**CAUSES FOR LATIN AMERICAN REVOLUTIONS**

**General Geography**

[Link 1: Map](http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/ralph/resource/latiname.htm)

1. Which European nations colonized Latin America? (list all of them)
2. Who had primary influence over most of these areas from the 1500s-1800s based on the map?

**The Napoleonic Wars and Influence from Europe**

[Link 1: Encyclopedia Britannica](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/280587/Iberian-Peninsula)

[Link 2: Napoleon’s Effects](http://www.trincoll.edu/classes/hist300/group3/latin.htm)

1. What is a “status quo?” How do Revolutions affect the status quo? (you might have to look up the definition of the word on “Dictionary.com” or something)
2. Where in Europe is the Iberian Peninsula? What two nations lie in this peninsula?
3. How did Napoleon encourage Latin Americans to fight against Iberian rule in the Latin American colonies?

**Social Structure in Latin America**

[Link 1: Causes of LA Revs Article](http://www.mtsinai.k12.ny.us/highschool/faculty/webpages/dougherty/latin_america/social_structure.html)

1. Describe the social structure of Latin American colonies in detail. (hint: it is based upon their cultural and ethnic ties with Spain). Who had the most power? The least? Why? Type the labels in the triangle, then fill out the info below it.

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1. Why were Creoles so angry with the Spanish Monarchs? How could this drive them to lead the Revolutions in Latin America?
2. Which 3 groups of people began to mix in Latin America?
3. Why do you think the lower classes follow the Creoles in revolting?

**Other Important Causes**

[Link 1: Encyclopedia Britannica](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/331694/history-of-Latin-America/60877/The-independence-of-Latin-America)

\*\*The Spanish Bourbons were the royal family of Spain (related to the French Bourbons!)

1. Why does the Encyclopedia Britannica believe creoles were so upset angry with the Spanish leadership?
2. How did the Enlightenment help cause revolutions in Latin America?
3. How did trade laws (mercantilism) cause problems and lead to Latin American revolutions?

**Encomienda System**

[Link 1: The Encomienda System](http://suite101.com/a/the-encomienda-system-in-new-spain-a108276)

1. What is the Encomienda System?
2. Why do you think the Encomienda system caused people to revolt?