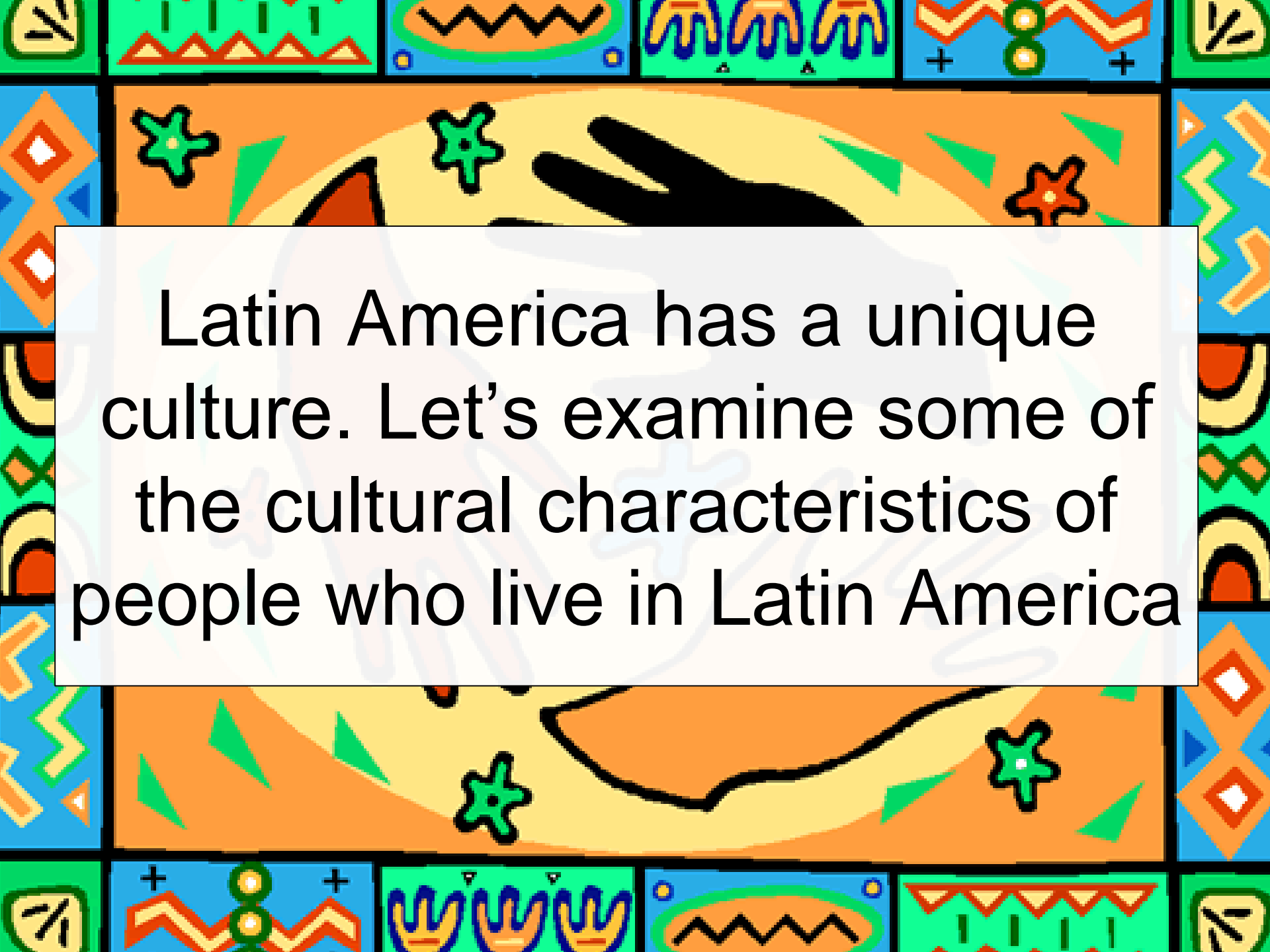


What comes to mind when you think about Latin America's culture?





Latin America has a unique culture. Let's examine some of the cultural characteristics of people who live in Latin America



Essential Question:


What are the cultural characteristics of people who live in Latin America?

Background




Recall our studies earlier in the year on European exploration.

What were the three main reasons for exploration?

God 

Glory 

Gold 

Use your Graphic Organizer to record Notes



Culture of Latin America

Cultural Diversity of Latin America

Languages of Latin America

Religion of Latin America

The graphic organizer consists of a central map of Latin America with the title "Culture of Latin America" overlaid. To the left of the map is a large, rounded rectangular box with the heading "Cultural Diversity of Latin America". To the right of the map are two smaller, rounded rectangular boxes: one at the top with the heading "Languages of Latin America" and one at the bottom with the heading "Religion of Latin America". All text boxes are currently empty.



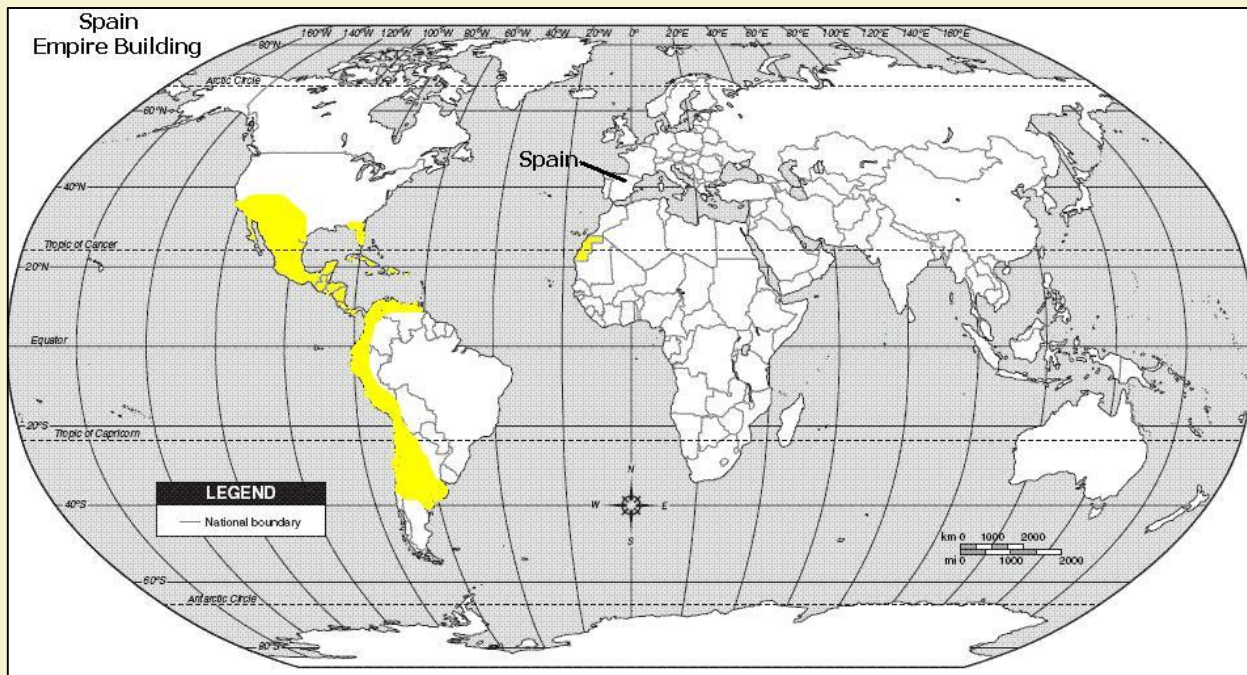
During European exploration and colonization, European countries that conquered other regions often usurped [took over] the native language and religion of that region.

This is true for Latin America.

Languages of Latin America



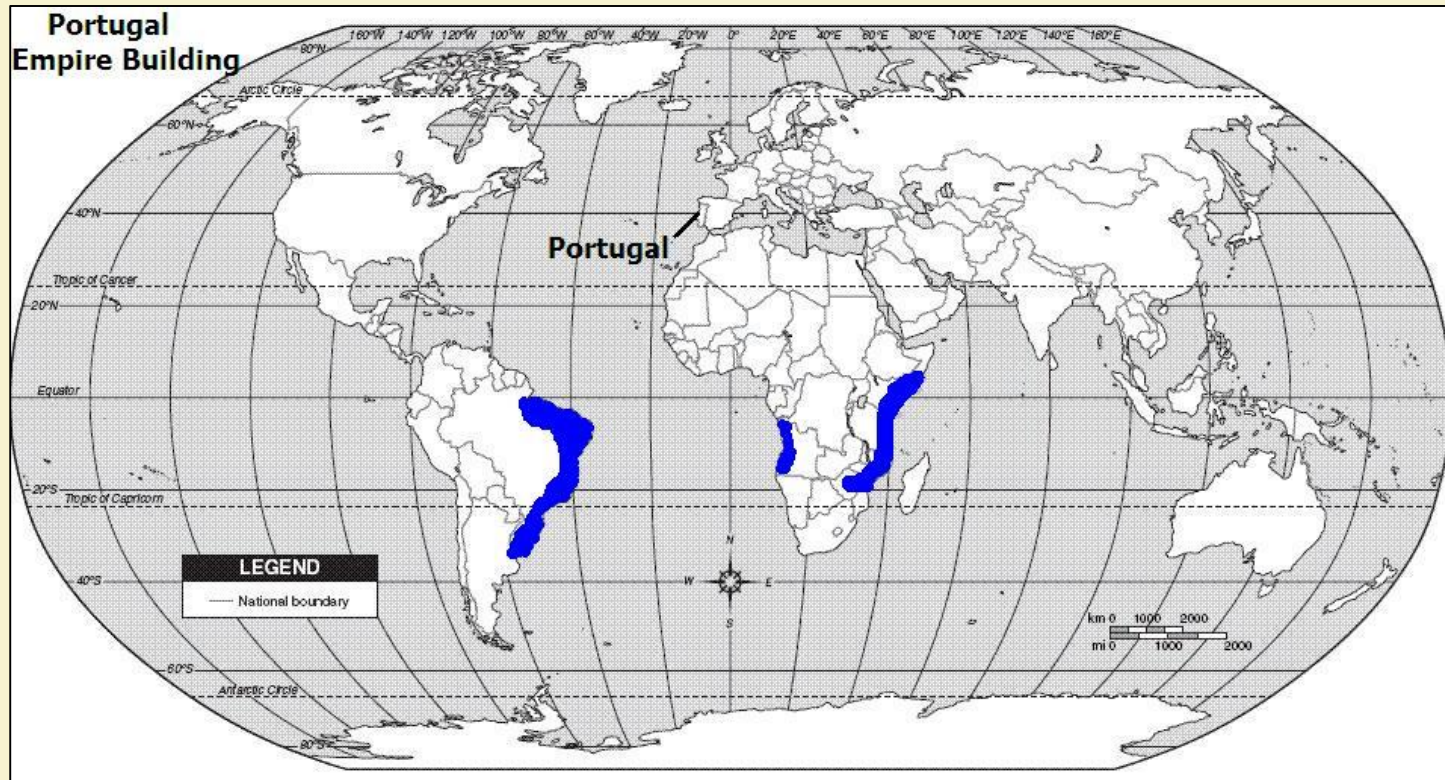
Most Latin American countries speak Spanish because Spain built an empire in most Latin American countries.



Languages of Latin America



Portuguese is spoken in Brazil because Portugal built an empire in this area.



The name Latin America comes from the fact that Spanish, Portuguese and French came from the Latin language.

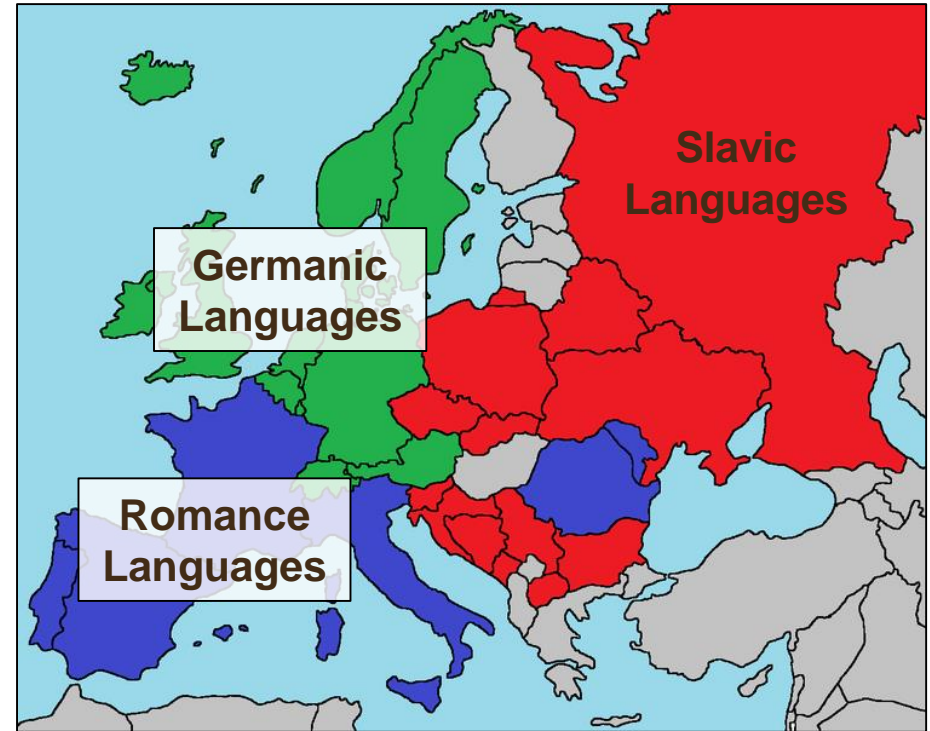


These languages are called Romance languages because they all came from medieval [out-of-date] Latin dialects [languages] spoken in areas of Europe ruled by the Roman Empire.

History of Romance Languages



Roots of European Languages



The Spanish and Portuguese languages are called Romance languages because they came from old languages used during the Roman Empire.

Religion in Latin America



Latin America's dominant religion is Roman Catholicism. Over 90% of people in the region claim to be Catholic.

Catholic values and attitudes are part of life in almost every country in Latin America.

If you lived here which language would you speak? Why? Which religion?





Although Latin America has the same basic language and religion, its culture is very diverse. What caused this diversity?

European colonization not only brought changes in language and religion to Latin America, it also influenced other aspects of culture.



The people and culture of Latin America are an interesting blend of the indigenous [native] people and the countries that established colonies there.

Once Europeans settled in Latin American, ethnic groups began to blend together.

What's an ethnic group?



An ethnic group shares many common characteristics such as language, physical appearance, customs, and traditions.

The American Indians
[indigenous people] married
Spanish people.



Mestizos were the
people of mixed
European and
Indian ancestry.

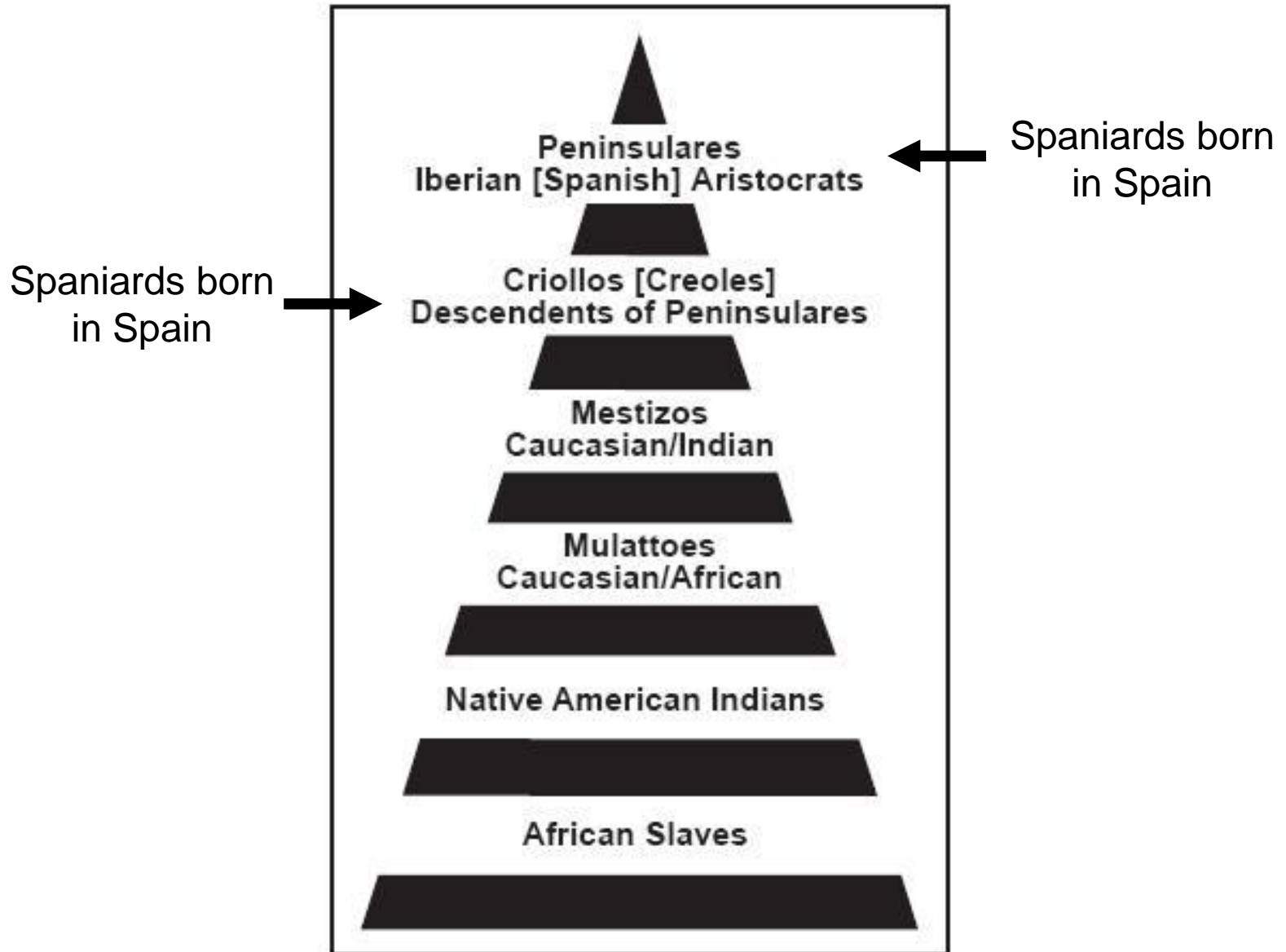


The Europeans also married black slaves that were brought to Latin America from Africa.

Mulattoes are people of mixed black & European descent.



Social Classes in Spanish Colonies



Source: John Osborne et al., *Global Studies*,
N & N Publishing (adapted)