

MAY REVOLUTION

1. Do you know the meaning of these words? Match the words to their meaning:

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| A viceroy | 1 Voluntarily leave a job or office. |
| B prisoner | 2 A change in political organization. |
| C king | 3 To not be governed or ruled by another country. |
| D revolution | 4 A person kept in prison. |
| E council | 5 To enter a place by force. |
| H government | 6 A male ruler of a country. |
| I resign | 7 The group of people who officially control a country. |
| J viewpoint | 8 Someone who represents a king and rules for him in another country. |
| K invade | 9 A group of people elected to govern a particular area. |
| L independent | 10 A position from which something is considered. |

2. Order the text. The first one is done for you.

- a. On 25 May, Domingo French, Antonio Berutti and many others presented a list with the names of those who should form part of the new council. For the first time in the history of our country, a government, made up of locals and not chosen by Spain, was formed.
- b. However, on 24 May, members of the Town Hall, mostly Spanish, formed a new council led by Cisneros.
- c. The next day, the majority voted in favour of the local viewpoint: to form a new local government and accept Cisneros' resignation as viceroy.
- d. An open Town Hall Assembly was held and the two opposing viewpoints were presented: the local and the Spanish.
- e.
- f. This was the May Revolution.
- g. Many felt it was time to have a local government: after all, they had managed to protect Buenos Aires from the 1806 and 1807 English invasions without the help of Spain.
- h. This caused indignation among those who had taken part in the open Town Hall Assembly. They demanded that the new council resign and urged the people to meet at the Plaza Mayor on the 25 May to demand an explanation.
- i. A Central Council was rapidly formed in Seville to govern all Spanish lands in Europe and America. This Council named Cisneros as viceroy of the River Plate, replacing Liniers, who was French and therefore might have supported Napoleon.
- j. Then the news reached Buenos Aires that the French had occupied all of Spain and the Central Council had been dissolved. The people in Buenos Aires secretly met up to decide what to do. Who would now govern the Spanish colonies?

e. In 1808, Napoleon Bonaparte invaded part of Spain and imprisoned King Ferdinand VII.

3. After the resignation of Cisneros, the *Primera Junta* was created. The *Primera Junta* had nine members and their role in the revolution was really important. Do some research to learn about them and complete the chart below with the information in the box.

Origin: *Criollo*, Spanish

Profession or job: lawyer, tradesman, military man, priest, Chief of Infantry Corp Patricios.

Role in the first autonomous government: President, Secretary of the Treasury and Justice, Secretary of War and Government, Member.

ORIGIN	JOB/PROFESSION	ROLE IN THE PRIMERA JUNTA
Cornelio Saavedra		
Juan José Paso		
Mariano Moreno		
Manuel Belgrano		
Juan José Castelli		
Manuel Alberti		
Miguel de Azcuénaga		
Juan Larrea		
Domingo Matheu		