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.

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.

Choose your regional dance!
1. **Think, pair, share!** In your notebook, match these captions to the photos. Compare your answers with a classmate.
   a) a dormant volcano  
   b) a flat landscape  
   c) Moorish architecture  
   d) a coastal landscape  
   e) northern Spain  
   f) linguistic diversity

2. **CD1 (1) Listen and match. Can you identify the language?**
   a) speaker 1  
   b) speaker 2  
   c) speaker 3
   1. Català  
   2. Euskera  
   3. Galego

3. **Read the information about each photo. Copy and complete the sentences.**
   a) In the south of Spain winters are usually ____________.  
   b) Spain has subtropical, semi-desert and ____________ landscapes.  
   c) It ____________ more in the north of Spain than in the south.
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.
Choose a regional dance.

- muniera
- chotis
- sardana
- sevillanas
- jota
- aurrekua
- verdiales

Use the Internet or reference books to answer these questions.

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

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.

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 on Talk about the presentations in groups. Which was the most informative? Which was the most attractive? Why?
Spain’s 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.

### Activities

2. **In your notebook, match to make sentences.**
   
   a) Castilla y León is the autonomous community…
   
   b) Most of the provinces are named...
   
   c) Seven of the autonomous communities...
   
   d) Provinces can be...

   1. after their principal town or city.
   
   2. have only one province.
   
   3. coastal, inland or islands.
   
   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. **Create** Draw the outline of an autonomous community with more than one province. Label the main cities. Colour and label the provinces.

6. **QUIZ** Check your learning.
Spain’s relief

1. Read and find out.
   a) Which mountains separate Spain and France?
   b) 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 south-east of Spain has the highest mountain range, the Sistemas Béticos, which includes the Sierra Nevada.

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

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. Quiz Check your learning.
Spain’s rivers

Read and answer the questions.

a) Which bodies of water do Spain’s rivers flow into?

b) 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.
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.

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

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 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.

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.

The main capes on the Atlantic coast are Cabo Fisterra and Trafalgar.
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 Rias 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 Ortegal 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.
**Spain’s autonomous communities**

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

**Descent of the River Sella**

**ARRIÓNDAS, ASTURIAS**

Join us on 18 August for this annual event, which attracts canoeists 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!
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!'
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 Illies 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tajo</th>
<th>Guadiana</th>
<th>Sistema Ibérico</th>
<th>Guadalquivir</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ebro</td>
<td>Júcar</td>
<td>Segura</td>
<td>Duero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordillera Cantábrica</td>
<td>Pyrenees</td>
<td>Miño</td>
<td>Montes de León</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. **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.
1. **Copy and complete the concept map to summarise the unit.**

![Concept Map]

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

3. **Collaborate Hold a class quiz.**
   a) Form five teams. Each team chooses a topic from the unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spain’s political geography</th>
<th>Spain’s provinces</th>
<th>Spain’s relief</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain’s rivers</td>
<td>Spain’s coastal relief</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   b) Write five questions about your topic.
   c) 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.