



# Chapter 32

## Geography of Spain

PORTUGAL

FRANCIA

ESPAÑA

ITALIA

Islas Baleares

### LOCATION OF SPAIN

Located in the southwestern part of Europe, Spain occupies eighty percent of the Iberian peninsula, which it shares with Portugal.

### SIZE AND POPULATION

Spain has an area of about 200,000 square miles (four times the size of New York State), and a population of about 40,000,000 inhabitants.

### MOUNTAINS

1. The Pyrenees (los Pirineos), in the northeast, separate Spain from France.
2. Cantabrian Mountains (la Cordillera Cantábrica) in the northwest.
3. Guadarrama Mountains (la Sierra de Guadarrama), near Madrid.
4. Sierra Nevada and Sierra Morena, in the south.

### RIVERS

1. El Ebro, in the northeast, flows into the Mediterranean Sea.
2. El Tajo, in the central region, is the longest river. It runs by the city of Toledo.
3. El Guadalquivir in the south, is the deepest and most navigable river in Spain. It runs by the cities of Seville (Sevilla) and Cordova (Córdoba).

### OVERSEAS POSSESSIONS

1. The Balearic Islands (Islas Baleares) are located in the Mediterranean Sea. They are a popular resort area. Mallorca is the largest island in the group.
2. The Canary Islands (Islas Canarias) are located in the Atlantic Ocean, off the northwestern coast of Africa.
3. Ceuta and Melilla are two port cities in Morocco, Africa.

### IMPORTANT PRODUCTS

1. Spain is both an industrial and an agricultural country.
2. The principal agricultural products are olives, oranges, grapes, wheat, lemons, and cork.
  - a. Spain occupies third place in wine production in Europe.
  - b. The wines of Jerez (sherry), Rioja, and Málaga are world-famous.
  - c. Spain is one of the world's leading producers of olive oil.
3. Mineral resources are coal, iron, mercury, lead, and copper.

### REGIONS OF SPAIN

Spain is divided into fifteen regions.

Cantabria, in the north

Galicia, in the northwest

Asturias, in the north, east of Galicia

Basque Country (País Vasco), in the north, bordering the Pyrenees

Navarre (Navarra), in the north

Aragon (Aragón), in the northeast, east of Navarre

Catalonia (Cataluña), in the northeastern corner

Rioja (La Rioja), south of Navarre

Castile and Leon (Castilla y León), in the north central part of the peninsula

Castile-La Mancha (Castilla-La Mancha), in the center

Madrid, in the center, north of Castile-La Mancha

Valencia, in the east

Extremadura, in the west, between Portugal and Castile-La Mancha

Andalusia (Andalucía), in the south

### LANGUAGES

1. Spanish (español, or castellano) is the principal language spoken in Spain.
2. Galician (gallego) is spoken in Galicia.
3. Basque (vascuence) is spoken in the Basque Country.
4. Catalán is spoken in Catalonia.

**EXERCISE A**

Match the words in column A to their related words in column B. Write the letter in the space provided.

A	B
_____ 1. Asturias	a. Balearic Islands
_____ 2. Spanish	b. Atlantic Ocean
_____ 3. Sierra Morena	c. Spain's longest river
_____ 4. Galician	d. region in the northeast
_____ 5. Tajo	e. wine
_____ 6. Guadalquivir	f. language spoken in the northwest
_____ 7. Jerez	g. most navigable river
_____ 8. Canary Islands	h. mountains
_____ 9. Catalonia	i. region in the north
_____ 10. Mallorca	j. principal language of Spain

**EXERCISE B**

If the statement is true, write *Sí*, if it's false, correct it by replacing the word(s) in boldface. Write the word(s) in the space provided.

1. The Pyrenees separate Spain from **Portugal**. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Mediterranean Sea is situated **west** of Spain. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Spain and Portugal form the **Iberian** Peninsula. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Some Spanish **wines** are world-famous. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Spain has a population of about **60,000,000**. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Mallorca is one of the **Canary** Islands. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Cantabrian Mountains are in the **south** of Spain. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The most navigable river in Spain is the **Tajo**. \_\_\_\_\_
9. **Málaga** is an important wine producing country. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The principal language of Spain is **Basque**. \_\_\_\_\_

### **EXERCISE C**

Select the word or expression that correctly completes each sentence.

1. The (Guadarrama / Pyrenees / Cantabrian) Mountains separate Spain from France.
2. (Apples / Oranges / Machines) are an important product of Spain.
3. Spain is located in the (southwestern / northeastern / central) part of Europe.
4. Spain has two ports that are situated in (South America / Africa / Mexico).
5. A popular resort area of Spain is (the Balearic Islands / the Canary Islands / Extremadura).
6. The (Tajo / Ebro / Guadalquivir) River passes by Toledo.
7. (Murcia / Aragon / Leon) is in the northwestern part of Spain.
8. An important mineral resource of Spain is (gold / tin / mercury).
9. Spain has an area of (40,000,000 / 200,000 / 1,300) square miles.
10. The (Pyrenees / Guadarrama / Cantabrian) Mountains are near Madrid.

### **EXERCISE D**

Complete the following statements.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the longest river of Spain.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ are islands in the Mediterranean Sea that belong to Spain.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a region of central Spain.
4. Spain is the one of the world's leading producers of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is a region that covers most of southern Spain.
6. The Cantabrian Mountains are in the \_\_\_\_\_ part of Spain.
7. Spain consists of \_\_\_\_\_ regions.
8. The Sierra Nevada is a mountain range in the \_\_\_\_\_ part of Spain.
9. The regional language of Catalonia is \_\_\_\_\_.
10. A Spanish river that flows into the Mediterranean Sea is \_\_\_\_\_.