ADELAIDA CUELLAR  
(1871–1969) Born in Nuevo León, Mexico  
After migrating to Texas in the 1890s, Cuellar began selling her homemade tamales at the county fair. She later opened her own restaurant in 1928, which her sons expanded on to build the El Chico Tex-Mex restaurant chain and brand and contribute to the evolution and spread of Mexican American cuisine.

CESAR CHAVEZ  
(1927–1993) Born in Yuma, Arizona  
A Mexican American manual laborer, Chavez went on to co-found the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and eventually the United Farm Workers labor union.

DOLORES HUERTA  
(1930–) Born in Dawson, New Mexico  
The originator of the phrase “Sí se puede,” Huerta is a Mexican American labor leader and civil rights activist who, with Cesar Chavez, is a co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association, which later became the United Farm Workers union. She remains an activist through her role as president of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, and she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012.

DORA HILDA ESCOBAR  
(1969–) Born in Chalatenango, El Salvador  
Lovingly called “La Chiquita” by the Langley Park community in Maryland, Escobar endured exploitative working conditions in El Salvador in the 1980s before moving to the United States. She began serving the local Latino community from a single food truck. Now, her enterprise has expanded to four restaurants, a beauty salon, and 10 check-cashing services around Washington, D.C.
Latinos have always been part of American history. Meet some of the Latinos who have impacted our nation and their communities, from the 1800s to present day.

2 WEST
MANY VOICES, ONE NATION

YSABEL AND YGNACIO DEL VALLE
(1837–1905) Born in Placerville, California
(1808–1880) Born in Jalisco, Mexico
When the United States acquired California through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Californio families, like the Valles, had to negotiate their place as western expansion increased. Unlike most Californios, the Valles were able to maintain their title of Rancho Camulos where they maintained the practices and traditions of Mexican California.

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From the stage to the screen, Latinos have remained a major part of American entertainment and media. Meet some of the many major Latino icons.

3 WEST
ENTERTAINMENT NATION

SELENA QUINTANILLA-PÉREZ
(1971–1995) Born in Lake Jackson, Texas
Known by her stage name “Selena,” this Mexican Cherokee Tejano artist rose to fame in a male-dominated industry and became the first Tejano artist to win Best Mexican-American Album at the 1994 Grammy Awards. She is remembered as the “Queen of Tejano Music,” in part for helping to bring the genre to the mainstream market.

ROBERTO CLEMENTE
(1934–1972) Born in Carolina, Puerto Rico
Known best for his career as #21 of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Clemente set several records with the Pirates including: the most triples in a game (3) and the most hits in two consecutive games (10). As a Black Puerto Rican, he persevered and proceeded to hit the only documented walk-off, inside-the-park-grand-slam in modern MLB history. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame by a 93% vote in 1973.

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