

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **SIMON BOLIVAR:**

### **The Liberator of South America**

Simon Bolivar was a leader in the wars for independence in South America. He and other leaders fought against Spanish rule. They wanted independence for all the people in Latin America. Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela won their independence through his efforts.



Bolivar was born in 1783 in what is now Venezuela. He was from a wealthy family. He had an excellent education and read many books with ideas on freedom and equality. He lived at the time of the **French Revolution** during which the French royal family was overthrown. This gave hope to Bolivar and many others that they too could achieve independence from their rulers.

From 1810 to 1824, Bolivar led different groups of troops against Spanish rule. He fought in the lands that are now Venezuela, Colombia, and Panama. He was able to finally defeat the Spanish in 1824 and end Spanish rule in South America. The country of Bolivia was named for Bolivar, and he wrote a constitution to organize the country.

Bolivar is known as “The Liberator” in South America. He is also sometimes called the “George Washington of South America.” He became dictator and tried to create a single, large South American country called Gran Colombia. It covered the entire northern part of South America. Fights among different groups caused the different countries to break up. Bolivar became infected with tuberculosis and died from the disease in 1830.

**1. Which Latin America countries gained their independence because of Simon Bolivar?**

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**2. Name two things that gave Simon Bolivar ideas about freedom and equality?**

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**3. What were two nicknames given to Simon Bolivar?**

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