

Name: _____

Date: _____

Slavery in Latin America

European nations conquered and expanded rapidly in Latin America from the 1400s to the late 1800s. This was part of the “New World”. There was a huge demand for labor forces to establish, operate, and maintain the interests of the European countries in Latin America. The labor was mostly needed in farming the various crops. The most commonly exported crops were sugarcane and coffee. These farms were called plantations and haciendas. Plantations mostly grew crops for exports, while haciendas grew crops for the colonies. The Europeans first used the indigenous people to for labor of these plantations and haciendas. Indigenous people were the original inhabitants of Latin America. They were there before the Europeans arrived.

Unfortunately for the locals, the Europeans also brought diseases. One disease that the Europeans brought was smallpox. The diseases brought by the Europeans would eventually kill off most of the indigenous populations. They had not been exposed to these diseases before and had little resistance to fight the diseases.

Due to the high numbers of death in the indigenous populations, the Europeans needed more labor. The Spanish and Portuguese began shipping slaves from West Africa to Latin America. The shipping of slaves is known as the Transatlantic Slave Trade. It is estimated that as many as fifteen million slaves were shipped from West Africa to Latin America. The conditions aboard the slave ships were terrible. Oftentimes, many slaves would perish on the journey from West Africa to Latin America due to the lack of sanitation and clean drinking water. The African slaves would be forced to work in horrible conditions on plantations, haciendas, and gold mines. Slavery would continue in Latin America through the late 1800s, even after slavery was abolished in Europe.

Through the use of west African slaves, plantations were able to thrive. These thriving plantations made money for Spain and Portugal, empowering their countries and allowing them for further expansion of Latin America.



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LIVEWORKSHEETS

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DIRECTIONS: MATCH THE VOCABULARY TERM WITH ITS DEFINITION.

Definition

1. _____ to suffer to the point of death
2. _____ a farming estate in which crops were exported for money
3. _____ a plantation or farming estate in which crops were used for the colonists
4. _____ the Americas (including Latin America & Caribbean) during the age of exploration
5. _____ tall grass with thick stalk that was used in production of sugar
6. _____ the forced enslavement and transportation of Africans to the Americas between 1400 and 1800
7. _____ the original inhabitants of an area

Term

- a. hacienda
- b. indigenous
- c. sugarcane
- d. perish
- e. Transatlantic Slave Trade
- f. The New World
- g. plantation



DIRECTIONS: CIRCLE THE BEST ANSWER CHOICE BASED ON THE PASSAGE

1. Where did the slaves come from on the plantations and haciendas in Latin America?
 - a. The United States
 - b. Europe
 - c. West Africa
 - d. China
2. What happened to some of indigenous people in Latin America?
 - a. They owned the plantations and haciendas
 - b. They would die from diseases like smallpox
 - c. They would escape to other countries
 - d. They peacefully lived with the Europeans
3. What were the main crops grown and cultivated in Latin America?
 - a. Coffee and Sugar Cane
 - b. Squash
 - c. Corn
 - d. Tomatoes and Corn
4. Which two countries would import the majority of the slaves to Latin America?
 - a. The United States and Spain
 - b. Cuba and Mexico
 - c. Germany and Japan
 - d. Portugal and Spain
5. What happened to some of the slaves on the slave ships?
 - a. They would be the captains
 - b. They would kidnap the ships
 - c. They would die due to lack of sanitation and clean water
 - d. They would choose not to go to Latin America

