

Spain. Climate and mountains.

1 Match the types of climate to the different regions of Spain.



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|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Mediterranean climate | Subtropical climate | Continental climate | Maritime climate |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|

Spain's climate is very varied.

1 _____
 The big central plateau has very hot, dry summers and cold winters. It rains mainly in spring and autumn. In winter it usually snows.

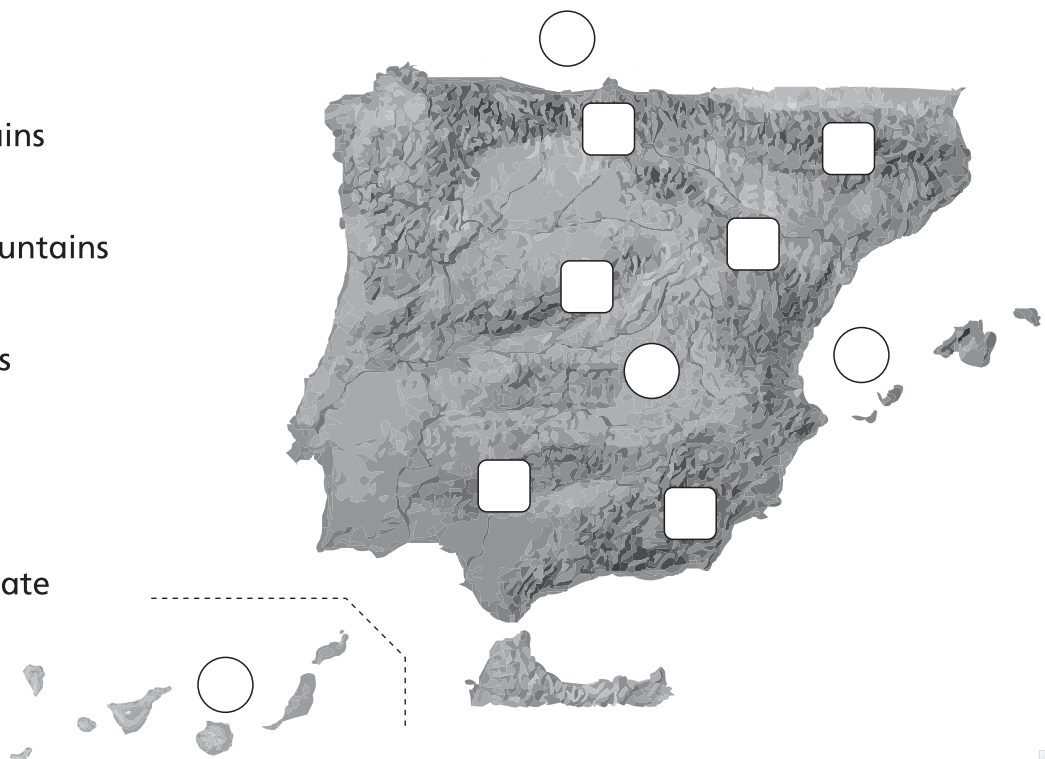
2 _____
 The northern part of the country, from the Pyrenees to the Cantabrian Mountains and Galicia, has cool summers and mild winters. It is often cloudy or foggy and it rains a lot in all seasons.

3 _____
 In the southern and eastern coastal regions of Spain and in the Balearic Islands the rainy season is in autumn, but it rains less than in the rest of Spain. The temperature is usually higher than in other areas of the country. Winters are warm and summers are hot.

4 _____
 The Canary Islands have a warm climate in all seasons. It does not rain very often.

2 Label the map.

1. The Iberian Mountains
2. The Sistema Central
3. The Cantabrian Mountains
4. The Pyrenees
5. The Betic Mountains
6. The Sierra Morena
7. Continental climate
8. Maritime climate
9. Mediterranean climate
10. Subtropical climate



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Aim

- To study the climate and principal mountain ranges of Spain.

Language focus

Key vocabulary: *Mediterranean climate, subtropical climate, continental climate, maritime climate, plateau, warm, mild, season.*

Key language: *The northern part of the country ... has cool summers and mild winters. ... the rainy season is in autumn, but it rains less than in the rest of Spain. The temperature is usually higher than in other areas of the country.*

Materials

- Worksheet.
- A physical map of Spain.

Warm-up

- Divide the board into two halves. Ask the class to imagine that they are going on holiday. Write *Summer holiday at the beach* on the left-hand side of the board and *Winter holiday in the mountains* on the left-hand side. Divide the class into two groups. Explain that *one of the groups is going to the beach in the summer and the other group is going to the mountains in the winter*. Ask the pupils to make a list of the clothes and other things they will take with them. Ask pupils from the groups to write their lists on the board and tell the rest of the class what they are going to take. Encourage them to use the structure *I'm going to take a/some _____, eg, I'm going to take a towel. I'm going to take some sun cream*. Ask *What sports and other activities can you do at the beach in summer / in the mountains in winter?*

Completing the Worksheet

Activity 1

- Show the class a map of Spain (or draw one on the board). Ask the pupils to find the city or town where they live. Ask them if they

know people who live in other cities or towns. Encourage them to use *_____ live/lives in _____, eg, My grandfather lives in Cuenca.*

- Ask the pupils about the climate in their city, eg, *Is it cold in the winter? Is it hot in the summer? Does it rain in the summer?* Explain that *the climate is not the same everywhere in Spain. There are four main different types of climate in Spain: continental, maritime, Mediterranean and subtropical*. Write the words on the board in four columns. Give an example of a city or an area for each type of climate and write it in the appropriate column. Elicit the weather in each city/area. Write the different weather conditions under each heading, eg:

<u>continental</u>	<u>maritime</u>
Madrid hot/dry in summer cold in winter	Santander cool in summer rainy
<u>Mediterranean</u>	<u>subtropical</u>
Barcelona hot in summer warm in winter	Santa Cruz de Tenerife warm in all seasons little rain

- Read the descriptions of the climate in different areas of Spain with the class. Explain that *The big, high and flat central area of Spain is called a plateau*. Check that pupils understand the difference between *hot, warm, cool and mild*.
- Ask the pupils to match the types of climate with the descriptions. Check answers with the class.

Answers: 1-Continental climate; 2-Maritime climate; 3-Mediterranean climate; 4-Subtropical climate

Extension activity

Ask the pupils *What clothes do you need if you go to the south of Spain in the summer? What clothes do you need if you go to the north in the summer?* Write on the board *When I go to the south in summer I need T-shirts, shorts, sandals and sunglasses. When I go to the ___ in ___ I need ___.* Continue with other seasons and different parts of Spain. Encourage the pupils to write sentences in their notebooks following the model.

Answers:



Activity 2

- Explain that *the climate in the mountains is usually cold in the winter and cool in the summer. It rains a lot and it snows in winter. There are a lot of mountains in Spain.*
- Draw a map of Spain on the board. Invite some pupils to label the seas and the four cardinal points (*north, south, east, and west*). Ask the class if they know the names of the most important mountains in Spain. Ask *Where are the Pyrenees? The Pyrenees are in the north. The Pyrenees form a natural border between France and Spain.* Draw the Pyrenees on the map. Continue with the other mountain ranges. If you have a physical map of Spain use it to show the class where the different mountain ranges are. *The Iberian Mountains are in the north-east. The Sistema Central is in the centre of Spain. The Betic Mountains are in the south-east. The Cantabrian Mountains are in the north. The Sierra Morena mountains are between the Guadiana and Guadalquivir rivers.*
- Ask the pupils to label the map in Activity 2 with the names of Spain's principal mountain ranges and types of climate.

Extension activity

Write on the board *The Veleta is in the _____. It is _____ metres high. The Teide is in _____. It is _____ metres high. The Aneto is in the _____. It is _____ metres high. The Mulhacén is in the _____. It is _____ metres high.* Ask the pupils *Do you know where these mountains are? How high are they?* Write the answers on the board at random, eg, 3,718 metres, 3,482 metres, 3,404 metres, 3,392 metres, Sierra Nevada, Tenerife, Pyrenees. Encourage the class to write sentences in their notebooks. When the pupils have finished their sentences, encourage them to check their answers by asking you questions, eg, Pupil 1: *Is the Teide in Granada?* Teacher: *No, the Teide is not in Granada.* P 2: *Is the Teide in Tenerife?* T: *Yes, the Teide is in Tenerife.* P 3: *Is the Teide 3,718 metres high?* T: *Yes, that's right.* Write the answers on the board. Explain that the Teide is a volcano in Tenerife, in the Canary Islands. It's the highest mountain in Spain. The Mulhacén is the highest mountain in the Iberian Peninsula.

Answers: Veleta – 3,392 metres – Sierra Nevada; Teide – 3,718 metres – Tenerife; Aneto – 3,404 metres – Pyrenees; Mulhacén – 3,482 metres – Sierra Nevada