Latin America History Test Study Guide ANSWERS

1. The Columbian Exchange (also sometimes known as the Triangular exchange or The Great Exchange) has been one of the most significant events in the history of world ecology, agriculture, and culture. The term is used to describe the enormous widespread exchange of plants, animals, foods, human populations (including slaves), communicable diseases, and ideas between the Eastern and Western hemispheres that occurred after 1492. Many new and different goods were exchanged between the two hemispheres of the Earth, and it began a new revolution in the Americas and in Europe. In 1492, Christopher Columbus’ first voyage launched an era of large-scale contact between the Old and the New World that resulted in this ecological revolution: hence the name "Columbian" Exchange.

Goods that went from the America’s to Europe, Asia, and Africa: Avocadoes, Beans, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Cassava, Quinine, Cocoa Beans, Squash, Corn, Sweet Potatoes, Disease, Peanuts, Tobacco, Tomatoes, Peppers, Pineapples, Turkeys, Vanilla

Goods that went from Europe, Asia, and Africa to the America’s: Turnips, Sugarcane, Peaches, Pears, Grapes, Onions, Disease, Olives, Coffee Beans, Citrus Fruits, Bananas, Honeybees, Livestock (Cattle, sheep, pigs, horses), Grains ( wheat, rice, barley, oats)

1. Pizarro led the Spanish army that defeated the Inca.
2. Cortez led the Spanish army that defeated the Aztec.
3. The Zapatista’s are a group of Mexicans who support improved rights and living conditions for Mexico’s indigenous people. In the early 20th century, a man named Emilio Zapata worked hard and fought for the rights of the native people of Mexico. As time went on, the Zapatista’s (named after Emilio Zapata) became known for harassment and sabotage against the government. In 1994, NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) came into effect. This allowed free trade between Canada, Mexico, and the United States. A group of people in Mexico did not like NAFTA because they were afraid it would hurt the farmers in Mexico who would not be able to compete with the cheaper food traded through NAFTA. They felt that NAFTA would allow cheap farm goods to come into Mexico from the United States. This would have devastating effect on the Mexican farmer. On January 1, 1995, the day NAFTA took effect, the Zapatista’s took over several small towns in their part of Mexico. The army was sent in to break up the Zapatista’s; however, fighting lasted for several weeks. A cease fire was finally declared, but the Zapatista’s would not completely go away. The Zapatista’s still have control of some areas of Mexico. There have been agreements made between the Zapatista’s and the government, but the problems have not been solved. The Zapatista’s believe the indigenous people of Mexico need more help to improve health care, housing, education, and jobs. The Zapatista’s have even made alliances with groups in other countries who have similar goals.
4. See #1
5. See #’s 8. 12, and 13
6. Slave labor allowed the America’s economies to grow rapidly.
7. Simon Bolivar was a leader in the wars for independence in South America. He fought again Spanish rule. Bolivar wanted freedom and independence for all people in Latin America. Through Bolivar’s efforts, Bolivia, Colombia. Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela all gained their independence. Bolivar was born in Caracas (now Venezuela) in 1783. He was from a very wealthy family and had an excellent education. He liked to read books on freedom and equality. From 1810-1824, Bolivar led troops against Spanish rule. He fought for freedom in lands that are now Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama. In 1824, he finally defeated the Spanish and end their rule in South America. The country of Bolivia was named in his honor and Bolivar wrote that countries constitution. Bolivar was called “the liberator” in South America. He became a dictator and wanted to establish one large country called Gran Colombia. This country would have covered the entire northern part of South America. Most people did not want to do this and many fights broke out among the different countries. Bolivar got infected with tuberculosis and died in 1830.
8. The poor people supported the Cuban Revolution.
9. Atahualpa was the Incan Emperor.
10. Montezuma II was the last Aztec Emperor.
11. Hidalgo was known as the father of Mexican independence. Hidalgo was a priest who led a peasant army against the Spanish army in Mexico (then called New Spain). Hidalgo was born in 1753 and received a very good education. He liked to read books on equality and freedom. He saw there was no equality for the peasant working class in Mexico. After training for the priesthood, Hidalgo began working among the natives and peasants. In 1808, France invaded Spain and overthrew the Spanish king. This caused problems in Mexico because some people still supported the Spanish government, some supported the French government, and other (like Hidalgo) felt it was time for Mexico to have its independence. In 1810, French loyalists turned in Hidalgo and he was warned he would be arrested. Instead of hiding, Hidalgo went to the church and began ringing the bell, signaling all the people from the countryside to the church. Once gathered, Hidalgo gave a speech on freedom and equality. He told the people it was time for Mexico to be independent. Thousands of people followed Hidalgo and they won many victories against the Spanish army. Eventually, the Spanish army was able to overpower Hidalgo’s forces and he was captured and executed on July 30, 1811. Even with Hidalgo dead, the war for independence continued and in 1821, Spain withdrew the last of its troops from Mexico .
12. L’Ouverture was a famous black freedom fighter. He was the major leader of many slave revolts in Saint Domingue (now Haiti). He was later named the Governor of Saint Domingue. Francois-Domingue Toussaint was born a slave in the mid 1700’s. His father had been a free African who was captured and sold into slavery. He would often tell Toussaint what it was like to be free. Toussaint was allowed to read and write by his plantation owner. He was an avid reader and enjoyed reading the popular books of the day. In 1789, after the French Revolution, the new government of France gave freedom to all black and mulatto slaves. The plantation owners in Saint Domingue were furious. In 1791, the government changed its mind and made all former slaves, slaves again. This time the slaves were furious. Toussaint led a slave army in revolt and defeated the French troops. In 1793, the French government abolished slavery altogether. Toussaint began leading his army against the British and Spanish troops. He was nicknamed “L’Ouverture” (the opening) because of his ability to find openings in the enemy forces. He was named Governor of Saint Domingue and left in control of the Island (it was still a French colony). In 1802, Emperor Napoleon of France sent troops to Saint Domingue to gain control. Many thought he wanted to reinstate slavery. Toussaint was asked to meet with the French General to discuss peace. He was arrested and sent to a prison on France where he died shortly after. Within 2 years, the people of Saint Domingue declared their independence and renamed their country Haiti.
13. The destruction of the Aztec and Incan empires was a direct result of European exploration of the America’s.
14. Descendants of African slaves have kept their culture alive by passing on African traditions and customs to their descendants.
15. Spanish culture has influenced Latin America through language religion, and architecture.
16. Conquiatadors were professional explorers of the Spanish and Portuguese kingdoms who, due to a sense of adventure and fame seeking, went exploring in the new world. These men wanted to be not only famous, but also wealthy. They were successful at conquering the Aztec and Incan empires because they were thought to be gods come back to earth. They also had guns, cannons, and other powerful weapons they were able to use. Another factor that played in the favor of the conquistador were the diseases they brought over. The native people did not have ammunities built up against these diseases and their populations were majorly wiped out.