

Chapter 38

Famous Names in Spanish America



NATIONAL HEROES OF SPANISH AMERICA

1. Simón Bolívar (1783–1830) was one of the main figures in the struggle for South American independence from Spain. Called El Libertador (the Liberator), he won independence for the northern part of South America. Bolivia was named in his honor.
2. José de San Martín (1778–1850) was an Argentinian general who won independence for the southern part of South America, including Argentina and Chile.
3. Bernardo O'Higgins (1778–1842) was a Chilean general who helped San Martín in the liberation of Chile. O'Higgins became the first president of Chile.
4. Antonio José de Sucre (1795–1830) defeated the Spanish army in the battle of Ayacucho (Peru), the last battle for South American Independence (1824).
5. Miguel Hidalgo (1753–1811) was a Mexican priest and patriot who began the struggle for Mexican independence (1810).
6. Benito Juárez (1806–1872) fought against Archduke Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico. Juárez was later called the "Abraham Lincoln of Mexico."
7. José Martí (1853–1895) was a famous Cuban poet and patriot who died fighting for Cuban independence from Spain.
4. Rubén Darío (1867–1916) was born in Nicaragua. One of the greatest poets of Spanish America, he helped create a new poetic style called "modernism."
5. Mariano Azuela (1873–1952) was a Mexican novelist who wrote *Los de abajo*, a novel about the Mexican Revolution of 1910–1920.
6. Gabriela Mistral (1889–1957) was a Chilean poet who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1945.
7. Rómulo Gallegos (1884–1969) was a Venezuelan novelist and statesman who wrote *Doña Bárbara*, a novel about life on the plains of Venezuela.
8. Miguel Ángel Asturias (1899–1974) was a Guatemalan novelist whose books describe the suffering caused by the local dictator and by the big "Yanqui" companies. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1967.
9. Pablo Neruda (1904–1973) was a Chilean poet and diplomat who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971.
10. Gabriel García Márquez (1928–) is a Colombian novelist who wrote *Cien años de soledad*, the history of an imaginary town in Colombia. He received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982.
11. Octavio Paz (1914–) is a Mexican poet and essayist who received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1990.

WRITERS

1. Andrés Bello (1781–1865) was a Chilean poet, critic, and a leading intellectual of Spanish America. He wrote *Gramática de la lengua castellana*.
2. Domingo Faustino Sarmiento (1811–1888) was an Argentinian educator and statesman, known as the "Schoolmaster President." He wrote *Facundo*, which deals with the life of a gaucho (Argentinian cowboy) leader.
3. Ricardo Palma (1833–1919) wrote *Tradiciones peruanas*, a collection of stories about Peru during colonial times.

PAINTERS

1. Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros are the three most important painters of Mexico. All three specialized in mural painting, and all treated political and social topics.
2. Cesáreo Bernaldo de Quirós, of Argentina, painted scenes of gaucho life.

COMPOSERS AND MUSICIANS

1. Carlos Chávez was a famous Mexican composer and orchestra conductor.
2. Claudio Arrau was a famous Chilean pianist.

EXERCISE A

Identify each of the following names by writing the corresponding letter in the space provided.

- a. patriot b. writer c. painter d. composer-musician

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. Mariano Azuela | _____ | 9. Diego Rivera |
| _____ | 2. Andrés Bello | _____ | 10. Bernardo O'Higgins |
| _____ | 3. Rubén Darío | _____ | 11. Carlos Chávez |
| _____ | 4. Rómulo Gallegos | _____ | 12. Claudio Arrau |
| _____ | 5. Antonio José de Sucre | _____ | 13. Cesáreo Bernaldo de Quirós |
| _____ | 6. Benito Juárez | _____ | 14. Miguel Ángel Asturias |
| _____ | 7. Gabriela Mistral | _____ | 15. José Clemente Orozco |
| _____ | 8. Octavio Paz | | |

EXERCISE B

Match the names in column A with their related words in column B. Write the letters in the space provided.

- | A | B |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| _____ 1. Juárez | a. novelist |
| _____ 2. Sarmiento | b. great Spanish-American poet |
| _____ 3. San Martín | c. <i>Tradiciones peruanas</i> |
| _____ 4. Martí | d. Schoolmaster President |
| _____ 5. García Márquez | e. murals |
| _____ 6. Darío | f. Mexican patriot |
| _____ 7. Orozco | g. painter |
| _____ 8. Palma | h. Argentina's independence |
| _____ 9. Bolívar | i. Cuban patriot |
| _____ 10. Rivera | j. "the Liberator" |

EXERCISE C

Select the name, title, or word that correctly completes each statement.

1. (Siqueiros / Neruda / Martí) was the second writer to win a Nobel Prize for Chile.

2. (Juárez / Hidalgo / San Martín) was called the "Abraham Lincoln of Mexico."
3. One of the greatest Spanish-American poets was (Ricardo Palma / Rubén Darío / Rómulo Gallegos).
4. (*Doña Bárbara* / *Facundo* / *Los de abajo*) is a novel about the Mexican Revolution.
5. (Claudio Arrau / Bernardo O'Higgins / Gabriela Mistral) was a famous Chilean pianist.
6. Diego Rivera was a famous (musician / novelist / painter).
7. The last battle in the struggle for South American independence took place at (Lima / Ayacucho / Mexico).
8. (Gabriela Mistral / Jose Martí / Andrés Bello) won the Nobel Prize for Literature.
9. The first president of Chile was (Sucre / O'Higgins / Azuela).
10. Sarmiento wrote (*Facundo* / *Cien años de soledad* / *Tradiciones peruanas*).

EXERCISE D

a. In the space provided, write a name that would fit each definition.

1. Mexican painter _____
2. Argentine educator _____
3. Spanish-American novelist _____
4. Spanish-American poet _____
5. country named for Bolívar _____
6. Mexican composer _____
7. a Mexican Nobel Prize winner _____
8. a Colombian Nobel Prize winner _____

b. Tell who wrote the following titles.

9. *Facundo* _____
10. *Doña Bárbara* _____
11. *Cien años de soledad* _____
12. *Tradiciones peruanas* _____
13. *Los de abajo* _____
14. *Gramática de la lengua castellana* _____

EXERCISE E

Complete the following statements.

1. One of Nicaragua's most famous poets is _____.
2. San Martín won independence for Chile and _____.
3. The Mexican movement for independence from Spain was begun by _____.
4. Bernaldo de Quirós painted scenes of the life of the _____.
5. The Spanish army was defeated by Sucre at the battle of _____.
6. José Clemente Orozco was a Mexican _____.
7. José Martí was killed in the war for the independence of _____.
8. The Chilean general who helped San Martín win independence for Chile is _____.