

Forced to the Americas

Starting in 1503, millions of Africans were brought to the Americas to work as slaves for European settlers. Mostly they worked on sugar plantations and were treated very badly. Many slaves had children in the Americas and their children became slaves too.



Slavery was gradually abolished (made illegal) in the 1800s.

To replace the slaves, the plantation owners took workers from India and China. These workers were also poorly treated.

Historical influence

Right up until the present day, people from all around the world have continued to move to the Americas, often in search of a better life. Almost everyone in the Americas today has ancestors from another part of the world. There are over 300 languages spoken there, and people of every religion.

The history of the Americas helps us understand its culture today...

Spanish is still commonly spoken in Central and South America.

Hola

Bonjour!



The official language of Quebec in Canada is French because of French settlers.

Many types of food were brought to the Americas by immigrants. For instance, bagels were brought from Poland.

Caribbean music is influenced by African culture.



Into the melting pot...

The USA is often called a 'melting pot' — different cultures have melted together into American culture. Some things we think of as American were brought from elsewhere. For example, hamburger meat and the word kindergarten were introduced by Germans.