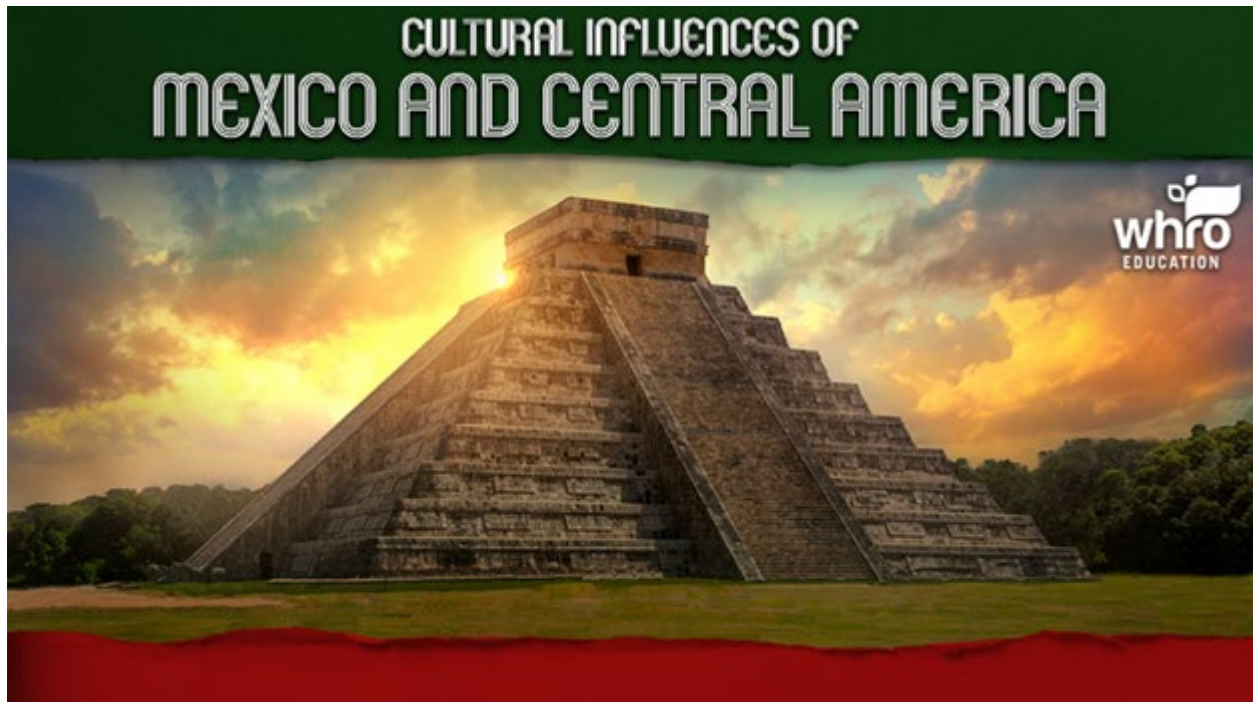


Module: Latin America and the Caribbean
Topic Content: Cultural Influences of Mexico and Central America

Cultural Influences of Mexico and Central America



Click next to begin.

Module: Latin America and the Caribbean
Topic Content: Cultural Influences of Mexico and Central America

Menu



Click each image to learn more.

Module: Latin America and the Caribbean
Topic Content: Cultural Influences of Mexico and Central America

Angel of Independence



The Angel of Independence was built in Mexico City in 1910. It commemorates the beginning of the Mexican War of Independence in 1810. The war lasted until 1821, and ended Spanish rule in Mexico and Central America. In the following decades, the region divided into separate nations.

Module: Latin America and the Caribbean
Topic Content: Cultural Influences of Mexico and Central America

Cathedrals



Roman Catholic cathedrals are an important part of Mexico and Central America's cultural landscape. The Our Lady of Assumption Cathedral is a prominent landmark in Nicaragua. In Honduras, the Basilica of the Virgin of Suyapa is a popular pilgrimage site for Catholics.

Module: Latin America and the Caribbean
Topic Content: Cultural Influences of Mexico and Central America

Rainforest



The tropical areas of Central America and southern Mexico contain rainforest vegetation. In Costa Rica, approximately 25% of the country is protected rainforest. Tourists from around the world travel to Costa Rica to experience this beautiful natural environment.

Module: Latin America and the Caribbean
Topic Content: Cultural Influences of Mexico and Central America

Mayan Ruins



The Mayans were highly-skilled engineers who built roads, aqueducts, and pyramids. Although Mayan civilization was largely abandoned by 1000 A.D. (C.E.), many ancient Mayan structures still stand today. These include the pyramid temples of Tikal in Guatemala.

Module: Latin America and the Caribbean
Topic Content: Cultural Influences of Mexico and Central America

Monument to Cuauhtémoc



This monument was built in Mexico City as a tribute to Cuauhtémoc, the last emperor of the Aztec Empire. The Aztecs once controlled a large part of modern day central Mexico. Before the Spanish conquest, Mexico City was named Tenochtitlan and served as the capital of the Aztec Empire.

Module: Latin America and the Caribbean
Topic Content: Cultural Influences of Mexico and Central America

Haciendas



Under Spanish colonial rule, arable land was divided into large plantations, called haciendas. A small minority of Spanish Europeans owned the haciendas. Labor was forced on the indigenous population and African slaves who were brought to New Spain.

Module: Latin America and the Caribbean
Topic Content: Cultural Influences of Mexico and Central America

Social Structure



These eighteenth century paintings by Miguel Cabrera reflect the strict social structure of Spanish colonial society. In these societies, a person's status was based on his or her racial ancestry and place of birth. This system was largely abandoned after independence from Spain, but the systemic inequality it created remained.