Independence Movements in Latin America
From 1500 to 1800, Latin America was colonized by Europe, especially Spain. European nations used mercantilism to gain wealth from their American colonies. Catholic missionaries from Spain & France converted Indians to Catholicism.
1789 French Revolution begins.

1775 American Revolution begins.

1821 Mexico gains independence from Spain.

1821 Peru declares independence from Spain.

1791 Haitian revolt against France begins.

1819 Colombia achieves independence from Spain.

1825 Bolivia achieves independence from Spain.

1811 Paraguay proclaims independence from Spain.

1818 Chile declares independence from Spain.

1822 Brazil proclaims independence from Portugal.
By the late 1700s, Latin Americans were inspired to gain independence because of the success of the American & French Revolutions. The ideas of the Enlightenment inspired independence especially among the well-educated people of Latin America.
From 1800 to 1830, Latin American colonies began declaring independence from European nations & establishing democracies throughout the Americas.
Toussaint L’Ouverture

• Born a slave and a black freedom fighter
• Was taught to read and write by his master
• Granted freedom in 1777
• Formed his own army
• L’Ouverture- nickname meaning “the opening”
• Inspired by revolutions in France and America
• Led the revolt in Haiti
Haiti was the first Latin American colony to free itself from European rule.

Haiti was a French colony with 500,000 African slaves working on sugar & coffee plantations.

Plantation owners used brutal methods to control slaves.

In 1791, Haitian slaves rose in revolt; Toussaint L’Ouverture became the leader of the slave uprising & helped free all the slaves by 1801.
The Haitian Revolution 1791–1804

Very brutal insurrection
From 1802 to 1804, Haitians fought for their independence against Napoleon’s French army. In 1804, France granted Haiti its independence & created a republic.
Contributions of Toussaint L’Ouverture

Defeated the armies of three foreign powers: Spain, France, and Britain.
Abolished slavery
Won independence for Haiti
In Mexico the Indians & mestizos played the leading role.

In 1810, a poor but well educated Catholic priest named Miguel Hidalgo used Enlightenment ideals to call for a revolution against Spain.

Hidalgo led an army of 80,000 Indian & mestizos revolutionaries against the Spanish military & Mexicans who feared losing their wealth.
During the rebellion, Hidalgo was killed but Mexicans found new leaders to continue the fight another 10 years.

Result of the war: end to slavery and exploitation of native people.

In 1821, Spain granted Mexico its independence & a republic was formed.
Simon Bolivar

- Native-born resident who led revolutionary efforts
- Began campaign to rebel against royalty
- Supported a constitutional monarchy
- Hoped to unite with Venezuela and Columbia (Gran Columbia)
From 1811 to 1824, Venezuelan Simon Bolivar led an army of revolutionaries against Spain. Bolivar helped create new nations of Grand Colombia, Peru, Bolivia.
Simon Bolivar

• Born to a wealthy family
• Was well educated and learned about equality and freedom
• Nicknames: el Libertador and George Washington of South America
Simon Bolivar

- Became a dictator of Gran Colombia
- Gran Colombia broke up after Simon Bolivar died
- Panama, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela were formed
Monroe Doctrine 1823

- Issued by American President James Monroe
- Primary Objective: to free the newly independent colonies of Latin America from European intervention and control.
What do you see here?
Monroe Doctrine 1823

- Latin American nations were acknowledged as independent
- European efforts to colonize land/interfere within the Americas would be viewed by U.S. as *acts of aggression requiring US intervention, WAR!!!*
- Stated Western Hemisphere was not to be further colonized by European countries
- The United States would not intervene in European affairs so Europe should not intervene in the Americas.
So What and So Why?

1. How did each leader help gain independence for their country/region? (1 paragraph)

2. So Why? Why was the Monroe Doctrine important to the development of independent Latin American countries?