Latin American Revolutions
Haiti was originally known as the French colony of Sante Domingue and was a French colony. Its main product was sugar which was harvested on large plantations by African slaves.
Haiti
Haitian Creoles

Looking at this image of Haitian Creoles, how are they different from other Latin American Creoles?
Haitian Rigid Social Order

1. *Blancs* (White Colonists)

2. *Mulattoes* (Mixed race offspring of white master and African slave)
   - Many were free, educated, urban, and some had inherited property

3. *Creole* black slaves (slaves born in the colony, offspring of African slaves)
   - Had the more prestigious, less hazardous jobs on the plantation. More able to obtain freedom than African born slaves. Some are educated.

4. African born slaves – due to high death rate, slaves had to be imported from African frequently
Partner Discussion Questions

► Between the Creoles and Slaves, who had the most to gain from Haitian independence? Why?

► Which of these two groups do you think would be most likely leaders in a revolt against the Blancs?
Living in Fear

► White slave owners were outnumbered by slaves 10 to 1 so the plantation owners and other white colonists lived in constant fear of a slave rebellion.

► Despite gov’t attempts to regulate physical punishment and torture, white slave owners routinely beat or tortured slaves who dared to disobey or to set an example to others slaves.
Uprising in Haiti

- Inspired by the French Revolution and the emphasis it placed on the equality of all men, slaves (and recently freed Creoles) began to revolt against white plantation owners.

- In 1792, the new French government abolished slavery in all French colonies including Haiti.

- BUT…other European powers and the "Blancs" try to take control of Haiti and re-establish slavery.
Partner Discussion Question

► Why would other European powers want to take control of Haiti and re-establish slavery?
Uprising In Haiti

► Haitian Military Leader = Francois Toussaint-L’Ouverture
  ▪ Defeated the armies of 3 European powers
    ► Spain, France, and Britain

► In 1802, Napoleon – attempts regain control and re-establish slavery in Haiti, sends 50,000 soldiers. Arrested L’Ouverture but revolt did not end. Most FR. soldiers die from yellow fever and malaria.
Francois Toussaint-L’Overture

Toussaint-L’Overture was:
• Creole
• Freed slave
• Educated
• Military skill ("The Black Napoleon")
• Skilled politician
Independence Comes to Haiti

- Napoleon abandons his attempt to hold onto French colonies in the Western Hemisphere
  - EX: Louisiana Purchase
- Haiti declares independence January 1, 1804
Latin American Independence
Spanish South America
Ruling the Colonies

- L.A. colonies of Spain/Portugal = rigid social order

Viceroy

Peninsulares

Creoles

Mestizos

Mulattos/Africans

Native Americans
Ruling the Colonies

Creoles played largest role in revolts against Spain

- Influenced by American/French Revolutions
- Influenced by Enlightenment ideals
- Believed power rested in the people not the king
- Did not believe these ideals extended to mestizos/other “lesser” social groups
Spanish South America

- Creole leaders raise armies to fight against Spanish colonial governments.
  - Spain is weakened by Napoleonic Wars
Spanish South America

Simon Bolivar leads several successful independence movements in S. America: Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Bolivia, Ecuador.
Simon Bolivar

Discussion Question: Knowing that Bolivar is a Creole, what would you expect his view of democracy to be?

- Hint: Remember how Creoles typically viewed the ideals of democracy.

Bolivar is a Creole but does believe in equality and liberty for all

- BUT...he believes the democratic process will take many years to develop.
"More than anyone, I desire to see America fashioned into the greatest nation in the world, greatest not so much by virtue of her area and wealth as by her freedom and glory. Although I seek perfection for the government of my country, I cannot persuade myself that the New World can, at the moment, be organized as a great republic. Since it is impossible, I dare not desire it; yet much less do I desire to have all America a monarchy because this plan is not only impracticable but also impossible. Wrongs now existing could not be righted, and our emancipation would be fruitless. The American states need the care of paternal governments to heal the sores and wounds of despotism and war."

- excerpt from Simon Bolivar's *The Jamaica Letter*
Spanish South America

- Chile gains independence led by José de San Martin (a Creole)
- Peru gains independence led by Bernardo O’Higgins (a Creole)
Mexico

Map of Mexico showing major cities and regions such as California, New Orleans, St. Louis, Guadalajara, Mexico City, Veracruz, Havana, Saint-Domingue, and others.
Mexico Struggles for Freedom

1st Revolts – led by Catholic priests
- Miguel Hidalgo and Jose Maria Morelos

Led armies of mestizos against Spanish troops and Spain’s Creole supporters
- Creoles did not support mestizo uprising
  = revolt is not successful

Creole revolt (led by Augustin Iturbide) was successful

Spain grants Mexican Independence
Miguel Hidalgo
Execution of Miguel Hidalgo

Classical Painting

Modern Painting
Mexico Struggles for Freedom

Group Discussion Questions –

- Why didn’t the Creoles support the mestizo uprising?
- Why did the Creoles themselves rise up against Spain for independence?
Brazil
Brazil Gains Independence

► Gains independence w/out a lot of bloodshed

► King Jao of Portugal flees to Brazil to escape threat of Napoleonic Wars and sets up new kingdom
  ▪ Jao = enlightened despot

► King Jao returns to Portugal after Napoleon’s exile – leaves his son Dom Pedro in charge
  ▪ Dom = A member of nobility of higher status
Brazil Gains Independence

- Dom Pedro prevents Portuguese gov’t from trying to take back Brazil as a colony
- Dom Pedro declares Brazilian independence in 1825 (names himself King Pedro I)
- Establishes a constitutional monarchy
King Jao and Dom Pedro
Partner Discussion Question

How was Brazilian independence different from the independence movements in other parts of Latin America?
Challenges to Democracy

► Terrain
  - Prevents close cooperation among people of Latin America

► Government
  - Colonial gov’ts same as home country gov’t = Latin Americans had no experience w/self gov’t, unfamiliar with democratic principles/practices
  - Rise of caudillos (populist leaders who become “strongmen”)
Challenges to Democracy
Challenges to Democracy

► Social Order
  ▪ Rigid social/economic/political order gave too much power to Creoles, not enough to the mestizos

► Catholic Church
  ▪ Strong influence prevented true separation of church and state

► Economy not diverse – based mainly on mining of gold and silver, other natural resources
Did the Latin American revolutions most closely resemble the French Revolution or the American Revolution? Explain your answer with specific similarities between the revolutions.