



Video/DVD

GeoVisión



▲ **Los Picos de Europa** ofrecen su pico más alto, Torre Cerredo, a 2.648 metros.

# Geocultura España



## Almanaque

**Población**  
40.037.995

**Capital**  
Madrid

**Gobierno**  
monarquía parlamentaria

**Idiomas**  
castellano, gallego, vasco, catalán

**Moneda**  
euro

**Código Internet**  
www.[ ].es



▲ **Andalucía** es una región que exporta aceite de oliva a muchas partes del mundo.

▼ **Sevilla** celebra la Feria de Abril con vestidos tradicionales.



## ¿Sabías que...?

Did you know that from Spain's southernmost point you can see the coast of Africa?



## Background Information

### History

Spain was ruled by the Romans for seven centuries. In 711 A.D., the Moors invaded and ruled parts of Spain. In 1492, the Catholic Monarchs began the era of Spanish expansion. Explorers and missionaries colonized parts of the Caribbean and Central and South America. After wars with France, England, and the United States in the 19th century, the Spanish Empire was weakened. After the 1936–1939 civil war, General Franco ruled Spain until his death in 1976. Today Spain is a democratic nation.

### Geography

**Los Picos de Europa** form the largest national park in all of Europe. After Switzerland, Spain is the most mountainous country in Europe.

**La Doñana**, a nature reserve along the coast of Andalusia, is home to many protected bird species. Migratory birds stop here as they travel from their winter grounds in Africa back to Europe.

**La Meseta**, Spain's interior high plateau, covers 15,000 square miles and has a continental climate similar to that of Montana, with very cold winters.

**FRANCIA**

◀ **Los Pirineos** separan España y Francia.

**ANDORRA**

▲ **Tossa de Mar** es una playa bonita que atrae a turistas de todo el mundo.

**MAR MEDITERRÁNEO**

**ESPAÑA**

► **La Mancha** todavía inspira sueños con sus molinos, tanto hoy como en el tiempo de Don Quijote.

▲ **Madrid** Este monumento, en la Plaza de España, es un homenaje a Miguel de Cervantes y sus personajes ficticios Don Quijote y Sancho Panza.

**¿Qué tanto sabes?**  
Which countries border Spain?  
Where in Spain would you go skiing?

### ¿Sabías que... ?

Students might be interested in knowing the following facts about Spain.

- **Eusquera**, the language of the Basque region, is not related to any other language in the world. Its origins are believed to date to the Stone Age.
- **El AVE**, a high-speed train linking Madrid and Seville, carries passengers between the two cities in three hours, less than half the time it would take to drive.
- **Pablo Picasso** spent the majority of his life in exile due to the dictatorship of General Franco.

### Preguntas

In early chapters, you might present these questions in English.

1. **¿Dónde se celebra la Feria de Abril? (en Sevilla)**
2. **¿Cuál región de España exporta mucho aceite de oliva? (Andalucía)**
3. **¿Cuál es el pico más alto de España? (el Torre Cerredo)**
4. **¿Cómo se llaman las montañas que separan España y Francia? (los Pirineos)**
5. **¿En qué región hay muchos molinos de viento? (en la Mancha)**

# A conocer España

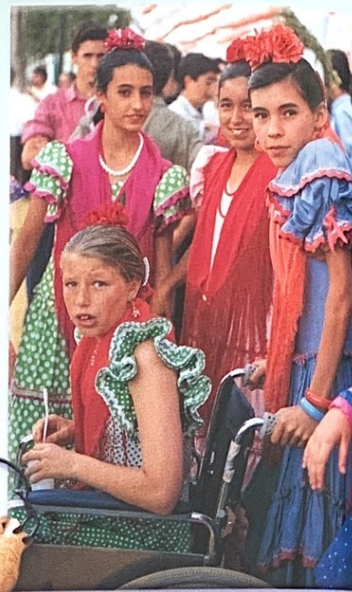
## Las celebraciones



▲ **Barcelona** se reúne enfrente de la Catedral para bailar «la sardana».



▲ **Galicia** muestra sus raíces celtas en sus festivales musicales.



▲ **La Feria de Abril en Sevilla** se celebra con colores brillantes, flores y trajes de flamenco.

▶ **Las castañuelas** acompañan cantos y danzas populares.



## La comida

▼ **La paella** es el plato más reconocido de España.



▲ **La Plaza Mayor** de Madrid es un lugar muy frecuentado a la hora del almuerzo.



▲ **La tortilla** se hace con huevos y patatas.

### Interdisciplinary Links

#### La celebraciones

**Music Link** When people think of Spain, the image of a man in a kilt playing a bagpipe does not usually come to mind. But the region of Galicia, in Northern Spain, was occupied by the Celts for three hundred years between 900–600 B.C., and many Celtic traditions remain in the area. Galician folkloric music is centered around the playing of the **gaita**, the Galician bagpipe. Have students identify other regions of the world with Celtic music traditions. What are some of the similarities and differences between the bagpipe of Galicia and other bagpipes?

#### La comida

**Science Link** Have students find a Spanish recipe at the library or on the Internet that is written using metric measurements. Have students convert the metric measurements to U.S. measurements. For fun, you might also have them make the recipe and share it with the class for a Spanish-style **tapas** party.

# La arquitectura



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Photo Tour

► **El Museo de Guggenheim** en Bilbao es un edificio muy contemporáneo.



## ¿Sabías que...?

Did you know that the Mezquita in Córdoba is so large that a cathedral was built inside of it?



▲ **Ávila** está rodeada de murallas medievales.



◀ **La Mezquita** refleja la influencia árabe en Córdoba.

# El arte

► **Las cuevas de Altamira** en Santillana tienen arte prehistórico.



◀ **La Infanta Margarita**, un retrato por Diego Velázquez (1599-1660), se encuentra en el Museo del Prado en Madrid.



## Conexión Arte



▲ **Personnages Oiseaux** (Personajes pájaros)

The Spanish painter Joan Miró (1893-1983) often painted dreamlike images. He frequently used the colors blue, red, yellow, green and black. Using the color chart below, identify the colors used in this painting.



**Joan Miró**

rojo	azul	verde	amarillo	morado
blanco	negro	anaranjado	gris	café

## La arquitectura

**History Link** The old city center of Avila is surrounded by well preserved medieval walls. Have students research the history of Avila on the Internet or at the library. When were the walls built? Why were they built? How long and how high are the walls around the city? How many watch towers are there? How many entrances into the walled city are there? (Alfonso VI built the walls starting in 1090 to protect the city from the Muslims. The walls average 33 feet in height, 10 feet in width, have 88 round watch towers, and nine fortified entrances.)

## El arte

**Math Link** In 1907, the Spanish artist Pablo Picasso and the French artist Georges Braque created a new style of art and vision of the world. It was called cubism and consisted of mentally dissecting everyday objects, images, and scenes, to then graphically reassemble them, using geometric figures. Have students find an example of one of Picasso's pieces of cubism. What geometric shape is favored in the piece? How do the geometric pieces fit together, loosely or tightly? Have students choose an everyday object and examine it. Then, using only geometric figures, have them represent it in the cubist manner.