SPANISH IN THE WORLD



The RISE and FALL of the SPANISH EMPIRE

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Nelson Literacy Directions

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TEXT TYPE Procedure

Imagine you want to start an empire – just follow the "recipe".

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Cortés is sent to conquer the Aztec Empire for Spain.



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1 Spanish Worldwide

The **Spanish** Language

Today, over 350 million people speak Spanish as their first language. It is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Mandarin Chinese, Hindi and English are three others. People speak Spanish in:

- Argentina
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Puerto Rico
- Spain
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

Spanish is the first language of some people in other countries, too. These include Belize, Gibraltar, the USA, Andorra and the Philippines.



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Why Is Spanish Spoken Worldwide?

From the 1500s until the 1800s, Spain was the richest country in the world. It had an enormous empire that stretched around the globe. Everywhere that Spaniards went, people started speaking Spanish!

So what was the secret of the Spaniards' success? Many famous explorers helped to build the Spanish Empire. Find out how!







2 Granada Is Conquered!

From **Granada** to **Spain**

Before 1492, the country that is now Spain was called Granada. It was a mixture of peoples and languages. The Moors, who spoke Arabic, ruled Granada and other areas.

In 1469, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella were married. Ferdinand ruled the Kingdom of Aragon. Isabella ruled the Kingdom of Castile.

The New Kingdom of Spain

In 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella's armies defeated the Kingdom of Granada. They drove the Moors out.

Ferdinand and Isabella then formed the Kingdom of Spain. Their language became the language of the new country – Spanish.

They also started the Spanish Inquisition. It forced people to become Roman Catholics. If they did not, they had to leave Spain. Many were killed.

The first step in building the Spanish Empire had been taken.



Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand

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The Moors in Granada

In the early 700s, almost all of the area known as Spain was conquered by people from North Africa. These people were called Moors. Their new kingdom and its new capital city were both called Granada.



the Alhambra castle, Granada

The Moors valued learning. They helped to spread the learning of the ancient Greeks into Europe. They also invented our number system.

The Kingdom of Granada prospered. Farmers produced more food with new crops and new farming methods.

The Moors left behind beautiful architecture and gardens, such as the Alhambra castle in the city of Granada.

