

****HISPANIC INFLUENCE IN THE UNITED STATES****

~ **HISPANICS IN THE UNITED STATES** – The Hispanic population makes up 15% of the total population of the United States. Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic minority group in the United States. Currently, there are approximately 45 million Hispanics that reside in the United States. In California, Hispanics make up 44% of the total population. In Miami, Florida, they make up 65% of the city's total population. We can observe the linguistic influence in the names of many southwestern cities of our country. Some examples include El Paso, Laredo, and San Antonio, Texas, San Francisco, San Diego, and Los Angeles, California.

~ **HISPANIC CULTURAL INFLUENCE WORLDWIDE** – There is a great deal of Hispanic cultural influence worldwide. Don Quijote de La Mancha is the second most translated book in the world, behind the Bible. The Hispanic authors, Gabriel García Márquez and Isabel Allende, are two of the most influential writers in the world.

~ **THE VARIOUS NATIONALITIES OF HISPANICS IN THE UNITED STATES** – The majority of Hispanics are of Mexican origin. Mexicans make up 65% of the Hispanic population that resides in the U.S. Puerto Ricans are the second largest group, and they are 9% of the population. Cubans are the third largest group, comprising 4% of the Hispanic population. Central Americans make up 8% of the population and South Americans make up 6% of the population. The rest of Hispanics include 8% of the Hispanic population in the United States.

~ **WHY SHOULD YOU STUDY SPANISH IN SCHOOL?** – There are many excellent reasons for studying the Spanish language! Spanish is the third most widely spoken language in the world. There are about 500 million Spanish-speakers in the world, 388 million of which it is their mother tongue. One can travel to many different parts of the world to practice Spanish. Even if you only learn basic Spanish, it readies you to travel and to understand another culture. Studying foreign language helps teach how to ask directions and to order from the menu in Hispanic restaurants. Scientific studies show that learning a foreign language lowers the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. Another great reason is that employers and big companies look for bilingual workers, many times offering a higher salary and better positions to bilingual candidates. Some jobs that benefit from bilingualism include doctors, nurses, lawyers, international businesspeople, teachers, and social service workers. They say that bilingual workers receive a salary that is 5 to 20 percent higher than their monolingual counterparts. Bilingual government workers have the opportunity to receive more benefits for bilingual work.

~ **HISPANIC INFLUENCE ON CUISINE** – There is a large impact of Hispanic culture on popular cuisine in the United States. There are Hispanic restaurants in every town with many wonderful foods. Salsa sales exceed ketchup sales in the U.S. There are many typical foods in the American diet that have Hispanic roots. Guacamole is very popular and chips and salsa have become a staple snack in the American diet, especially during Sunday football games. Some typical Hispanic plates that have been Americanized are black bean soup, chicken and rice, enchiladas, and chiles rellenos. Also, there is a very large population that eats plantains and empanadas on a regular basis. In the southwest

United States, Hispanic food is even more popular. There are many fruit juices that people love to drink such as mango and pineapple juices. Popular mixed drinks include the classic margarita and the Cuban mojito.

~ **HISPANIC INFLUENCE ON HOLLYWOOD CINEMA** – There are many Hollywood movies that have Hispanic influence or Hispanic themes, sometimes including partial or entire dialogue in Spanish.

***SELENA** is a biographical movie about the famous Mexican Tejano singer who was murdered in 1995.

***THE MASK OF ZORRO** is a movie about a handsome and mysterious hero.

***TRAFFIC** is a movie with a multicultural theme about drug-trafficking and the effects of the Mexican-American border, and also confronts stereotypes and problems in American culture.

***EL MARIACHI**, **DESPERADO**, **BANDIDAS**, y **ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO** are movies that explore Mexican culture.

***SPANGLISH** is a movie about love that shows the cultural differences between Hispanics living in America and Americans.

***EL DORADO** and **THE EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE** are Disney films that have Hispanic characters and themes.

~ **HISPANIC MUSIC AND ITS INFLUENCE ON RAP** –

***REGGAETÓN** – Reggaetón is a type of popular Hispanic music that sounds like Caribbean rap. There are many international pop stars that have teamed up to sing songs together to expand their audience. There are many rappers who sing with Hispanic groups looking to produce a new sound. Fergie teamed up with Daddy Yankee, Shakira teamed up with Wyclef Jean, Akon teamed up with Hispanic duo, Wisin y Yandel, and Hispanic pop group Aventura. Wisin and Yandel have a new rap hit with rapper, 50 cent.

***SALSA** – Salsa is a popular music style among Cubans and Puerto Ricans living in the U.S. It is a popular music and dance in many parts of the country. Salsa music has African rhythms, but there are many fusions today with rock and jazz. Salsa music is especially popular in Miami and in New York as well as in many other urban areas of the country.

***BACHATA** – Bachata music has Dominican origins, mixing the sound of boleros (smooth, slow music) with that of merengue. Aventura is an example of a popular bachata band.

***TEJANO AND CONJUNTO** – Tejano and Conjunto are mixtures of the many different forms of Mexican music. In the U.S., it has swing and rock influences on its sound. It's very popular music in southern Texas. Eddie González is a popular tejano musician.

***NORTEÑA** – Norteña music comes from Mexican music that includes the alto saxophone and the accordion. It fuses Czech and German music with that of traditional Mexican sounds of ranchera and corridos. Los Tigres del Norte are a popular norteña band.

***MARIACHI** – Mariachi music is both unique in its sound and presentation. Instruments include the Spanish guitar, trumpets, the vihuela, and a big guitar. The music originated in the Mexican state of Jalisco. There are mariachi bands in the United States that are hired to play at parties and at weddings.

***RANCHERA** –Ranchera is traditional music of Mexico played by Mariachi bands. It is slow and romantic music, sometimes taking on a similar sound to that of a ballad.

~ **HISPANIC RADIO** – There are tons of radio stations in Spanish. The majority of Spanish radio stations are owned by a corporation called Univisión. There are also tons of satellite radio stations in Spanish. The stations offer many different types of music. There are several stations that play boleros and reggaeton.

~ **HISPANIC MAGAZINES** – There are many magazines written in Spanish. There are many bilingual magazines, also. Some fashion and gossip magazines include Cristina, iMira!, Two Mundos, and People en Español. Bodas, the first bridal magazine written in Spanish in the U.S., just recently began publication. Latina is a magazine (in English and Spanish) that includes articles about the Latino culture in the U.S.

~ **HISPANIC TELEVISION** – There are many Hispanic television channels available on cable and satellite packages. Most television programs in English offer a dubbed voice version for regular prime time programs. Most cable television companies have the technology to make almost any program available with either subtitles or dubbed voices in the Spanish language. Univision and Telemundo as well as HBO Latino have many channels available in every part of the country. There is also CNN en español.

~ **SOAP OPERAS** – Soap operas, known as telenovelas, are very popular amongst the Hispanic population. Some examples of telenovelas are Cuidado con el Ángel, Juro que Te Amo, Betty la Fea.

~ **BASEBALL** – 30% of the players of Major League Baseball come from Spanish-speaking countries. The majority of the players come from one of the following countries: the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. Some of the most famous Hispanic players include Alex Rodríguez, Manny Ramírez, Jorge Posada, Kiko Calero, Alex Cinturón, Rod Carew, Alberto Pujols, José Canseco, Vicente Padilla, Mariano Rivera, Miguel Batista, Ubaldo Jiménez, Fernando Valenzuela, Sammy Sosa, and Roberto Clemente.

~ **SOCCER** – Although soccer is not the most popular American sport, there are more and more people taking an interest in this sport. During the FIFA Confederation Cup of 2009 that took place in South Africa, Americans bought more tickets for the American team's game than any other country attending the game of their home country.

~ **BACHATA, SALSA, AND MERENGUE FESTIVALS** – There are many Hispanic dance festivals that take place during the year in several areas of the U.S. There are many festivals in Texas, Florida, and California. There are enormous Bachata festivals in San Francisco. Cinco de Mayo is usually a time when clubs, restaurants, and festivals offer foods and activities that reflect the romantic and colorful Hispanic culture. Mexican folkloric dances are a part of many Cinco de Mayo festivals.

~ **THE THREE LARGEST HISPANIC GROUPS** – The three largest Hispanic groups that live in the United States are Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans. Cubans are the smallest group and have the most success socio-economically.

~ **MEXICANS** – Today, the majority of Mexicans living in America live in the Southwest of the country, and on the East coast. The most populous states include Texas, Arizona, Illinois (Chicago), Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and California. Mexicans make up about 9% of the total U.S. population. These numbers represent those who live here legally as citizens or as residents of the country. A common Mexican celebration in the U.S. (celebrated in the U.S. more than in Mexico) is called Cinco de Mayo. This day celebrates the Mexican defeat of the French in the battle of Puebla. In the U.S., Americans celebrate this day by going out to enjoy typical Mexican foods and drinks. Adults also go out to clubs and bars to drink margaritas and dance. Although there are many stereotypes about the Mexican culture in this country, Mexicans have had a large impact on American culture. The children's television program, Dora the Explorer, has been very successful. There are many famous celebrities that endorse Mexican products. Many aspects of Mexican culture have been integrated into daily American life, especially in the southwest. There are newspapers written in Spanish, there are Hispanic celebrations and businesses that advertise their products in both languages. There are also several influential persons in the history of our country.

~ **INFLUENTIAL MEXICAN AMERICANS** –

***CESAR CHÁVEZ** – Chávez was a Chicano leader of the labor union, United Farm Workers. He was very influential for farm workers' rights during the 1960's and 1970's.

***SALMA HAYEK** – Hayek is a talented actress and producer who has appeared in many successful movies such as Fools Rush In, Dogma, and Frida.

***BILL RICHARDSON** – Richardson is the Governor of New Mexico. Richardson ran as a democratic presidential candidate during the 2008 primaries. Much of his work is in support of women and public education.

***ALBERTO GONZÁLEZ** – González was the former attorney general of the United States in the Bush II administration. He is a lawyer.

***DRA. ELLEN OCHOA** – Dr. Ochoa was the first female Latina Astronaut to travel into space.

***GEORGE LÓPEZ** – López is an actor and comedian. He has his own television sitcom.

***CESAR MILLÁN** – Millán is the host of "The Dog Whisperer" on the Bravo channel. (He is close friends with Oprah Winfrey and Will Smith.)

~ **PUERTO RICANS** – Puerto Ricans became official citizens of the United States in 1917. Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States. Many Puerto Ricans emigrated from Puerto Rico to the United States to work during World War II. The largest concentration of Puerto Ricans lives in New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Massachusetts. There is a Spanish Harlem in New York City, which is known for being primarily Puerto Rican. Many Puerto Ricans from New York refer to themselves as "Nuyoricans."

~ **PUERTO RICAN TROOPS** – Currently there are 4,800 Puerto Ricans on active duty in some branch of the U.S. military. There are more or less 100,000 Puerto Ricans troops that serve in some capacity of the U.S. military. There

have been more Puerto Ricans who have died serving in wars for the United States than U.S. soldiers from any one state.

~ INFLUENTIAL PUERTO RICANS ~

*JENNIFER LÓPEZ – López is an actress, a singer, and a clothing designer. She was born in the Bronx, New York. She is the wife of Marc Anthony, fellow Puerto Rican who is also very famous in the United States as well as in the Hispanic world.

*MARC ANTHONY – Anthony is a salsa, pop, and tropical music singer. He also acts. He was born in Manhattan, New York.

*ROSARIO DAWSON – Dawson is an actress that was born in Manhattan, New York.

*FRANKIE MUNIZ – Muniz is a television and movie actor. He was born in New Jersey and is known for being in the television program “Malcolm in the Middle”.

*SONIA SOTOMAYOR – Sotomayor is a judge and a lawyer. She was born in the Bronx, New York, and attended New York City public schools. She studied at Princeton and at Yale Law School. She is currently serving as the first Latina Supreme Court Justice of the United States. She particularly supports women’s rights and the right to better public education, especially for Hispanic students.

*BIG PUN A.K.A. CHRISTOPHER RÍOS – Big Pun was a rapper who was born in the Bronx, New York. He died in 2000.

~ LOS CUBANOS – The Cuban population is largely concentrated in Miami, Florida, in New York, and in California. The city of Miami is the closest U.S. city to the island nation of Cuba.

~ MIAMI – The city of Miami is made up of 65% Hispanic population. Because of the immense Hispanic influence, there are tons of concerts and Hispanic activities to attend within the city. There is a section of the city known as “Little Havana”. The city hosts award shows and concerts. The city of Miami was very influential in the 2008 presidential elections. Many of the signs are in Spanish or are bilingual. There are tons of reputable restaurants that serve excellent Cuban food, such as paella and Havana fish. There are also many public schools that have bilingual education to meet the needs of their multitude of Hispanic students.

~ THE 2008 ELECTION AND HISPANIC SUPPORT – The number of Hispanic voters in the 2008 election increased by 25% from the 2004 numbers. Accordingly, 67% of Hispanics voted in favor of the democratic hopeful candidate, Barack Obama. Around 10 million Hispanics voted in the 2008 election.

~ INFLUENTIAL CUBAN-AMERICANS ~

*EVA MENDES – A famous model and actress born to Cuban immigrants in Miami, Florida.

*CAMERON DÍAZ – A famous actress of Cuban ancestry born in San Diego, California.

*GLORIA ESTEFAN – A very famous singer and humanitarian. She was born in Havana, Cuba, and fled Cuba with her parents. She lives in Miami, Florida, with her famous husband, Emilio Estefan.

*PITBULL – Is a famous hip-hop singer. He produces bilingual CD's .

~ HISPANICS IN OHIO – Approximately 2.5% of the Ohio population is Hispanic. There are salsa festivals in Columbus and in Cincinnati every year. There is a festival called "A World A'Fair" in Dayton every May. Holy Family Catholic Church offers a mass in Spanish and many activities and services for the Hispanic population.

~ THE 14TH AMENDMENT – According to the 14th amendment of the constitution, any child born on U.S. soil is automatically a U.S. citizen, and becomes a state citizen to the particular state in which they were born. Thus, these children have a right to free, public education and medical care.

~ HISPANICS AND EDUCATION – Hispanic children, regardless of citizenship status, have the same right to attend public school as any other child of the United States. Hispanics are the second largest group of minority students in the U.S. An unfortunate problem is that Hispanic students have a very high dropout rate due to language barriers and the need to work to support their families financially.

~ COYOTES (POLLEROS) – Coyotes are paid to help illegal immigrants to cross the border from Mexico into the United States. The coyotes charge money to smuggle illegal immigrants through the desert. Many Central Americans, South Americans, Russians, and Chinese also pay coyotes to help them enter the U.S. illegally.

~ VEGETABLES AND FRUITS – Vegetables and fruits cost less in the supermarket due to the inexpensive labor that is hired (undocumented workers) to cultivate and prepare these foods. Migrant workers earn a lot less than the federal minimum wage and vegetable and produce prices are kept a lot lower because of this.