and well established empires of the Aztec and Inca?

They carried diseases the Native Americans weren’t immune to

1. What was the purpose of the Incan quipu?

Keeping records

1. Which civilization had a form of writing (hieroglyphs)?
2. What is the most common religion of Latin America?

Roman Catholic (Christianity)

1. Which European animal that was brought to the Americas helped the native people hunt and trade over a large area?

horse

1. What was a main reason African slaves were brought to Latin America during colonial times?

Europeans needed workers and most indigenous people were killed by European diseases

1. Describe Toussaint L’Ouverture’s accomplishment.

Former slave who fought for Haiti’s independence from France

1. Describe Simon Bolivar’s accomplishment.

Organized an army and liberated New Grenada, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

1. Describe Miguel Hidalgo’s accomplishment.

Priest who began Mexico’s independence movement from Spain

1. What happened to Cuba in 1959?

Fidel Castro overthrew Batista’s government and brought communism to Cuba

1. What was the Cuban missile crisis?

Soviet Union placed nuclear missiles in Cuba, aimed at US

1. What type of government did Fidel Castro bring to Cuba?

Communist

1. What are the Zapatistas fighting for?

Rights & land for the indigenous people in Mexico (state of Chiapas, in particular)

1. How do the Zapatistas feel about NAFTA?

They were angry they took over several Mexican towns in Chiapas. They feel NAFTA hurts business for poor Native American farmers.

1. What is the main goal of NAFTA?

To remove trade barriers (tariffs) between the US, Canada, & Mexico.

1. Which group of people do the Zapatistas support?

Indigenous people of Mexico