

An Introduction to SEND Spain's Guided Discovery Program

"After three weeks of residing in the republic of Mexico, Mr. Winthrop was not only convinced that he knew the country perfectly, but also that he had seen everything- that he had penetrated the character and the customs of its people and had explored it thoroughly."

Translated from Canasta de Cuentas Mexicanos by B. Traven



Unlike this clueless tourist, we hope that you will start the *journey* of understanding and enjoying Spain and her culture with a different mindset. It will take a lifetime!

This discovery program is part of our language and cultural orientation process for our new missionaries (which also includes formal language study and assigned readings). We hope that you will develop skills of observation and sympathetic questioning that will serve you throughout your missionary career. Journaling your observations and discussing your experiences with others will help you make the most of this learning experience.

Some of the activities will be easy to do, others may require a translator for you to complete. Try to use as much Spanish as you can. The activities can be done in any order.

This booklet is not meant to be an exhaustive study on Spanish culture. That would be impossible! Rather it has been developed as a guide to help you begin the process of cultural observation and adaptation. Please feel free to add to this booklet as you find topics of interest.

The people of Spain are very diverse! The culture is constantly changing, and many of the distinctives of being Spanish are becoming less obvious due to globalization.. Ask the Lord to help you truly understand and love your Spanish friends. After all, He called you here!

The Lord bless you as you journey!
Language and Orientation Committee, SEND Spain

Our thanks to Vicki Reyes, TEAM missionary in Mexico, who shared with us their booklet based on the 'discovery method' as part of orientation and which we have adapted for use in Spain.

Things to keep in mind as you approach this cultural study...

Behavior and values in a culture are not selected arbitrarily, but reflect an underlying system of beliefs.

- **Behavior** is what is done.
- **Values** reflect what people think to be good or best.
- **Beliefs** reflect what one thinks to be true.
- **Worldview** is how we perceive the world around us based on what we feel is real.

Only behavior can be seen, heard, or touched. Values, beliefs and worldview are invisible, and yet determine that which is visible. Our challenge is to take the observable and, by asking the right questions and engaging in thoughtful reflection, come to some conclusions about the values, beliefs, and worldview of Spaniards. And ultimately we want to use what we learn to better present the gospel to Spaniards in a way which they can truly relate to and understand.

The **iceberg** is one model to help understand the aspects of a culture. Only a very small part of an iceberg is visible above the water (that which can be seen, heard, or touched), while the greater part is unseen (beliefs, values, thought patterns, etc). But both parts make up the whole. As you learn about Spain, try to keep this model in mind. What connections can you make between the visible and invisible?

Using the **D-I-E** model (Describe – Interpret – Evaluate) will help you approach culture learning in a strategic and systematic way:

- **Describe** the object/situation/interaction in concrete terms without conclusions or explanations to tell what happened, what was said, what you saw, how you felt...
- Think of possible **explanations**: reflect on what the spoken words and actions meant to the participants; try to discover at least 3 different interpretations of the interaction or occurrence by asking Spaniards about it.
- **Evaluate** the occurrence AFTER the above steps have taken place. Consider your feelings about the experience. Imagine what a Spaniard would have felt about the experience, considering the cultural values and beliefs of the society.

What changes will I need to make in my personal behavior and attitudes to better adapt to the Spanish culture and society?

How is what I am learning about Spanish culture going to affect how I go about ministry in Spain?

Check List



- ☐ Greetings
- ☐ Family
- ☐ Marriage / Courship
- ☐ Immigration
- ☐ Body language
- ☐ My Neighborhood
- ☐ Politics and Government
- ☐ Geography of Spain
- ☐ History: Time Line
- ☐ Holidays / Celebrations
- ☐ Religion and Philosophy
 - ☐ Catholicism
 - ☐ Post Modernism
- ☐ Clothing
- ☐ Gift Giving and Receiving
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Fine Arts/Cultural Achievements
- ☐ Scientific Achievements
- ☐ Spanish food
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Pastimes/Sports/ Games
- ☐ TV and other media sources
- ☐ Regionalism and Local Languages
- ☐ Views on Death
 - ☐ Attitudes
 - ☐ Funerals
- ☐ Current Events
- ☐ National Heroes and Heroines

Greetings

Observe how different Spaniards greet each other.

When are greetings used?
Does it matter who initiates the greeting?

Consider aspects such as gender, age, formal vs. informal settings, etc.

What kind of body language accompanies a greeting?

Are there settings where greetings are commonly used that seem surprising to you? (for example, as you enter and leave a business)

What does this reflect about the value of relationships in the Spanish culture?



1. What does the word *familia* mean to Spaniards?
2. What does a typical family look like today in Spain?
3. What is the current divorce rate in Spain?
4. How important are family relationships, and how strongly do they determine life choices such as where to live, what employment to take, who one marries...?



Family



Courtship/Marriage

Ask Spanish friends what a typical Spanish noviazgo would entail. How has it changed over the last 30 years?

What is the average age for Spaniards to marry? What is the wedding like? Who is invited? Who pays? What is a typical wedding gift?

Compare and contrast various marriages. Observe a couple over fifty years old, a couple with school-aged children and a couple with pre-school children. What is the husband's role? Wife's role? Ask two Spaniards to describe traditional marriage roles. Ask how this is changing.

Find out what the divorce rate is in Spain. Ask a Spaniard to list common problems in Spanish marriages.

IMMIGRATION....

Much change has taken place in Spain over the last 20 years due to immigration. Do some research on the current status of immigration into Spain.

- How many immigrants now live in Spain? Where are they coming from and why?
- Where are they mostly located?
- How many are coming in illegally?
- How has this affected the demographics of Spain?
- What kinds of benefits and or difficulties does this bring to Spain?
- How are the populations interacting? Are the immigrant populations welcomed?
- How are they integrating as a whole?
- How has immigration affected the Evangelical church in Spain? How may this affect your ministry?

As we strive to integrate as missionaries into the Spanish culture, it is important to be careful to focus on the language and culture of Spain. We need to be aware of the other cultures coming to Spain, but at the same time make an effort to become as Spanish as possible.

Body language

Over half of communication comes in non-verbal forms. Make careful observations of how Spaniards use gestures and body language as they interact.

Keep a list of specific situations you have observed. Consider things such as eye contact, personal distance, gestures, touching behavior, facial expressions, and greetings.

Who uses these, and when? In what situations are these forms of body language appropriate or inappropriate? What can you learn about Spanish values based on your observations?

What differences are there between your own culture and Spain in regards to body language? What are some of your personal habits that may be offensive or badly interpreted in Spain? What adaptations do you need to make to fit in better with Spanish culture?

My Neighborhood

You are living in SPAIN now! Some things will be familiar, and others will be all new. Let's start to get to know your new neighborhood. You can get a lot of information from your local tourist office.

1. What are the important places in your city/town/village?
2. Public transportation: Is there any? Do certain kinds of transportation go to different places? How do you pay? How do you indicate you want on or off? How do people act while on public transportation? If possible, ride a bus to the end of its route and see where it goes, what businesses/parks/etc. it goes by, and how long it takes.
3. Layout of your town: Is a map available? What are the main parts of your town? How are business and residential areas distributed?
4. Signs and symbols: What are street signs like? Find symbols or signs for places such as hospitals, pharmacies, schools, hotels, restrooms, etc.
5. What are the main hangout spots in town? For what ages?
6. What evidence of Satan's control do you see in your town? Where?
7. What are sources of information? (newspapers, etc...)

My Neighborhood

Draw a rough map of your neighborhood, indicating main streets and landmarks (i.e. government buildings, schools, parks, stores, etc.).

A large, empty rectangular box with a light blue border, intended for drawing a rough map of the neighborhood. The box is positioned below the title and the instruction text, occupying the majority of the page area.



Now draw a detailed map of the street you live on. Be sure to label all buildings, including businesses and residential areas. Find out what types of services each business offers and what their schedule is.

My Street

Politics

What do you know about the political life of Spain? Let's see what you can find out....

What kind of government does Spain have?

What powers does the government have at a national level?

What kinds of rights do each autonomous region have?

How are the roles of the elected officials and the royal family distributed?

How often are there elections?

Who is in power right now nationally? Regionally? Locally?

Political Leaders

1 Timothy 2:1-2

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Title	Name	Political party
<i>Presidente del gobierno</i>		
<i>Vicepresidente del gobierno</i>		
<i>Presidente of your Comunidad autónoma</i>		
<i>Vicepresidente of your Comunidad autónoma</i>		
<i>Alcalde of your town/city</i>		
<i>Teniente alcalde of your town/city</i>		
<i>Concejales (there may be several)</i>		

Political Parties

See what you can find out about the following unions and political parties in Spain. When were they established and why? (Communist Party?) Have they changed in their purpose or influence? How much power do they have today? Are there other local groups or movements that you can add to the list? What about the movement of Los Indignados?



The Flag

What does the flag of Spain look like?

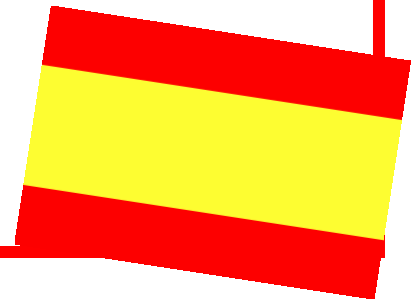
What do the various symbols, colors, etc. stand for?

How do Spaniards feel about the flag?

When and where would you be most, or least likely to see a flag flying?

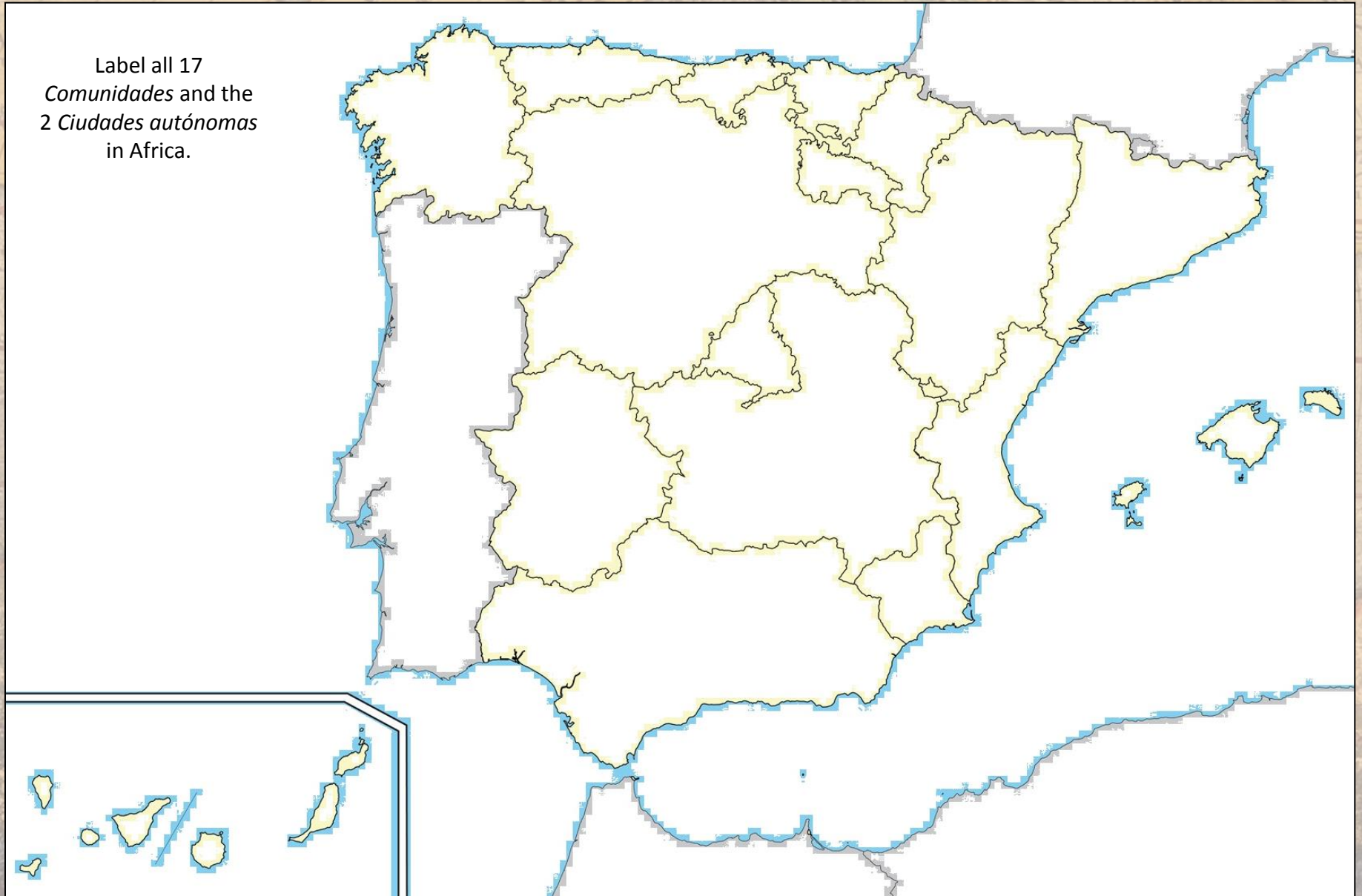
What other flags are important in Spain?

What do the flags for your *comunidad*, *provincia*, and city or town look like?



Geography

Label all 17
Comunidades and the
2 *Ciudades autónomas*
in Africa.



Now label each *provincia*.





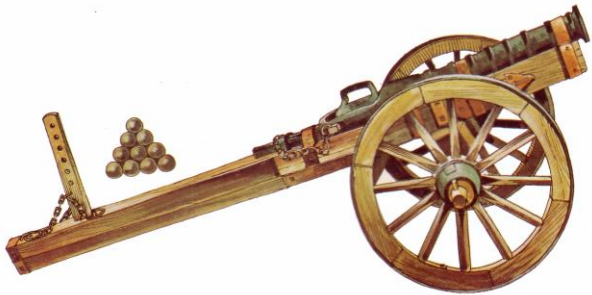
Finally, draw in and label the principal mountains, rivers, oceans, seas...

TIME LINE

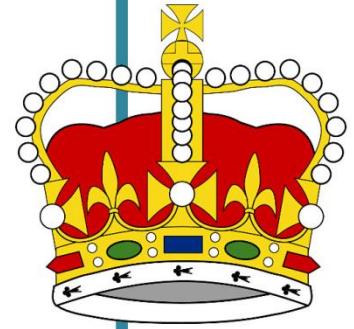
Create a time line with the following events. You will need to do a bit of research to find out when these occurred.

Why are each of these important in the history of Spain? What was happening socially at the time?

What Spanish values and worldview may have led to these events? How did these events in turn affect the development of the values and worldview of Spain today?



- Arrival of the Romans in the Iberian Peninsula
- Arrival of the Visigoths
- Arrival of the Muslims
- Battle of Poitiers
- Battle of Navas de Tolosa
- Battle of Covadonga
- Fall of Toledo
- Marriage of Ferdinand and Isabel, Los Reyes Católicos
- Fall of Granada
- Exile of Jews
- Exile of Muslims
- Discovery of New World by Cristóbal Colón
- Establishment of the Inquisition
- Women can vote
- War of Succession
- Reign of Napoleon and Bonaparte
- 1st Republic
- Primo de Rivera
- 2nd Republic
- Civil War
- Military Dictatorship of Franco
- La Pepa (1st Constitution)
- Freedom of Religion
- Loss of last colonies
- Train bombings (15M)
- “Los Indignados” Movement
- Gay marriage legalized
- Spain becomes part of the European Union



☐ Holidays / Celebrations

- ☐ Semana Santa
- ☐ Christmas/Día de los Reyes
- ☐ Birthdays
- ☐ National Holidays
- ☐ Regional Holidays and Fiestas