



5.4.2 Explore: Spanish Influences on Southwestern Culture and American English

Exploration

U.S. History Sem 1 (S2792674)

Points possible: 20

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Date: _____

Study the web sites listed in the activity to help you answer these questions. If you use different or additional sources, be sure to list them.

1. Make a "glossary" of at least 15 words in English and American culture that originated in Spanish language and culture. For example:

- Barbecue from *barbacoa* (meat slow cooked over steam)
- Cocoa from *cacao* (a 20' tall evergreen tree that produces seeds used to make chocolate)

Patio (meaning courtyard in Spanish)

Peccadillo from a form of *pecado* (meaning to sin_

Renegade from *renegado* (meaning a deserter or outlaw)

Savvy from *saber* (meaning to know)

Cigar, Cigarette from *cigarro* (the same meaning)

Comrade from *camarada* (meaning roommate)

Guerrilla (meaning a small raiding party or fighting force)

Hoosegow from *juzgado* (meaning a courtroom)

Bronco (meaning wild or rough)

Vamoose from *vamos* (meaning let's go)

Alligator from *el lagarto* (meaning the lizard)

Cafeteria from *cafetería* (meaning a coffee shop)

Cargo from *cargar* (meaning to load)

Mustang from *mestengo* or *mesteño* (meaning a stray animal)

Tornado from *tornar* (meaning to turn) and also *tronada* (meaning thunderstorm)

2. How does determining the Spanish origins of common words help us better understand/appreciate American English?

It helps us better understand and appreciate that American English is a very diverse language with influence from many other groups and cultures, including the Spanish.

3. Which of the words you found are actually Spanish adaptations of American Indian words?

I didn't find any that were adapted in this way. They were all from originally Spanish words.

4. Which source did you find most useful and why? If you use any sources besides the ones provided, list and evaluate them here as well.

The infoplease source (<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/spanishwords1.html>) was the most useful for me because it had a good explanation of language influences and some example words. I found this to be very helpful. I did not find that I needed to use any sources besides the ones provided.

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