The Spanish conquered the Aztec and Inca empires.

**Graphic Summary: Early Spanish Conquests in the Americas**

- The Spanish defeated the Aztec and Inca empires.
- The conquest of the Americas was driven by the desire for gold and wealth, and the spread of Christianity.
- The Spanish exploited the indigenous populations for labor and resources.
- The conquest led to the displacement and decimation of indigenous cultures.
- The Spanish introduced new diseases, which had devastating effects on the indigenous populations.

**Text Summary**

**AMERICAS**

**CONQUEST IN THE AMERICAS**

Section 1

*16 and A.D. (1492-1730)*

The First Global Age: Europe and the Americas.
African descent were in the lowest classes. Over time, the people in the colonies developed a new culture. They combined European, Native American, and African traditions. They spoke Spanish, but used Native American and African words. Their art buildings, and daily life were influenced by all three cultures.

**Graphic Summary:**

- **Penitentaries:** People born in Spain
- **Criollos:** People of European descent born in the colonies
- **Mestizos:** People of mixed Native American and European descent
- **Negros:** People of African descent
- **Indios:** People of Native American descent
- **Most Power:** Native Americans and Europeans
- **Least Power:** Africans

**Questions:****

1. **What were two ways in which Spain controlled its colonies?**

2. **What group had the most power in the Spanish colonies?**

3. **What group had the least power?**

**Review Questions:**

- **What were two ways in which Spain controlled its colonies?**

- **What group had the most power in the Spanish colonies?**

- **What group had the least power?**
By the late 1700s, revolutionary ideas spread from Europe to Latin America. The French colony of Haiti was the first to revolt. Nearly half a million enslaved Africans worked there on French, sugar plantations. In 1791, Toussaint L’Ouverture led the slaves in revolt. After a long, difficult struggle, the slaves won freedom, and soon, Haiti declared its independence.

In the Spanish colonies, many groups were unhappy about social and political life. In 1821, Napoleon overthrew their Spanish rulers. After eleven years, they declared independence. In South America, a Creole-led revolution swept through. Simón Bolívar led wars against Spain, and South American leaders declared independence from Spain in the early 1820s. Local leaders united to form new countries. Most of the new nations faced many problems, including civil war and poverty.

**Graphic Summary:**

- **1793:** Haitian slaves with their freedom from French owners
- **1800:** Mexican peasants revolt
- **1810:** Haitian independence
- **1814:** Toussaint L’Ouverture leads Haitian slaves in a revolt in Haiti
- **1821:** Mexican independence
- **1822:** Portuguese colonies in Brazil make Brazil independent

**Revolutions fired across Latin America in the 1800s.**

1. Where did the first revolution in Latin America take place?