

South America Unit 3 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Context
Content Specific (class words)		
Mestizo	A person of combined European and Native South American descent	In North America intermarriage was rare, but in South America the majority of people are <i>mestizos</i> .
Missionary	A person sent for a religious purpose (usually to promote Christian)	<i>Missionaries</i> established cities and converted many natives to Christianity.
Conquistador	Spanish term for “conqueror”	In the 16 th century, the <i>conquistadors</i> took over Peru from the Incans.
Academic (school words)		
Indigenous	Native or original to a place	Columbus mistakenly referred to the <i>indigenous</i> people of America as Indians.
Decimate	Remove a large part of something or to kill/destroy	Natives died in such large numbers because European diseases <i>decimated</i> them.
“New World”	North & South America or the Western Hemisphere	Europe was introduced to many crops from the <i>New World</i> .
General (common words)		
Colonialism	Taking control of another country and its resources, and occupying it with settlers.	European countries got rich from <i>colonialism</i> , but South American economies still struggle from its effects.
Left	A group or party favoring liberal, socialist, or radical views. “ <i>Leftist</i> or <i>Left Wing</i> ”	Brazil’s <i>leftist</i> president started new social programs.
Coup D’Etat	Taking power of the government suddenly and violently. “ <i>Coup</i> ”	The President was killed in a <i>coup</i> , and the military General became the new leader.
Deforestation	Destroying forests to use the land for other things.	The main reason for <i>deforestation</i> is to clear the land for cows to graze.