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American woman or girl 2 a usually Spanish-speaking woman or girl of Latin American birth or descent who lives in the U.S. —*adj.* of, relating to, or characteristic of Latinas

USAGE—for *n.* 2 and the *adj.*, now often preferred to *Hispanic*

Latin alphabet the alphabet used for writing in Latin by the ancient Romans, from which most modern European alphabets are derived: it consisted of 23 letters (J, U, and W were added later)

Latin America that part of the Western Hemisphere south of the U.S., in Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, & South America, where Spanish, Portuguese, & French are the official languages —**Latin American**

Lat-in-ate (-at', -it) *adj.* of, derived from, or similar to Latin

Latin Church WESTERN CHURCH (sense 2)

Latin cross a plain, right-angled cross having the vertical bar longer

Lat-in-ism (lat'iz'm) *n.* 1 a word, phrase, grammatical construction, or other feature originating in or peculiar to Latin 2 a Latin quality

Lat-in-ist (-ist) *n.* a specialist in the study of the Latin language or of Roman culture

Lat-in-ity (la tin'i tē) *n.* [L *latinitas*] 1 the use or knowledge of Latin 2 a way of speaking or writing Latin 3 a writing quality characterized by a style, vocabulary, etc. influenced by Latin or classical Latin writing

Lat-in-ize (lat'in iz'z) *vt.* -ized', -iz'ing [L *latinizare*, to translate into Latin < L *Latinus*, LATIN] 1 [Archaic] to translate into Latin 2 to give Latin form or characteristics to 3 to transliterate into the Latin alphabet; Romanize 4 to bring into conformity with the rites, practices, etc. of the Roman Catholic Church —*vi.* to use Latin expressions, forms, etc. —**Lat'in-iz-ation** *n.* —**Lat'in-iz'er** *n.*

***La-ti-no** (la tē'nō, lā-) *n.* pl. -nos [AmSp < Sp, lit., Latin < L *Latinus*, LATIN] [sometimes l-] 1 a Latin American 2 a usually Spanish-speaking person of Latin American birth or descent who lives in the U.S. —*adj.* of, relating to, or characteristic of Latinos [Latino music]

USAGE—for *n.* 2 and the *adj.*, now often preferred to *Hispanic*

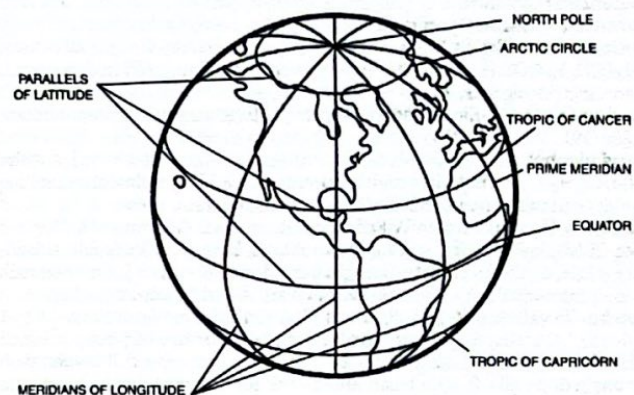
Latin Quarter section of Paris, south of the Seine, where many artists and students live

Latin Rite 1 the liturgy and other rites of the Catholic Church as authorized for use in Rome and generally throughout the Western Church 2 WESTERN CHURCH (sense 2)

Latin square any square array of numbers, letters, etc. so arranged that every element occurs exactly once in each row and in each column

lat-ish (lat'ish) *adj.*, *adv.* somewhat late

la-tis-si-mus dor-si (lā tis'i mās dōr'si, dōr'sē) *pl.* la-tis'si-mi dor'si (lā tis'i mē-) [ModL (*musculus*) *latissimus dorsi*, broadest (muscle) of the back] either of the large, wide, triangular muscles, one on each side of the back, connecting the lower and central spine with the arm: it helps rotate, extend, and adduct the arm



lines of latitude and longitude

lat-i-tude (lat'ə tōd', -tyōd') *n.* [OFr < L *latitudo* < *latus*, wide: see LATERAL] 1 [Rare] breadth; width 2 extent; scope; range of applicability 3 freedom from narrow restrictions; freedom of opinion, conduct, or action 4 see ASTRONOMICAL LATITUDE, CELESTIAL LATITUDE 5 Geog. a) angular distance, measured in degrees, north or south from the equator [a ship at forty degrees north latitude] b) a region or place as determined by such measurement Cf. LONGITUDE —**lat'i-tu-di-nal** *adj.* —**lat'i-tu-di-nal-ly** *adv.*

lat-i-tu-di-nar-i-an (lat'ə tōd'ə nər'ē ən, -tyōd'-) *adj.* [L *latitudo* (gen. *latitudinis*): see prec. & -ARIAN] liberal in one's views; permitting free thought, esp. in religious matters; very tolerant —*n.* a person who has very liberal views and, in religion, is tolerant of a wide variety of doctrines and forms of worship —**lat'i-tu-di-nar-i-an-ism** *n.*

La-tium (lā'shəm, -shē əm) [L: see LATIN] 1 region of central Italy, on the Tyrrhenian Sea; 6,644 sq mi (17,208 sq km); chief city, Rome: It. name LAZIO 2 ancient country in the part of this region southeast of Rome

lat-ke (lāt'kə) *n.* [Yiddish < Russ *latka*, a patch] a fried cake made of grated potatoes mixed with beaten eggs, flour, and, usually, onions and seasonings

La Tour (lā toor'), Georges de (zhōrzh də) 1593-1652; Fr. painter

la-tri-a (lā trī'ə) *n.* [LL(Ec) < Gr(Ec) *latreia* < Gr, hired service < *latreucin*,

to serve, worship < *latris*, hired servant: for IE base see LARCENY] R.C.Ch. that worship which is due to God alone: distinguished from *DULIA*, *HYPERDULIA*

la-trine (lā trēn') *n.* [Fr < L *latrina*, contr. of *lavatrina*, bath < *lavare*, to wash: see LAVE] a toilet, privy, etc. for the use of a large number of people, as in an army camp

La-trobe (lā trōb'), Benjamin Henry 1764-1820; U.S. architect, born in England

-la-try (lā trē) [Gr(Ec) *-latreia* < *latreia*: see LATRIA] combining form worship of or excessive devotion to [bibliolatry, demonolatry]

lats' (lats) *pl.n.* [Slang] *latissimus dorsi* muscles, esp. of a bodybuilder or weight lifter

lats' (lats) *n.*, *pl.* *lat-i* (lāt'ē) [Latvian] the former monetary unit of Latvia

lat-te (lāt'tā) *n.* [It] espresso coffee mixed with steamed milk

lat-ten (lāt'n) *n.* [ME *laton* < OFr < Ar *lātin*, copper] 1 brass or a brasslike alloy hammered into thin sheets, formerly used for making church vessels 2 any metal, esp. tin, in thin sheets

lat-ter (lāt'ər) *adj.* [ME *lattre* < OE *lættra*, compar. of *læt*: it represents the orig. compar. form; LATER is a new formation] 1 *alt. compar.* of LATE 2 a) later; more recent b) nearer the end or close [the latter part of May] 3 last mentioned of two: often used absolutely (with *the*) [Jack and Bill are twins, but the latter is shorter than the former]: opposed to FORMER¹ (sense 2)

lat-ter-day (-dā') *adj.* of recent or present time; modern

***Lat-ter-day Saint** see MORMON

lat-ter-ly (lāt'ər lē) *adv.* lately; of late; recently

lat-tice (lāt'is) *n.* [ME *latis* < OFr *latis* < *latte* < MHG < OHG *latta*: see LATH] 1 an openwork structure of crossed strips or bars of wood, metal, etc. used as a screen, support, etc. 2 something resembling or suggesting such a structure 3 a door, gate, shutter, trellis, etc. formed of such a structure 4 Physics a) a three-dimensional pattern of points in space, as of atoms or groups of atoms in a solid or crystal b) SPACE LATTICE c) the arrangement in a geometric pattern of fissionable and nonfissionable material in a nuclear reactor —*vt.* -ticed, -tic-ing 1 to arrange like a lattice; make a lattice of 2 to furnish or cover with a lattice or latticework —**lat'tice-like** *adj.*

lat-tice-work (-w'w'k) *n.* 1 a lattice 2 lattices collectively; trellis-work Also **lat'tic-ing**

lat-ti-ci-nio (lāt'ə chēn'yō) *n.* [It, lit., food prepared with milk < LL *lactinium* < L *lac*, milk: see GALACTIC] 1 opaque white glass, often used in threads for a decorative pattern on glassware

Lat-ti-more (lāt'ə mōr'), Richmond (Alexander) 1906-84; U.S. scholar, translator, & poet

Latv abbrev. 1 Latvia 2 Latvian

Lat-vi-a (lāt've ə) country in N Europe, on the Baltic Sea: from 1940 to 1991 it was a republic of the U.S.S.R.: 24,938 sq mi (64,589 sq km); cap. Riga: formerly, **Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic**

Lat-vi-an (-ən) *n.* 1 a person born or living in Latvia 2 the Baltic language spoken in Latvia —*adj.* of Latvia or its people, language, or culture

laud (lōd) *n.* [ME *laude* < OFr < ML(Ec) *laudes*, pl. < L *laus* (gen. *laudis*), glory, praise < ? IE echoic base **leu-* > OE *leoht*, Ger *lied*, song] 1 [Archaic] praise 2 [often L-] [pl., usually with sing. v.] the service of dawn which constitutes the second (or, when said together with matins, the first) of the canonical hours and includes psalms of praise; morning prayer —*vt.* [ME *lauden* < L *laudare* < the *n.*] to praise; extol —**SYN.** PRAISE

Laud (lōd), William 1573-1645; Eng. prelate: archbishop of Canterbury (1633-45); executed

laud-a-ble (lōd'ə bəl) *adj.* [L *laudabilis*] worthy of being lauded —**laud'a-bil'i-ty** *n.*, **laud'a-ble-ness** —**laud'a-bly** *adv.*

lau-da-num (lōd'ə nəm) *n.* [ModL, altered use (by PARACELUS) of ML var. of *ladanum*: see LABDANUM] a solution of opium in alcohol: formerly taken as a painkiller and once popular as a narcotic

lau-da-tion (lō dā'shən) *n.* [L *laudatio*] a lauding or being lauded

laud-a-to-ry (lōd'ə tōr'ē) *adj.* [LL *laudatorius* < L *laudare*: see LAUD] expressing praise; eulogistic; commendatory: also **laud'a-tive**

laugh (laf) *vi.* [ME *laughen* < OE *hleahhan*, akin to Ger *lachen* (OHG *hlahan*) < IE base **kleh-*, to cry out, sound > Gr *klange*, L *clangor*] 1 to make the explosive sounds of the voice, and the characteristic movements of the features and body, that express mirth, amusement, ridicule, etc. 2 to be amused 3 to feel or suggest joyousness; appear bright and merry [laughing eyes] —*vt.* 1 to express or say with laughter 2 to bring about, effect, or cause to be by means of laughter [to laugh oneself hoarse] —*n.* 1 the act or sound of laughing 2 anything that provokes or is fit to provoke laughter 3 [pl.] [Informal] mere diversion or pleasure —**have the last laugh** to win or prevail ultimately, after apparent defeat and discomfiture —**laugh at** 1 to be amused by 2 to make fun of; ridicule; deride 3 to be indifferent to or contemptuous of; disregard —**laugh away** to get rid of (something un-



Latium (4th cent. B.C.)