

Spain

Objectives

In this unit you will learn about...

- Spain's autonomous communities.
- Spain's provinces.
- the different types of relief found in Spain.
- Spain's main rivers and watersheds.
- the features of Spain's coastline and archipelagos.



Spain has diverse landscapes and different climates. In the north of Spain there are high mountains and green valleys. It rains more in the north than in the south.



We can find a range of architectural styles in Spain, which show different historical periods. These include the Moorish Alhambra and Roman structures in Mérida and Segovia.

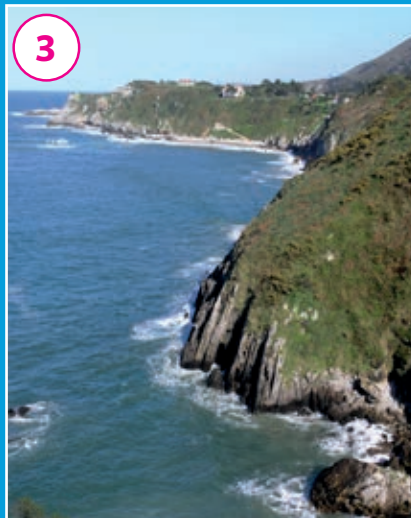


Project time!

Choose your regional dance!



On the Meseta, in central Spain, it's usually hot and dry in summer and cold in winter. Temperatures in the south of Spain are mild in winter, except in mountainous areas, and hot in summer.



Spain has a very long and varied coastline. There are sandy beaches, high cliffs, capes and bays. There are two major archipelagos- the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean, and the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea.



Spain has a large number of mountains over 3000 metres. There is also a rich diversity of relief and vegetation. There are subtropical forests, semi-deserts and volcanic landscapes.



Spain is also a culturally and linguistically diverse country. Most people speak Spanish (*Castellano*), but other languages are also spoken, such as Catalan (*Català*), Basque (*Euskera*) and Galician (*Galego*).

1. **Think, pair, share!** In your notebook, match these captions to the photos. Compare your answers with a classmate.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| a) a dormant volcano | c) Moorish architecture | e) northern Spain |
| b) a flat landscape | d) a coastal landscape | f) linguistic diversity |

2. **CD1** **Listen and match. Can you identify the language?**

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| a) speaker 1 | 1. <i>Català</i> |
| b) speaker 2 | 2. <i>Euskera</i> |
| c) speaker 3 | 3. <i>Galego</i> |

3. **Read the information about each photo. Copy and complete the sentences.**

- In the south of Spain winters are usually _____.
- Spain has subtropical, semi-desert and _____ landscapes.
- It _____ more in the north of Spain than in the south.

Spain's political geography



What's Spain divided into?

Read and think

1. Read and find out.

- a) Which countries have a border with Spain in the north and in the west?
- b) What does a statute of autonomy do?

Spain is located in the Northern Hemisphere, in Europe. The capital of Spain is Madrid. The country has land **borders** with France and Andorra in the north, Portugal in the west and Gibraltar in the south. It also has a border with Morocco on the African continent.

Spain is divided into 17 **autonomous communities**. These were created by the Constitution of 1978. There are two **autonomous cities** in North Africa, Ceuta and Melilla.



Each autonomous community has its own **statute of autonomy**. The statute of autonomy defines the territory of the autonomous community. It also establishes the institutions of the autonomous community. The national parliament must approve any changes to a statute of autonomy.

Each autonomous community has its own regional parliament, which has **legislative power**, a government, which has **executive power** and a high court of justice, which has **judicial power**.

Some autonomous communities have more than one official **language**, and some have their own **legal code**. All autonomous communities are responsible for many **public services** such as education, healthcare, social services and regional tourism.



Activities

2. Copy and complete the sentences in your notebook.

- a) The autonomous cities of _____ and _____ are located in North Africa.
- b) There are _____ autonomous communities.
- c) A statute of autonomy can only be modified if the _____ approves the changes.

3. Listen and look at the map. Which autonomous communities are being described?

4. **Think, pair, share!** Use Search and discover! or the Internet to find out about different autonomous communities. Answer the questions and compare your answers with a classmate.

- a) Which autonomous community is the most populated, with over 8 million inhabitants?
- b) How many main islands are there in Illes Balears?
- c) Name three autonomous communities with only one province.
- d) How many people visit Illes Balears each year?

5. **QUIZ** Check your learning.

Project time!



What do you know about Spain's regional dances?

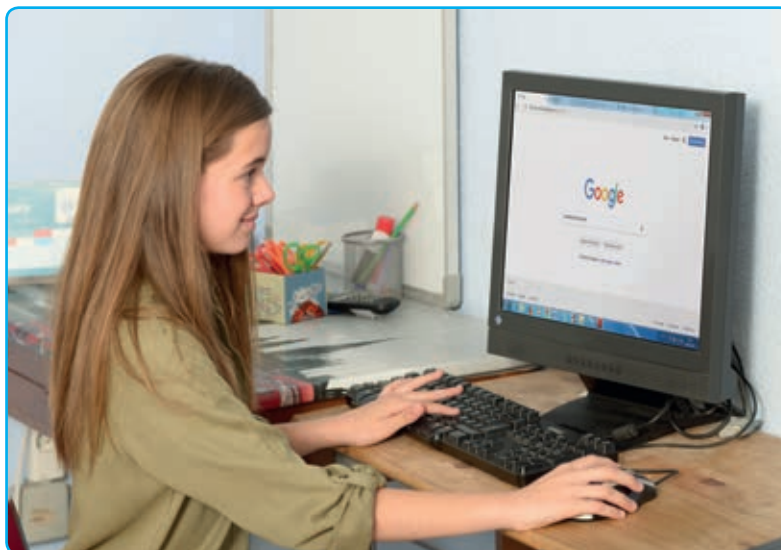
RESEARCH

- Choose a regional dance.

muniera chotis sardana sevillanas jota auresku verdiales

- Use the Internet or reference books to answer these questions.

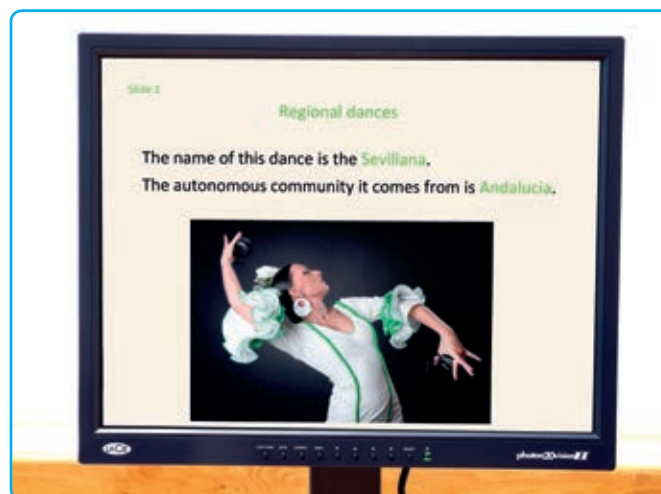
- Which autonomous community does the dance come from?
- What costumes do people wear to do the dance? Find photos of the costumes and write descriptions.
- Describe the dance. Find photos or a video.
- What instruments do people play for the dance music? Find photos of the instruments.
- What's the history of the dance?



DO

MATERIALS

- Internet and reference books
- slideshow program



1. Evaluate the information you collected.
Decide which information to include and the best order for it.

2. Organise the information and make your presentation. Include:

- a) where the dance is from.

This dance is called the ... It comes from...

- b) the history of the dance.

The ... began in...

- c) a description of the dance.

People dance in pairs/alone/in a circle.

- d) the music and the instruments.

They play the ... and the...

- e) the costumes people wear.

Men wear ... and women wear...

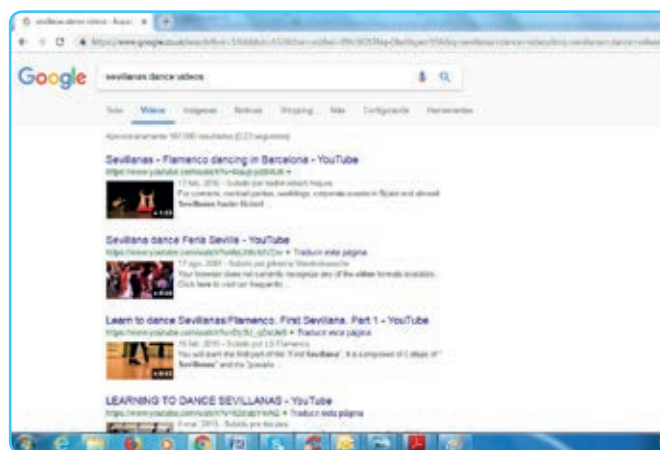
3. Include a title for your presentation and for each slide.

Musical instruments


They play the guitar and sometimes the castanets.

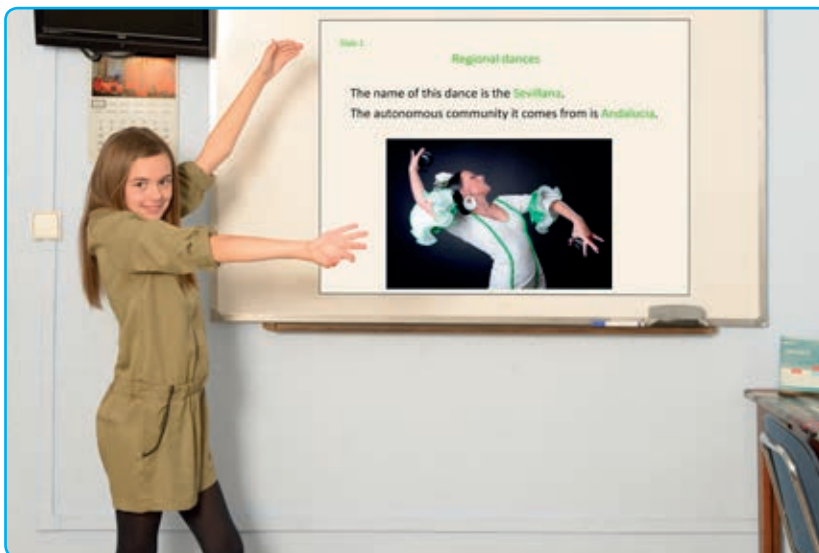


4. Make sure you have photos and perhaps a video to illustrate your presentation.



SHARE

- In pairs, practise your presentations.
- Give your presentation to the class.
- Listen to the other presentations. Ask questions about the dances.
- **Collaborate**  Talk about the presentations in groups. Which was the most informative? Which was the most attractive? Why?



Spain's provinces



What are provinces?

Read and think

1. Read and find out.

- a) How many provinces are there in Spain?
- b) Why are provinces important?
- c) What are the names of the island provinces?

Spain has 50 **provinces**. Each autonomous community is made up of one province or more. Provinces are subdivided into municipalities.

Seven of the 17 autonomous communities are **uniprovincial**: they have only one province. Cantabria, for example, is an autonomous community with just one province. Andalucía has eight.



Provinces act as **electoral districts** in elections and are also important for assigning **postcodes** and **telephone prefixes**. Most, but not all, provinces are named after their main city.

Some provinces, such as A Coruña and Alicante, have a **coastline**. Others are **inland**, such as Ávila and Soria.

There are three provinces made up of **islands**. Two of these are in Canarias: Santa Cruz de Tenerife includes Tenerife, La Gomera, La Palma and El Hierro. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria includes Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura and Lanzarote.

Illes Balears is the third island province. It's just one province consisting of Mallorca, Menorca, Ibiza, Formentera and some smaller islands, such as Cabrera.



Flag of the province of Almería

Activities

2. In your notebook, match to make sentences.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) Castilla y León is the autonomous community... | 1. after their principal town or city. |
| b) Most of the provinces are named... | 2. have only one province. |
| c) Seven of the autonomous communities... | 3. coastal, inland or islands. |
| d) Provinces can be... | 4. with the most provinces. |

3. Listen and say where the people are from.

4. How many ways can you describe the provinces? Look at the map on page 10. Give clues and test your partner.

This province is inland ... It has borders with Badajoz, Ávila, Salamanca and Toledo.

This province has a coastline ... It has borders with Murcia, Albacete and Valencia.

5. Draw the outline of an autonomous community with more than one province. Label the main cities. Colour and label the provinces.

6. Check your learning.

Spain's relief



Which Spanish mountain ranges can you name?

Read and think

1. Read and find out.

- Which mountains separate Spain and France?
- Where's the highest mountain in mainland Spain?

Spain is one of the most mountainous countries in Europe. It has an average **altitude** of 650 m.

The **Macizo Galaico-Leonés** in the north-west and the **Cordillera Cantábrica** in the north form an almost-continuous mountain range, which stretches right across the north of the country. The **Pyrenees** form a barrier between France and Spain.

The **Meseta Central** is surrounded by the **Montes de León** and **Cordillera Cantábrica** in the north, the **Sistema Ibérico** in the east and the **Sierra Morena** in the south.

The **Meseta Central** is a large plateau in the centre of Spain. It's divided into the **Submeseta Norte** and the **Submeseta Sur**.

The Submeseta Sur is divided in two by the **Montes de Toledo**.

The south-east of Spain has the highest mountain range, the **Sistemas Béticos**, which includes the Sierra Nevada.



The highest mountain on the Iberian Peninsula is **Mulhacén** in the Sierra Nevada, which is part of the Sistemas Béticos. It's 3 477 m high. The highest mountain in the whole of Spain is **Teide**, in Tenerife. It's 3 718 m high.

Lowland Spain is dominated by two huge **river basins**, or **depressions**: the **Depresión del Ebro** in the north-east and the **Depresión del Guadalquivir** in the south.

The Depresión del Guadalquivir covers land from Huelva to Cádiz. It has **marshy** areas where rice is grown. Spain also has some coastal **plains** in the Comunitat Valenciana and Cataluña.



Mulhacén



A rice field in the Valencian coastal plain.

Activities

2. Copy the sentences in your notebook, choosing the correct answer.

- a) The Meseta is a *mountain range*/*large plateau* in the centre of Spain.
- b) The main mountain range in the south of Spain is the *Pyrenees*/*Sistemas Béticos*.
- c) The Depresión del *Ebro*/*Guadalquivir* is in the south of Spain.
- d) The Submeseta Sur is divided in two by the *Montes de Toledo*/*León*.

3. Listen and identify the landform.

4. Combine a political map and a physical map.

- a) Use tracing paper to trace the provinces map on page 10.
- b) Put the traced map on top of the relief map on page 12. Where are the main mountain ranges located? Tell a classmate.

The Meseta Central is in the provinces of... The Sistema Central runs from ... in the west to ... in the north.

5. Check your learning.

Spain's rivers



Which rivers flow through your province?

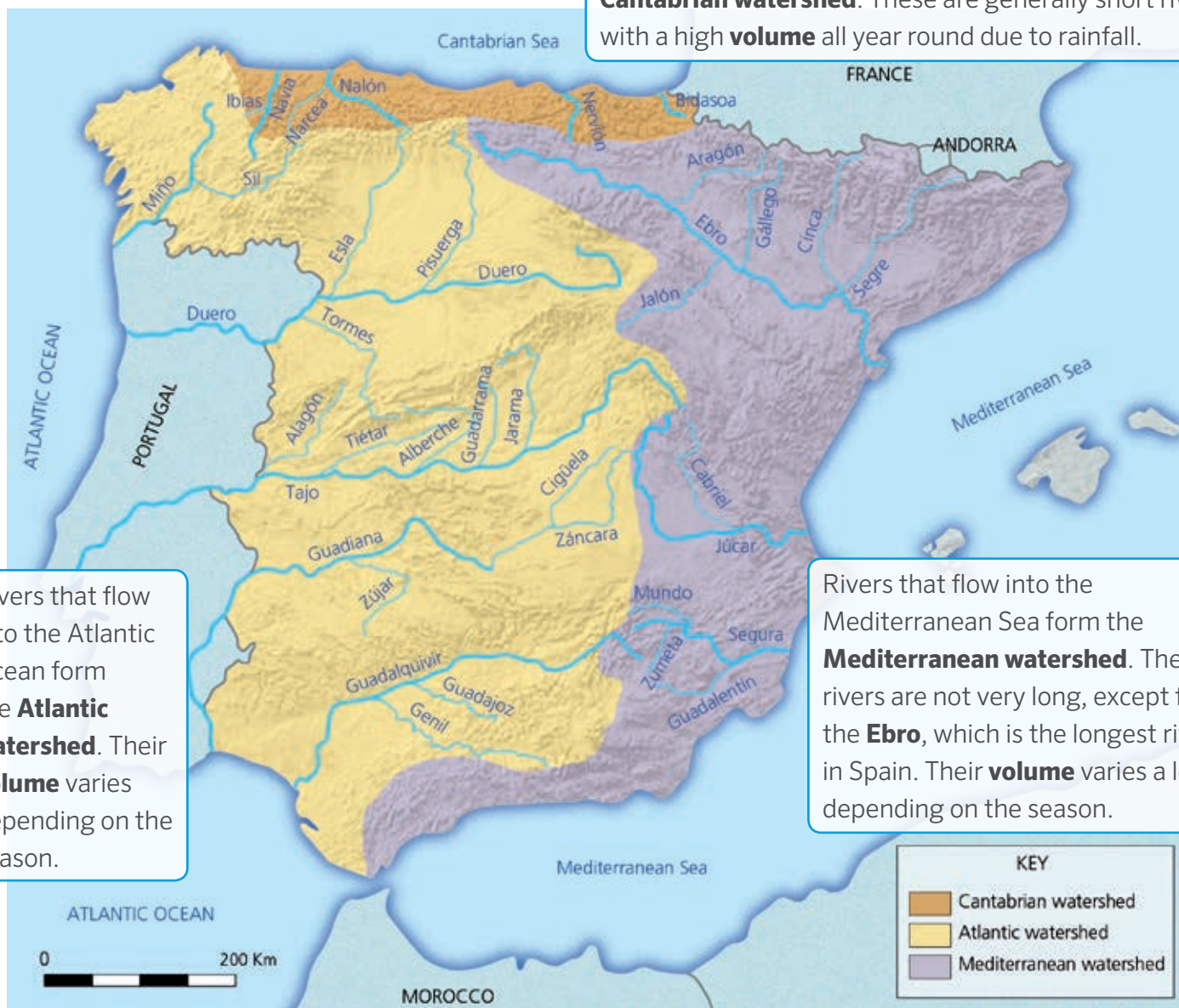
Read and think

1. Read and answer the questions.

- Which bodies of water do Spain's rivers flow into?
- Which rivers flow through Spain and Portugal?

There are more than 1 800 rivers in Spain. They can be classified into three **watersheds** depending on which sea or ocean they flow into: the Atlantic Ocean, the Cantabrian Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

Rivers that flow into the Cantabrian Sea form the **Cantabrian watershed**. These are generally short rivers with a high **volume** all year round due to rainfall.



Rivers that flow into the Atlantic Ocean form the **Atlantic watershed**. Their **volume** varies depending on the season.

Rivers that flow into the Mediterranean Sea form the **Mediterranean watershed**. These rivers are not very long, except for the **Ebro**, which is the longest river in Spain. Their **volume** varies a lot depending on the season.

Watershed	River	Source	Main tributaries	Mouth	Length
Atlantic Ocean	Miño	Sierra de Meira	Sil	La Guardia-Caminha	310 km
	Duero	Picos de Urbión	Pisuerga, Esla, Tormes	Near Porto	885 km
	Tajo	Sierra de Albarracín	Jarama, Guadarrama, Alberche, Tiétar, Alagón	Near Lisbon	1 007 km
	Guadiana	Lagunas de Ruidera	Zújar, Záncara, Cigüela	Ayamonte and Vila Real de Santo António	818 km
	Guadalquivir	Sierra de Cazorla	Genil, Guadajoz	Sanlúcar de Barrameda, Cádiz	657 km
Cantabrian Sea	Navia	Pedrafita de Cebreiro, Lugo	Ibias	Navia, Asturias	159 km
	Nalón	Puerto de Tarna	Narcea	Ría de Pravia	138 km
Mediterranean Sea	Ebro	Fontibre spring (Cantabria)	Segre, Jalón, Aragón, Gállego, Cinca	Deltebre, Tarragona	910 km
	Júcar	Montes Universales	Cabriel	Cullera, Valencia	498 km
	Segura	Pontones, Jaén	Guadalentín, Zumeta, Mundo	Guardamar del Segura, Alicante	341 km

Activities

2. In your notebook, write the odd one out. Explain why.

a) Miño Guadalquivir Nalón

c) Lisbon Sierra de Albarracín 657 km


b) Mediterranean Atlantic Guadiana

d) Tarragona Alicante Porto

... is the odd one out because...

3.  Copy the table. Then listen and complete the table.

Watershed	River	Source	Mouth	Length
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

4.  Use Search and discover! or the Internet to find out about two more Spanish rivers and add them to your table from activity 3.

5.   Check your learning.

Spain's coastal relief



Which autonomous communities have a coast?

Read and think

1. Read and find out.

- a) What's the difference between a cape and a gulf?
- b) What's a ria? Where are most of Spain's rias?

Spain is on a peninsula and its coastline is long and varied. There are rocky coasts with high **cliffs** and flat coasts with wide, sandy beaches. There are **capes**, which often have **lighthouses** to warn boats about the rocky coast. There are also **archipelagos**, islands, **bays** and **gulfs**, and **rias**.

A cape is a peninsula which **protrudes** into a body of water. The main capes on the Cantabrian coast are **Cabo de Machichaco** in Bizkaia, **Ajo** in Cantabria and **Ortegal** and **Estaca de Bares** in Galicia.

The main capes on the Atlantic coast are **Cabo Fisterra** and **Trafalgar**.

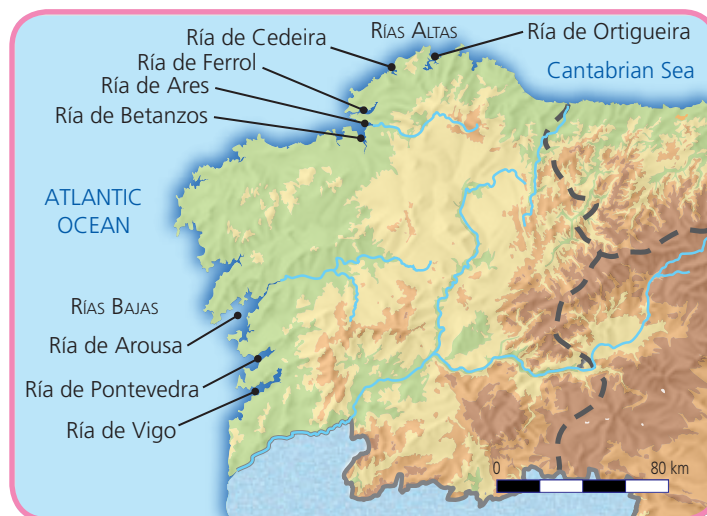
In the Mediterranean the best-known capes are **Cabo de Gata**, **Palos**, **La Nao** and **Creus**.

A gulf is sea cutting into land. A small gulf is often called a bay. Spain's biggest gulfs are the **Golfo de Cádiz**, **Valencia** and **Roses**.



Rias are a coastal landform. They are submerged river valleys, sometimes with steep sides, that open into the sea. They were formed when sea levels rose and flooded a river valley.

The main rias in Spain are located in the north, and especially on the Galician coast. The **Rías Altas** include the Rías de Ares, Betanzos, Ferrol, Cedeira and Ortigueira. The **Rías Baixas** include the Rías de Vigo, Pontevedra and Arousa.



Activities

2. In your notebook, write **true** or **false**. Correct the false sentences.

- a) Ajo and Ortegaleira are beaches in the south of Spain.
- b) A gulf is an area of land surrounded by sea.
- c) Rias are submerged river valleys.
- d) Roses and Valencia are gulfs in the Mediterranean.

3. Listen and write which places the speakers are describing.

- a) The Canary Islands or the Balearic Islands
- b) The Rias Baixas or the Cabo de Gata
- c) The Golfo de Cádiz or the Bay of Biscay

4. **Create** Use Search and discover! or the Internet to find out more about one of Spain's archipelagos.

- a) Choose one of the archipelagos. Find out about: population, political organisation, transport, economic activities, landscapes and climate.
- b) Make a presentation or poster and present your research to the class.

5. **QUIZ** Check your learning.

Search and discover!

Spain's autonomous communities

Name	Population	Provinces	Economy
Andalucía	8 384 408	Almería Córdoba Granada Huelva Jaén Málaga Sevilla	tourism agriculture industry
Comunitat Valenciana	4 963 703	Alicante Castellón Valencia	tourism agriculture (citrus fruits) industry
Illes Balears	1 128 908	Illes Balears	tourism agriculture fishing industry (footwear)
Cantabria	580 229	Cantabria	tourism industry
Canarias	2 127 685	Las Palmas Santa Cruz de Tenerife	tourism agriculture (bananas)
Principado de Asturias	1 028 244	Asturias	mining agriculture tourism

DESCENT OF THE RIVER SELLA

ARRIONDAS, ASTURIAS

Join us on 18 August for this annual event, which attracts canocists from all over the world.



The 56 km long river Sella has its source in the Picos de Europa, but we'll be racing down a 20 km section to Ribadesella. A great day out for all the family!

4 August 2018

Another day on the Camino de Santiago

I'm really glad I chose the northern route. Cantabria is interesting, with big factories around Santander and Torrelavega, but lots of farmland and forests too. We did a beautiful cliff-top walk along the coast today into Asturias. I'm going to stay in Ribadesella, where the river Sella flows into the Cantabrian Sea.

GETTING AROUND THE CANARY ISLANDS

All seven islands have airports with reasonably-priced flights.

There are frequent connections between the main islands by car ferry, fast ferry and jetfoil.

Buses are called *guaguas*. Services are frequent and reliable.

There are car-hire firms on all the islands.

Ride back in time along Spain's Red River

A great day out yesterday visiting the Río Tinto mines in Huelva. We found out that British miners helped to introduce football to Spain. Recreativo de Huelva is Spain's oldest club! Then, a fantastic train ride along the part of the river which flows into the Ría de Huelva and then into the Atlantic Ocean. Our kids loved the trip. Highly recommended!



Special interest Canary Islands cruise.

Three-night cruise departing Santa Cruz de Tenerife, visiting three of the seven islands and some of Spain's most emblematic national parks. A chance to enjoy the fantastic sandy beaches, beautiful landscapes and subtropical climate (it's warm all year round and doesn't rain much).

€599
full board

Day 1 Arrive Santa Cruz de Tenerife to board MSS Island Queen. Evening free to explore the city, joint capital of the islands. Tenerife is one of Spain's top tourist destinations, with over 5 million visitors a year.

Day 2 Visit Teide National Park, with its unique volcanic landscape and Spain's highest mountain.

Day 3 The island of La Gomera and Garajonay National Park, famous for its rocky terrain and laurel forests

Day 4 La Palma: excursion to the Caldera de Taburiente National Park. The main industry on the island, apart from tourism, is agriculture, particularly grapes and bananas.

Long-distance lynx

Birdwatchers in the Marismas de Odiel Natural Park, Huelva, got a surprise yesterday when an Iberian lynx sat down in front of them and fell asleep. The feline didn't have a radio collar.

According to Pedro García, a guide at the park, she doesn't belong to the lynx population in nearby Doñana National Park. 'I think she probably came from the Sierra Morena, the source of the 100 km long Río Tinto. The river banks form a natural corridor of vegetation, with plenty of places for a lynx to hide. Wherever she came from, we were very happy to see her!'



Paddling around the Balearics

Louise Parker, a student from Birmingham, is canoeing around Spain's Balearic Islands (Illes Balears). She aims to visit all four main islands and some of the smaller islands as well. We met her in Ibiza.

Q: Tell us about your trip. Most visitors travel by plane or ferry, but you decided to paddle. I believe you started in Menorca?

A: Yes, that's right. Menorca is the second biggest island, after Mallorca. I left from the capital Mahón, but I had time to explore the megalithic monuments before I left. It's very peaceful, less densely-populated than Mallorca, and with fewer tourists.

Q: Yes, tourism is the islands' most important industry, with 16 million visitors last year, thanks to the mild Mediterranean climate. So after Menorca, you paddled over to Mallorca and down the north coast, right?

A: Yes, it was amazing. It's a rugged coastline with cliffs, small bays and some high mountains in the Sierra de Tramuntana. The highest point is 1 443 m and there's even snow in winter! After that, I stopped on a small island called Dragonera.

Q: Dragonera? Any dragons?

A: No! It's an uninhabited nature reserve. I then crossed the Bay of Palma to the Cabrera National Park. I'm going to Formentera tomorrow, the smallest of the main islands. After that it's back home!



Let's revise!

1. Copy the text in your notebook and correct the mistakes.

Spain is located in the Southern Hemisphere and forms part of Europe. Spain and Andorra together make up the Iberian Peninsula. The peninsula is surrounded by the following bodies of water: the Atlantic Ocean in the west, the Cantabrian Sea in the east and the Mediterranean Sea in the south. Spain is divided into 18 autonomous communities, two of which are archipelagos: Melilla and Illes Balears.

2. Match the rivers with the watersheds. Then match watersheds with the descriptions.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| a) Guadalquivir | Mediterranean watershed | long; variable volume |
| b) Nalón | Cantabrian watershed | not long; variable volume |
| c) Ebro | Atlantic watershed | not long; constant volume |

Now make sentences with the information above.

The ... is in the ... watershed. The watershed has ... rivers with ... volume.

3. Write bay, archipelago or cape.



4. Think. Write the odd one out. Explain why.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| a) Golfo de Cádiz | Cabo de Palos | Golfo de Roses | Golfo de Valencia |
| b) Cabo Fisterra | Cabo de Trafalgar | Rías Baixas | Bay of Biscay |
| c) El Hierro | Formentera | Fuerteventura | La Gomera |

5. Do! On template 1.1, draw and label these mountain ranges and rivers.

Tajo	Guadiana	Sistema Ibérico	Guadalquivir
Ebro	Júcar	Segura	Duero
Cordillera Cantábrica	Pyrenees	Miño	Montes de León

6. Write the words that match these descriptions.

- a) an area of land where rivers drain into a body of water
- b) a large area of sea cutting into land
- c) a group of islands
- d) an area of land that protrudes into the sea
- e) a submerged river valley

7. Answer the questions.

- a) How many provinces beginning with 'C' can you name?
- b) Can you name all the autonomous communities?
- c) Which provinces make up Andalucía?
- d) Can you name Spain's three longest rivers?
- e) Which mountain range separates Spain and France?

Think .

Think of two more questions. Test a classmate.

8. Write *true* or *false* and correct the false sentences.

- a) Two of Spain's seventeen autonomous communities are archipelagos and two are cities in North Africa.
- b) Spain's autonomous communities are all made up of several provinces.
- c) Castellón, Almería and Cádiz are inland provinces.
- d) Madrid, Cantabria and Navarra are uniprovincial autonomous communities.
- e) The highest mountain in Spain is in Tenerife.
- f) The Duero, Guadalquivir and Tajo are all part of the Atlantic watershed.
- g) Rias are inland landforms found mainly in the Comunitat Valenciana.

9.



QUIZ

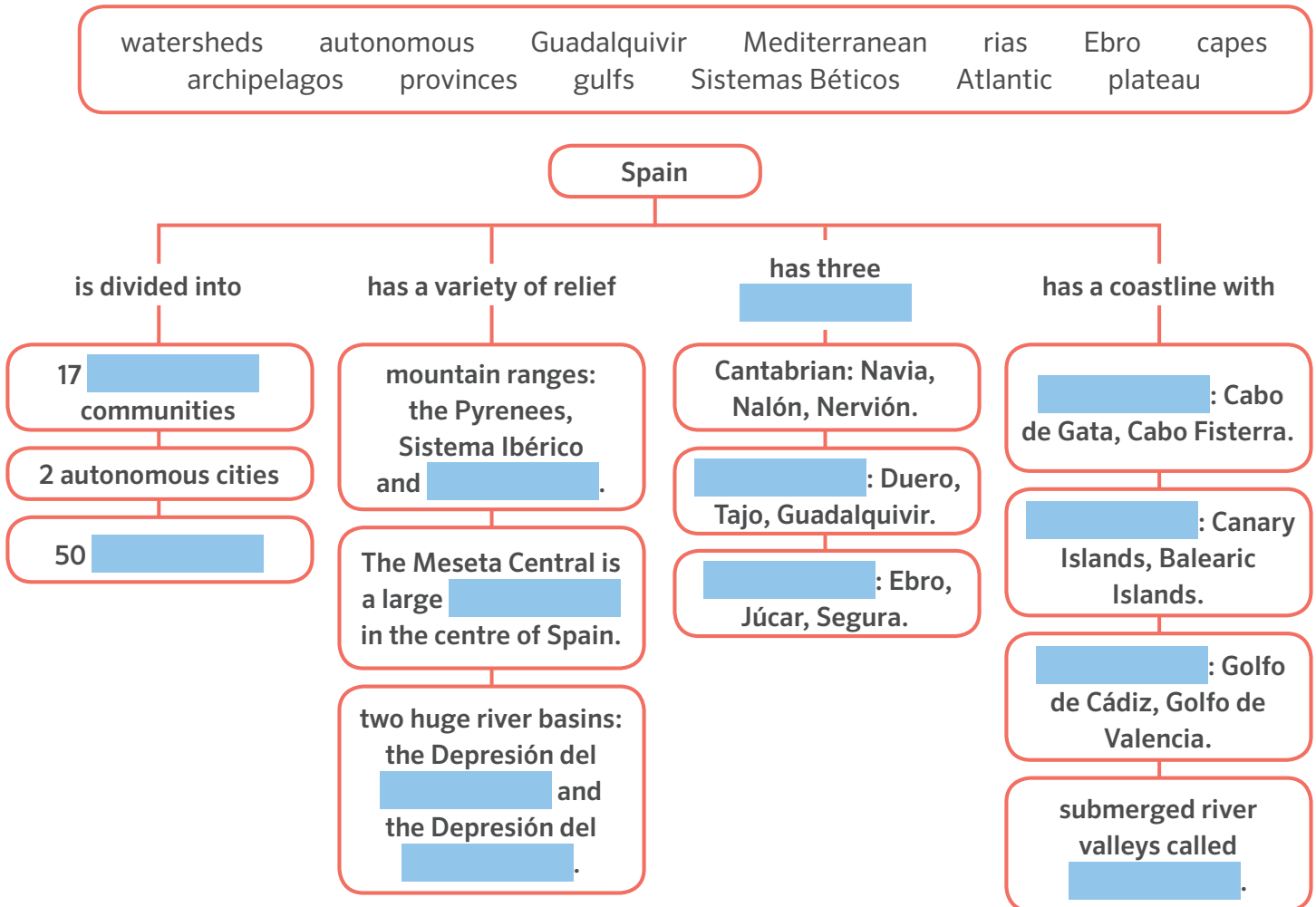
Check your learning.

My work in this unit

Write a sentence in your notebook saying which autonomous community or province you would most like to visit and why.

Study skills!

1. Copy and complete the concept map to summarise the unit.



2. Play a revision game.

- In pairs, take it in turns to choose a word or a term from the mind map or the glossary for this unit.
- Tell your classmate the word. They get a point for each sentence they can say about the word.

3. Collaborate Hold a class quiz.

- Form five teams. Each team chooses a topic from the unit.

Spain's political geography Spain's provinces Spain's relief
Spain's rivers Spain's coastal relief

- Write five questions about your topic.
- Ask the other teams your questions. Answer their questions.

GLOSSARY

altitude: height of a place in relation to sea level.

archipelago: group of islands.

autonomous community: political and administrative area.

bay: area of sea which cuts into the land.

border: line separating two countries or administrative areas.

cape: large piece of land sticking out into the sea.

cliff: vertical rock face often found on the coast.



coastline: area where the land meets the sea or ocean.

depression: river basin, or large area of low land associated with a river.

electoral district: subdivision of territory for electing members to a legislative body.

executive power: power to enforce the law.

gulf: very large area of sea which cuts into land.

judicial power: power to interpret the law.

legislative power: power to make and change the law.

lighthouse: coastal tower with a bright light at the top.



marshy: low-lying, wet land.

plain: large, flat area of land.

postcode: group of numbers added to a postal address to make it more accurate.

province: administrative division within the autonomous communities.

ria: submerged river valley that opens to the sea.

statute of autonomy: law which defines the territory and establishes the institutions of an autonomous community.

telephone prefix: first two or three numbers of a landline, which show where the phone is located.

watershed: area or region drained by a river or river system.