



Calle Sur

TEACHER'S RESOURCES

SCHOOL EDUCATORS: We recommend you acquire our **Latin America Music And Culture Kit CD-Rom** (www.laticulturekit.com) prior to our visit. Please contact us to find out what to prepare. Below you will find some preliminary information which we recommend you review with your students prior to Calle Sur's arrival at your school.

LATIN AMERICA

In political and economic terms, Latin America can be defined as all of the countries south of the United States, including the Caribbean Islands. Latin America occupies nearly half of the Americas.

Over 400 languages are spoken in Latin America. Every country has from 7 to 200 languages, including its official language(s). Spanish and Portuguese, the most common official languages in Latin America, derived from ancient Latin - hence the name "Latin America." They belong to the family of Romance languages, which also include French, Italian, Romanian, and Romanche. Worldwide, there are nearly as many people who speak Spanish as their first language, as there are people who speak English as their first language.

Even though commonly referred to as "America," the United States is not the same thing as America. America consists of the South American and North American continents, including the Caribbean Islands. America contains 42 countries.

Latin America provides many food items to the United States, such as bananas, coffee, sugar, beef, fruit, and wine. Latin America supplies many flowers and minerals to the United States, as well as wood for furniture, construction, and paper. In addition, an important proportion of manufactured goods, such as fabrics, clothing, leather goods, and computers, are produced or assembled in Latin America. Potatoes, tomatoes, squash, cocoa, and corn, are examples of foods which evolved in Latin America. Many medicines contain chemicals extracted from Latin American plants.

Latin America consists of many different cultures and ethnic groups. Gonzales, Acosta, Fox, Fujimori, Ortiz, East, Johnson, Rubinstein, Smith, Benavides, Cohen, Stein, Soto, Jobim, Moreno, Yupanqui, Sosa, Baudin, Benedetti, and Jimenez are just a few examples of the diversity of last names found in Latin America.

LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC

Calle Sur will work with the students on a cross-section of rhythmic, vocal, and instrumental styles created by the three major cultural groups that have converged in Latin America since the 1500s: the Native American, the European (mostly Spanish and Portuguese, but also to an important degree French, English, and Dutch), and the African (especially West African).

What is loosely termed "Latin American music" is indeed a highly diverse collection of musical styles, ranging from ethnic music played in remote settings (performed by both Indian and Afro-Latin cultures); to folk music played both in rural and urban areas (typically the result of various ethnic influences converging); to popular music performed in regional and international urban settings (everything from the Brazilian "bossa nova" to the New York "salsa," to Shakira's, Jennifer Lopez', and Marc Anthony's rock tunes). Prior to contact with Europeans, Native Americans played a large variety of wind and percussion instruments, primarily for sacred purposes. With the arrival of the Europeans, string instruments were introduced, such as the harp, violin, lute, and mandolin, which were quickly adopted, both forcibly and voluntarily, and which subsequently inspired the creation of dozens of string instruments that are native to Latin America, such as the *cuatro* and *charango*, played by Calle Sur. Africans enriched Latin American music with a myriad of new rhythms, percussion instruments, and strong vocal harmony traditions. Europeans and Africans brought both sacred and secular music to America.

HISPANICS

The term Hispanic, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Spanish-speaking people of any race. This means that a Hispanic person can be Native American, Caucasian, Black, Asian, or any combination thereof.

The estimated Hispanic population of the United States as of July 1, 2003, is 13.7%, making people of Hispanic origin the nation's largest minority. (This does not include the 3.9 million Hispanic residents of Puerto Rico.) It is projected that by July 1, 2050, Hispanics will constitute 24% of the nation's total population. (Updated U.S. Census data).

SPANISH LANGUAGE FACTS AND STATISTICS

Spanish is the most common first language in the Americas, and Spanish speakers also can be found in Spain (of course), in much of the United States, the Philippines, and even Africa. Spanish and English are in a virtual dead heat to be the second most spoken language in the world. As of 1999, Spanish had 332 million speakers, while English had 322 million. They were far behind Chinese, with 885 million. As of 1998, the United States has the fifth largest Hispanic population, about 30 million people (the exact number, depending on how Hispanics are counted). Of them, two-thirds trace their roots to Mexico, and 86 percent say Spanish is their first language. California alone has 5.5 million people who speak Spanish at home. Other states with high Spanish-speaking populations include Texas (3.4 million), New York (1.8 million), and Florida (1.5 million). Source: American Demographics.

(Source: What you need to know about Spanish Language, with Gerald Erichsen, <http://spanish.about.com/library/weekly/aa070300a.htm>)

INDIGENOUS (NATIVE AMERICAN) LANGUAGES OF LATIN AMERICA

Indigenous people make up a large and distinct portion of Latin America's population. There are about 40 million indigenous people in Latin America, or about 10 percent of the total population. In some countries, the majority of the population is indigenous. In Bolivia, for example, more than half of the total population is indigenous. In Guatemala, 15 indigenous languages are spoken with 10,000 or more speakers of each. In Mexico, 37 indigenous languages are spoken by at least 10,000 persons each. In many respects, the Latin American indigenous peoples are extraordinarily diverse; they are, indeed, a multiethnic/multi-lingual population. There are approximately 400 different indigenous languages throughout Latin America, and every country has from 7 to 200 languages. Uruguay is the only country in the continent that is Spanish monolingual.

(Source: <http://www.worldbank.org/html/extdr/hnp/hddflash/hcnote/hrn007.html>, HRO DISSEMINATION NOTES, Human Resources Development and Operations Policy Number 8, June 7, 1993)

PANPIPES

The playing of panpipes is a very important tradition among the Aymara and Quechua cultures in the Andes of Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. Every year at carnival time, which coincides with the Catholic observation of Lent, thousands of people descend from their villages and play and dance to their music for several days in a row. Panpipe tunes are played by large numbers of people at once. It is a community activity which requires a high degree of cooperation. The panpipes themselves come in various sizes, symbolizing family structure. The "chuli" size symbolizes the children, the "siku" size the parents, and the "toyo" size the grandparents.

THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA



Much more information can be found at in the Latin America Music And Culture Kit (www.laticulturekit.com)