

Background: The history of Latin America includes a blend of Native Americans and Europeans. Both contribute to the characteristics of their modern culture.

Directions: Listen and watch the short power point presentation on the history of Latin America, then take notes on the main idea(s). To get more information, refer to Ch. 8.1 in your textbook.

Middle America: Middle America includes Mexico, Central America, and the Islands of the Caribbean.

Central America: Central America includes the countries between Mexico and South America.

(209) Mayas: • Lived in the Yucatan Peninsula region from 300-900 A.D.
• They built stone temple pyramids - sacrifice rituals ^{observatories}
• They studied astronomy and developed own calendar

Aztecs: • Lived in south-central Mexico (around Mexico City)
• Built huge temples -
• Conquered by Spanish

Incas: • Lived in Andes Mountains in Western South Am.
• Built road system for trade/communication
• Built suspension bridges

Spanish/Portuguese: • Conquered region in early 1500's
• Established trade between Latin America + Europe
• Brought Spanish + Portuguese language; Catholic beliefs

British/French/Dutch: • Brought smallpox & other disease = ↓ ^{Native} population
• Set up colonies after Spanish + Portuguese
• Brought language and religious beliefs