# SHORT HISTORY OF COLOMBIA

## Early Colombia

For thousands of years before Europeans arrived Amerindians lived in what is now Colombia. Some lived by fishing and hunting but some lived by farming. The first Spaniard to land in the area was Alonso de Ojeda in 1500. There was no permanent Spanish settlement then until 1533 when Cartagena and Santa Marta were founded. Bogota was founded in 1538. In 1564 Colombia was made a captaincy-general. The colony thrived and many African slaves were taken there.

In 1808 Napoleon made his brother king of Spain but many people in the Spanish colonies refused to accept the new king. In 1810 most of Colombia declared independence. It did not last long. The Spanish reconquered the area in 1815-16. Yet in 1819 Simon Bolivar defeated the Spanish at the battle of Boyaca. Subsequently a new nation was formed consisting of Colombia, Panama, Venezuela and Ecuador. The new nation was called the Republic of Colombia. But, regional differences caused the new country to break up. Bolivar became dictator in 1828 but he resigned in 1830 and Colombia (including what is now Panama) became separate from Ecuador and Venezuela. By this time, Colombia was a troubled country and 8 civil wars took place during the 19th century. In 1849 there were 2 political parties, one conservative, representing the landowners and the Catholic Church, the other liberal, representing the merchants and craftsmen. Political instability continued through the late 19th century and in 1899 a terrible civil war called the War of a Thousand Days was fought. Then in 1903 Panama broke away and became an independent nation.

http://www.localhistories.org/colombia.html

**Exercise**

Answer the following questions based on the reading exercise "Short history about Colombia"

1. How did Amerindians live during early Colombia?

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2. When was Bogotá founded?

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3. Who refused to accept the new King?

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4. When did Simon Bolivar defeat the Spanish?

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5. What happened to our nation at the beginning of the 21st century?

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