

Part V– Hispanic Civilization  
Civilization lesson 1 – SPANISH INFLUENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

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**A. Spanish Explorers:**

1. **Juan Ponce de León.** Discovered Florida (1513) in his search for the Fountain of Youth; names it *Florida* because he discovered it on Easter Sunday (el domingo de Pascua Florida).
2. **Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca.** Shipwrecked on the Texas coast (1528), he wandered for six years, exploring parts of Texas, Kansas and New Mexico; was captured by Indians and lived as a slave and medicine man; finally reached Mexico, after walking thousands of miles.
3. **Francisco Vázquez de Coronado.** Explored the southwestern part of the United States (1540-42) in his search for the supposedly rich and prosperous “Seven Cities of Cibola”; discovered the Grand Canyon.
4. **Hernando de Soto.** Discovered the Mississippi River (1541), in which he was later buried.
5. **Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo.** Explored the coast of California (1542).

**B. Early Spanish Settlements:**

1. **St. Augustine.** City in Florida; oldest city in the United States; established in 1565.
2. **Spanish Missions.** Established by Spanish priests in the southwestern part of the United States.
  - a. Fray Junípero Serra. Most famous of the Spanish missionaries; he and his followers established a chain of twenty-one missions from San Diego to San Francisco (1769-1823).
  - b. El Camino Real. Road which connected the California missions; now Coast Highway 101.
  - c. Famous California Missions.
    - (1) San Juan Capistrano.
    - (2) Santa Bárbara Mission, called “Queen of the Missions.”

**C. Geographic Names of Spanish Origin in the United States:**

1. **States.** California, Colorado, Florida, Montana, Nevada.
2. **Cities.** El Paso, Los Angeles, Santa Fe, San Francisco, and many others.
3. **Rivers and Mountains.** Rio Grande, Sierra Nevada, and many others.

**D. Spanish Influence in Architecture:**

1. Many modern American homes and buildings show the influence of the old adobe ranch houses and mission buildings constructed by the early Spaniards.
2. Characteristics of Spanish architecture.
  - a. **Patio** (inner courtyard). An attractive spot for family relaxation; frequently has flowers, shade trees and an ornamental fountain.
  - b. **Reja** (iron gating on windows). Used for security or adornment; a traditional meeting place for sweethearts, with the young lady behind the reja and her suitor in the street below.
  - c. **Balcón** (balcony). Used for displaying flags and banners during celebrations; also used by member of the family for seeing and being seen during processions and merrymaking.
  - d. **Tejas** (tiles). Made of baked clay, red in color and used for covering roofs.
  - e. **Arcada** (arcade). A covered passageway along the front of a building; provides protection from the weather for the stroller about town.

## E. Spanish Influence on Economic Life:

### 1. Cattle Raising.

- a. Spaniards brought the first cows, horses, goats, pigs and sheep to the New World.
- b. From the Spanish cowboy, the American cowboy copied his dress equipment, vocabulary and ranching techniques.

2. **Mining.** Spaniards developed the first gold and silver mines in the New World. Their methods influenced the mining industry in America.

## F. Spanish Influence in Language:

1. Spanish explorers, missionaries and settlers in North America contributed many Spanish words to our language. Some of these words are identical in English and Spanish. Others have been slightly changed.

2. Common English words of Spanish origin.

- a. **Ranch life:** bronco, chaps, cinch, corral, lasso, mustang, ranch, rodeo, stampede.
- b. **Foods:** avocado, banana, barbecue, chili, chocolate, cocoa, potato, tomato, vanilla.
- c. **Beverages:** julep, sherry.
- d. **Clothing:** bolero, brocade, huaraches, mantilla, poncho, sombrero.
- e. **Animals and insects:** alligator, burro, chinchilla, cockroach, coyote, llama, mosquito.
- f. **People:** cannibal, comrade, Creole, desperado, padre, peon, renegade, vigilante.
- g. **Nature:** arroyo, canyon, cordillera, hurricane, lagoon, mesa, sierra, tornado.
- h. **Shipping and commerce:** armada, canoe, cargo, contraband, embargo, flotilla, galleon.
- i. **Buildings and streets:** adobe, alameda, hacienda, patio, plaza.
- j. **Miscellaneous words:** bonanza, cigar, fiesta, filibuster, guerrilla, siesta, tobacco.

## G. Mexican Foods Popular in the United States:

1. Tortilla (flat, thin cornmeal pancake).
2. Tamal (crushed corn mixed with seasoned chopped meat).
3. Chile con carne (red pepper, chopped meat and hot chili sauce).
4. Enchilada (rolled tortilla filled with chopped meat or chicken and cheese; served with hot chili sauce).
5. Taco (a crisp tortilla folded over and filled with seasoned chopped meat, lettuce and tomatoes).

## H. Spanish American Dances Popular in the United States:

1. Tango (Argentina).
2. Rumba (Cuba).
3. Mambo (Cuba).
4. Cha-cha-chá (Cuba).
5. Merengue (Dominican Republic).

EXERCISES

I. ¿Sí o No? If the statement is true, write **sí**; if it is false, write **no**.

1. La Florida fué descubierta el domingo de Pascua Florida. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Fray Junípero Serra y otros misioneros españoles establecieron treinta y una misiones en California. \_\_\_\_\_
3. “La Reina de las Misiones” se refiere a la misión de San Juan Capistrano. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Coronado fué capturado por los indios y vivió entre ellos. \_\_\_\_\_
5. La ganadería (cattle raising) es una industria que los españoles introdujeron en América. \_\_\_\_\_
6. El vaquero (cowboy) americano copió mucho del vaquero español. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Las rejas de las casas españolas tienen flores y árboles. \_\_\_\_\_
8. “Rodeo” y “corral” son palabras de origen español que describen la vida del rancho. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Los españoles construyeron muchos edificios de adobe. \_\_\_\_\_
10. No hay casas de arquitectura española en los Estados Unidos. \_\_\_\_\_

J. Match the following items.

<i>Column I</i>	<i>Column II</i>
_____ 1. De Soto	a. Florida
_____ 2. Fray Junípero Serra	b. explored coast of California
_____ 3. patio	c. Grand Canyon
_____ 4. Ponce de León	d. founder of California missions
_____ 5. reja	e. Inner courtyard
_____ 6. Cabrillo	f. Mississippi River
_____ 7. Coronado	g. road connecting California missions
_____ 8. Camino Real	h. iron grating
_____ 9. St. Augustine	i. explored parts of Texas and New Mexico
_____ 10. Cabeza de Vaca	j. oldest city in U.S.
_____ 11. tango	k. Mexican dish
_____ 12. enchilada	l. Argentine dance

K. Read sections A – H from page 1-2 and complete the following sentences in Spanish.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ es una famosa *misión* de California.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ fué el *explorador* español que buscaba (searched for) la Fuente de la Juventud (Fountain of Youth).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ fué el *explorador* español que buscaba las “Siete Ciudades de Cibola.”
4. \_\_\_\_\_ es un *estado* de los Estados Unidos que tiene un nombre de origen español.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ es una *ciudad* norteamericana que tiene un nombre de origen español.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ es un *río* de los Estados Unidos que tiene un nombre de origen español.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ es una *montaña* de los Estados Unidos que tiene un nombre de origen español.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ es un *animal* que los españoles trajeron de España al Nuevo Mundo.
9. Dos *bailes* cubanos muy populares en los Estados Unidos son \_\_\_\_\_ y \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Dos *platos* mexicanos son \_\_\_\_\_ y \_\_\_\_\_.

L. Define the following words in English. Consult the English dictionary if necessary. In each case, note the Spanish word from which the English word is derived.

1. mustang \_\_\_\_\_
2. julep \_\_\_\_\_
3. chinchilla \_\_\_\_\_
4. peon \_\_\_\_\_
5. Creole \_\_\_\_\_
6. arroyo \_\_\_\_\_
7. cordillera \_\_\_\_\_
8. sierra \_\_\_\_\_
9. alameda \_\_\_\_\_
10. guerrilla \_\_\_\_\_
11. bonanza \_\_\_\_\_
12. filibuster \_\_\_\_\_
13. flotilla \_\_\_\_\_
14. armada \_\_\_\_\_
15. galleon \_\_\_\_\_