CREATE-A-CASTA!

**Directions:** Your assignment is to create a depiction to represent the major characteristics of a particular casta (social class) of early modern Latin America. In Spanish America, the most basic castas included: peninsulares, creoles, mestizos, mulattoes, Native Americans, and African slaves. Remember that membership in a particular casta was based upon racial heritage and this translated into particular rights and privileges within Latin American society.

Your casta's depiction should represent key components for that particular social class. The following are the steps you will take to complete this assignment:

1. Research each of the questions asked below regarding your casta. Use your text and the weblinks provided on the second page to locate relevant information. *Your responses are to be thorough!*
2. Identify your assigned casta as a large, easy-to-read title.
3. Visually depict your assigned casta. Clothe your casta in the fashions of Early Modern Latin America. For inspiration, use either this [painting of castas](#), or this painting from the period. I understand if you are not an artist, but your drawing should demonstrate quality effort.
4. For each of the key questions asked below regarding your casta, label the figure with key information using complete sentences. You do not need to rewrite the question, as your answer should make the question obvious. *Write your responses from the point-of-view of your casta!*
5. Add features to your casta that reflect the lifestyle and experiences of your casta. For example, a male Native American in the Viceroyalty of Peru may have worked in the silver mines of Potosi. So, adding a mining pick in the Indian's hand would reflect this aspect of the casta's life.
6. Last, give it some color.

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**Questions for Your Casta:**

- What is your degree of personal wealth?
- What is your lifestyle like?
- What is your casta’s occupation?
  
  Also, identify what economic opportunities are available to other members of your casta.
- Are you happy with your status in the castas hierarchy? If so, why are you? If not, what specific changes would you like to see that would improve your outlook on life?
- What is your casta’s religious beliefs? Describe some of them?
  
  Do they hold any syncretic beliefs? Explain.
- What is your relationship to the Catholic Church? In other words, how do you view and interact with Catholic Church missionaries and/or clergy?
# Resources for Information on Your Casta:

## Peninsular
- Stearns Text:
  - Chapter 19, p423-426
- Native Heritage Project: "Las Castas"
- Peninsulares in Government

## Creole
- Stearns text:
  - Chapter 19, p423-428
- Native Heritage Project: "Las Castas" Peninsulares in Government
- The Bourbon Reforms (Effects on Creoles)

## Mixed-Race Castas: Mestizo & Mulatto
- Stearns Text:
  - Chapter 19, p423-426
- Native Heritage Project: “Las Castas”
- Surveying Mestizaje
- The Construction & Function of Race: Creating the Mestizo

## Native American
- Stearns Text:
  - Chapter 19, p413-418, p423-426,
  - p411 (primary source: “A Vision from the Vanquished”)
- Native Heritage Project: “Las Castas”
- Silver Mines of South America
- How did Native Americans Respond to Christianity?

## African Slave
- Stearns Text:
  - Chapter 19, 423-426, p448-453
- Native Heritage Project: "Las Castas"
- The Atlantic Slave Trade & Slave Life in the Americas (visuals)
- American Slavery in Comparative Perspective (Comparing slavery in the Southern US to slavery in Latin America)
- Syncretism: Santeria & Voodoo (African religious syncretism in the Caribbean)