

Spain

A Reading A-Z Level K Leveled Book
Word Count: 422

LEVELED BOOK • K

Spain

Connections

Writing

Pretend you are visiting Spain. Write a postcard to your family telling them about the places you visited, the new foods you tried, and what else you did on your trip.

Social Studies

Make a map of Spain. Label the capital city and at least two other cities, the Pyrenees mountains, and the islands that are part of Spain.

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Focus Question

What makes Spain an interesting country to visit?

Words to Know

capital
explorers
festival

islands
mountain range
olives

Front cover: Park Güell in Barcelona, Spain, includes colorful buildings made by a famous Spanish builder.

Title page: A dancer performs a traditional dance in Seville, Spain.

Page 3: A child plays with flower blossoms in the Canary Islands.

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Where Is It?

Spain is a country in Europe. It lies south of a long **mountain range**.

The country of France is on one side, and Portugal is on the other.

A group of **islands** are also part of Spain. These islands sit off the coast, in the sea.

Madrid is the **capital** of Spain. More than three million people live there.

The palace is one of its biggest buildings. It used to be home to the Spanish king and queen and their family. Today, the family lives in a much smaller palace outside of Madrid.



The Royal Palace in Madrid has more than two thousand rooms.



Farmers grow more than two hundred types of olives in Spain. Spain is the world's largest maker of olive oil.



People

About forty-eight million people live in Spain. Many people in Spain work at jobs in hotels and other places to take care of visitors. Other Spanish people grow **olives** or make cars and clothes.

Spain belongs to a group of countries called the European Union. This group of countries works together to solve problems.

People in Spain speak Spanish. Almost all people who were born there speak this language.



A woman buys fruit in a market in Seville, Spain (above). Workers prepare clothing to be sold in stores (right).



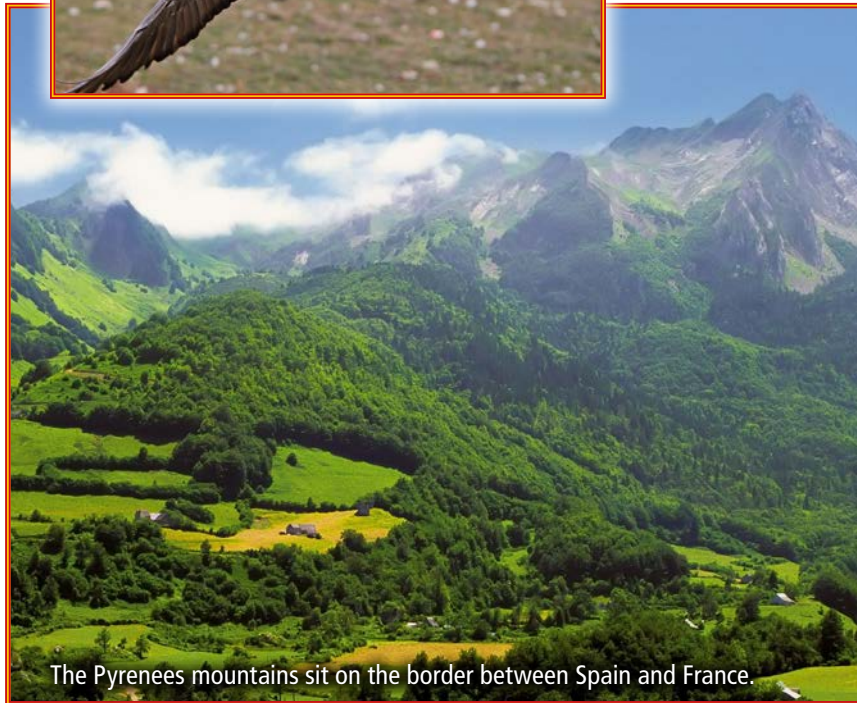
Land

Most of Spain has mountains and high flatlands. Beautiful beaches line its coasts. The Pyrenees (PEER-uh-nee-z) mountains in the north make a border between Spain and France.

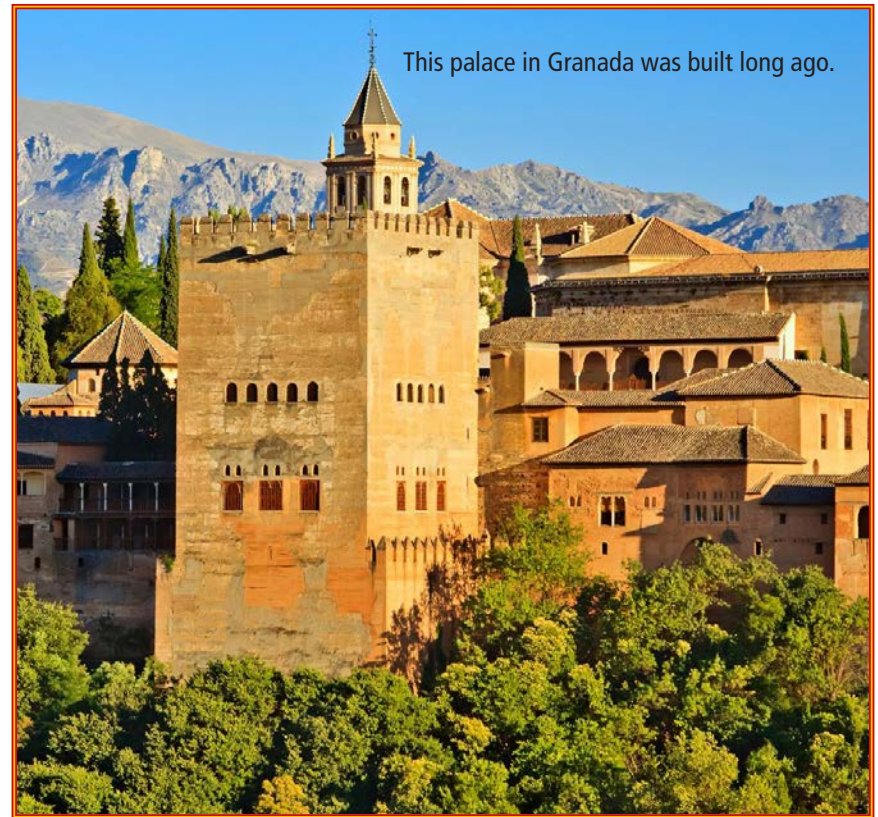
The mountains are 434 kilometers (270 mi.) long. They stretch from the Mediterranean Sea to the Atlantic Ocean. Different animals, such as the bearded vulture, live in the mountains.



The bearded vulture is a rare bird in Europe. It nests on high ledges.



The Pyrenees mountains sit on the border between Spain and France.



This palace in Granada was built long ago.

History

Spain is very old. Long ago, people from different parts of the world came to live there. The Romans built roads and bridges. Then, other people arrived after the Romans. They built a beautiful palace that still stands today.



King Ferdinand



Queen Isabella

More than four hundred years ago, a king and queen ruled Spain. The king and queen were in charge of everything. They paid **explorers** like Christopher Columbus to sail on a ship and find new lands.

Today, the people of Spain choose leaders to rule the country. Spain still has a king, but he does not make the laws.

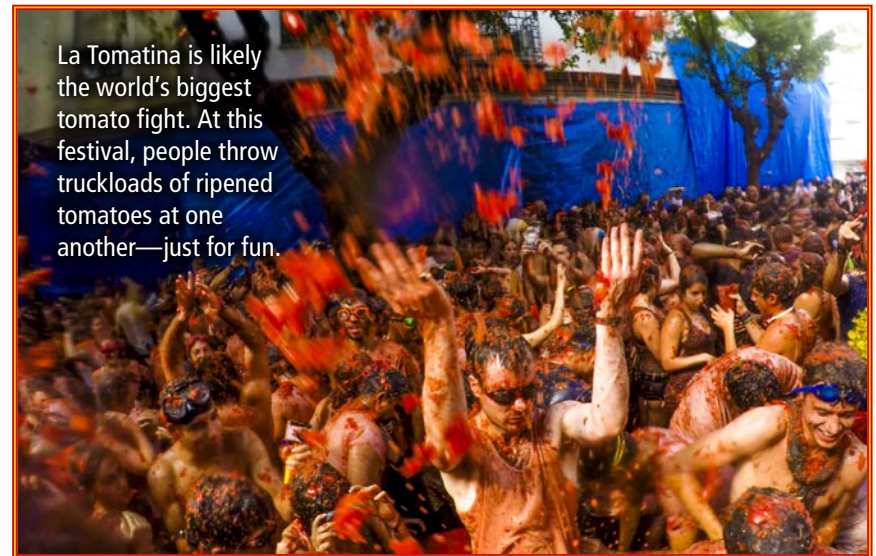


Christopher Columbus

Celebrations

The Spanish people enjoy celebrating holidays. National Day is a **festival** on October 12 every year. It marks the day that Columbus first arrived in the Americas.

La Tomatina is a festival that happens every year in Spain. People throw tomatoes at one another and have fun.



La Tomatina is likely the world's biggest tomato fight. At this festival, people throw truckloads of ripened tomatoes at one another—just for fun.



Tapas are finger foods. They might be olives, nuts, or meats and can be eaten cold or hot.



Food

Spanish people eat three meals a day. Lunch is their biggest meal. Many people like to eat rice with fish, beans, salads, pork, or lamb. Then they might have dessert, too!



Antoni Gaudí designed this beautiful church. It stands in Barcelona, Spain.

Conclusion

Spain has beautiful mountains and beaches. It also has friendly people. It is a special country that makes our world a much more exciting place to live in!



Population: 48,146,134

Land: 498,980 sq km (310,052 sq. mi.)

Capital City: Madrid

Primary Language: Castilian Spanish
(74% of population)

Primary Religion: Roman Catholic

Name of Currency: euro



Source: Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook (2015)

Glossary

- capital** (*n.*) the city where a government's main offices are located (p. 5)
- explorers** (*n.*) people who visit and learn about new places (p. 11)
- festival** (*n.*) a celebration or an organized series of cultural events (p. 12)
- islands** (*n.*) areas of land surrounded by water (p. 4)
- mountain range** (*n.*) a group or line of connected mountains (p. 4)
- olives** (*n.*) small, bitter fruits with hard pits that grow on Mediterranean evergreen trees, often eaten or used to make oil (p. 6)