

Life in New Spain

Main Idea Spanish settlers and American Indians lived together, but not always peacefully.

After the Spanish took the Aztecs' riches, the conquistadors did not find much more gold in North America. Instead, they found large amounts of silver underground. Because New Spain had good soil, many settlers built haciendas (ah see YEN dahs). A **hacienda** is a large farm or ranch, often with its own village and church.

Spanish hacienda owners relied on Indians to farm the land. American Indians were forced to work at haciendas and were often cheated out of their pay. Many of them died from overwork in Spanish fields and mines.

Spanish Missions This photo shows a mission in Carmel, California. The main church building is on the left. The bell at right is from a mission in Pala, California.



The Spanish brought enslaved Africans to replace the thousands of American Indians who had died. Most of these Africans were forced to work on sugar plantations in Spain's Caribbean colonies. By 1650, about 130,000 enslaved Africans and their descendants were in New Spain.

Priests at Spanish missions wanted to convert American Indians to Roman Catholicism. To **convert** means to change a religion or a belief.

Some American Indians accepted Spanish rule. They moved to missions and converted to Catholicism. They learned to speak Spanish and to use European farming methods.

A Spanish priest named Bartolomé de las Casas wanted to protect all American Indians. He spoke out against their mistreatment in the Spanish colonies. He convinced the Spanish king to make laws to help protect them. Many settlers, however, ignored these laws and continued to mistreat them.

American Indians who did not live at missions continued to practice their own traditions and religions. In 1680, a Pueblo Indian leader named Popé (poh PEH) led a revolt against the Spanish in New Mexico. A **revolt** is a violent uprising against a ruler. The Pueblo kept the Spanish out of New Mexico until 1692, when the Spanish returned and conquered them again.

REVIEW What did some American Indians learn when they moved to Spanish missions?

Lesson Summary



Why It Matters . . .

The growth of New Spain spread Spanish language and customs in the southern United States.

Lesson Review



- VOCABULARY** Match the definitions with the words below.
mission **hacienda** **revolt**
 a. a Spanish farm b. a place where religion was taught c. an uprising
- READING SKILL** In what ways did life change for American Indians who lived at missions?
- MAIN IDEA History** Why did the Spanish build haciendas?
- MAIN IDEA Culture** What was the main goal of the Spanish missions?
- PLACES TO KNOW** Why is St. Augustine an important place in American history?
- TIMELINE SKILL** How long after Oñate arrived in New Mexico did the Pueblo Revolt occur?
- CRITICAL THINKING: Analyze** How was Menéndez de Avilés's exploration of Florida and Georgia similar to Serra's exploration of California?



ART ACTIVITY Find out more about the fort that was built at St. Augustine. Make a drawing or model of it.