

Costa Rica

NEW WORD FOR THE DAY: **HACIENDA**: very large plantation in Latin America.

1. Let the students know that during these times it was common for any colonial empire to turn the local people into slaves.
2. In case the students are interested, it is illegal to own an ocelot in the United States.
3. You might want to remind the students that aristocrats are upper class people—usually those who own a great deal of land and buildings. Also remind the students what a “medium of exchange” is.
4. If it seems appropriate, you might point out that nearly 90 percent of all American Indians died because of exposure to diseases that they had no immunity to such as measles—diseases brought into the indigenous areas by Europeans.
5. You can tell the students that today Costa Rica is one of the biggest tourist attractions in the world. This is because there are so many species of plants and animals still thriving in the rainforest. In other rainforests people over-developed the areas and caused so many species to become extinct.
6. The land settlement pattern of building farms far away from other farms (as opposed to building a village with people close together with surrounding farm lands) is quite uncommon worldwide. In the United States, the Scots Irish people brought in that settlement pattern, and as they moved into Appalachia and further south and west, their isolated homestead pattern took hold. You will still see the village pattern back in New England.
7. You might have to define Mestizos as people who are part indigenous and part European.

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