The countries to the south of the United States are called Latin America. For more than 300 years, Spain ruled most of Latin America. France, Portugal, and some other European nations also held colonies in Latin America. The Latin American colonies were only allowed to trade with their ruling countries. In the 1800s many Latin American colonies wanted to rule themselves. They wanted to be able to trade with all nations. They wanted to write their own laws. Latin Americans knew that American colonists had won their independence from Great Britain during the American Revolution. Latin Americans knew that the French people had fought for their rights during the French Revolution. These two events were a source of inspiration for Latin Americans to fight for their independence. They pursued a path of revolution to gain freedom.

**People & Places**
- Latin America
- Haiti
- Hispaniola
- Caribbean Sea
- Saint Domingue
- Toussaint L'Ouverture
- Father Miguel Hidalgo
- Mexicans
- José de San Martín
- Simón Bolívar
- Argentina
- Chile
- Peru
- Dom Pedro
- Venezuela
- Bolivia

Father Miguel Hidalgo led Mexico’s fight for independence from Spain in 1810.
Almost all the soldiers were poor. Miguel Hidalgo was a Catholic priest in Mexico. He became the leader of Mexico's war against Spain. Father Hidalgo wanted America to be free. Father Miguel Hidalgo was the first Spanish colonist in Latin America to fight for his freedom.

Many Latin Americans decided to fight for independence. They wanted to be free of Spanish rule. In 1810, they started a rebellion against Spain. They won in 1812. But the Spanish continued to fight. They won in 1819. By then, the Spanish had captured the French and American colonies in Latin America.

In 1808, Napoleon Bonaparte of France conquered Spain. In 1814, the revolution in 1804. They wanted their new country. They named their new country. It was once a French colony. The French called this colony Saint Domingue. Most of the people in Saint Domingue were slaves on plantations. Slaves in Haiti fought against French owners and won independence.

Toussaint L'Ouverture led a revolution in Haiti to fight for their independence.
With its independence from Spain in 1816, the call for freedom in Argentina grew stronger. The achievements of San Martin and Simón Bolívar were significant in South America. They helped many colonies become independent nations. José de San Martín and Simón Bolívar were two great leaders in the fight for freedom in South America. They helped many colonies become independent nations.

The colonists in South America also wanted to be free. In 1821, the Mexicans won their war with Spain. Mexico became an independent nation.

The Mexicans began to fight again for their freedom. They could defeat Spain. Many Latin American colonies thought Spain was weak. The Spanish government was weak, too. Because Spain was weak after fighting against the French, the new king, a Spanish king, was unable to defend Spain. Spain was Napoleon's brother no longer. Italy, Spain, Mexico, and American Indians. In 1810, they began to fight.

José de San Martín led an army across the Andes Mountains to help Chile win freedom.
All over the world, such freedom is an important part of many nations. Such freedom is also important for many others. The new nations would work hard to protect their independence. The new nations would want to be free. Brazil became independent without fighting.

Brazil had been a colony of Portugal. The king of Portugal wanted to rule Brazil. The people of Brazil wanted to be free. In 1822, the king went back to Portugal to rule. Dom Pedro, the king's son, became the new ruler of Brazil. He fought to free Brazil.

Napoleon conquered Portugal. The king of Portugal fled. Brazil had become a colony of Portugal. In 1807, Brazil became a country in South America. All of its colonies in South America had lost their freedom to Brazil. In 1826, San Martin and Simón Bolívar both became free. San Martin and Simón Bolívar both became free. San Martin led his army to Chile. He crossed the Andes Mountains to fight for Chile. The Spaniards never fought San Martin. San Martin crossed the Andes Mountains to fight for Chile. He fought for Chile. He crossed the Andes Mountains to fight for Chile. The Spaniards never fought San Martin. San Martin led his army to Chile. The Andes Mountains separated Chile and Argentina. These mountains are some of the tallest mountains in the world. San Martin led his army across the Andes to Chile. He crossed the Andes Mountains to fight for Chile. The Spaniards never fought San Martin. San Martin decided to help Chile become free.
Simon Bolivar (1783–1830)

People in History
I. "I led the slaves in the fight for freedom from French rule in Haiti, Domíngue." 

2. "I was the French emperor who conquered Spain." 

3. "My army fought for Mexico's freedom from Spain." 

4. "I led an army to fight for Chile's freedom." 

5. "I told Portugal that Brazil wanted to rule itself." 

6. "Some people have called me 'the George Washington of South America'."
You have read about many interesting people in world history. Of all the people in this book, whom would you most like to meet? Write a few sentences that explain why you would like to meet this person.

Journal Writing

3. Which country once ruled the country that is now called Haiti?

4. Which country was the last to become independent?

3. Which five countries fought for freedom against Spain?

2. Which nation ruled Chile before 1818?

1. Which country became independent from Portugal?

Reading a Historical Map

The historical map on page 180 shows the differences between countries in Latin America. Use the map to answer the questions.

Understanding Different Points of View

Think and Apply
ACROSS

1. For more than 300 years, Spain ruled most of __________ America.
2. ________ won its freedom from Portugal without fighting.
3. Father ________ led the fight for freedom in Mexico.
4. Jose de San Martin began the fight for freedom in ________.

DOWN

5. Latin America began its fight for freedom when ________ was weak.
6. ________ led the fight for freedom in the northern colonies of South America.
7. In 1818 ________ became a free country.
8. The first Spanish colony to fight for freedom was ________.

Across: Hidalgo, Latin American Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico
Down: Spain, Portugal, Father, Jose de San Martin, Latin America, Bolivia, Chile, Mexico