

# España

## ¡Hola niños!

Today we are going to learn all about Spain! Spain is a country in **Europe** and the capital of Spain is **Madrid**. It is located beside **Portugal** and below **France** and it is also the only European country that borders **Africa**. More than 46 million people live in Spain and speak Spanish. ¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás? - this means Hello! How are you?

## The Spanish flag

The Spanish flag (or the "*Bandera de España*") is also nicknamed "*La Rojigualda*" in Spanish which means "**red and yellow**". The flag was designed by a man called **Antonio Valdés** and it is made up of three horizontal bands of color. The flag has one red band on top, an extra wide yellow band in the middle and another red band at the bottom. There is also a symbol on the yellow section of the flag, which is called the **national coat of arms**. This symbol represents the emblems of the traditional kingdoms of Spain which are **Castile, Leon, Navarre and Aragon**.

## Currency

The currency used in Spain is the **Euro** (€) which makes it easier for the many people who live in mainland Europe to go to Spain because they don't have to exchange their money. However, before this the currency was the **Spanish peseta** which was only used in **Spain** and **Andorra**. This meant that if you wanted to visit Spain you would have to go to the bank and change your money in exchange for the Spanish currency.

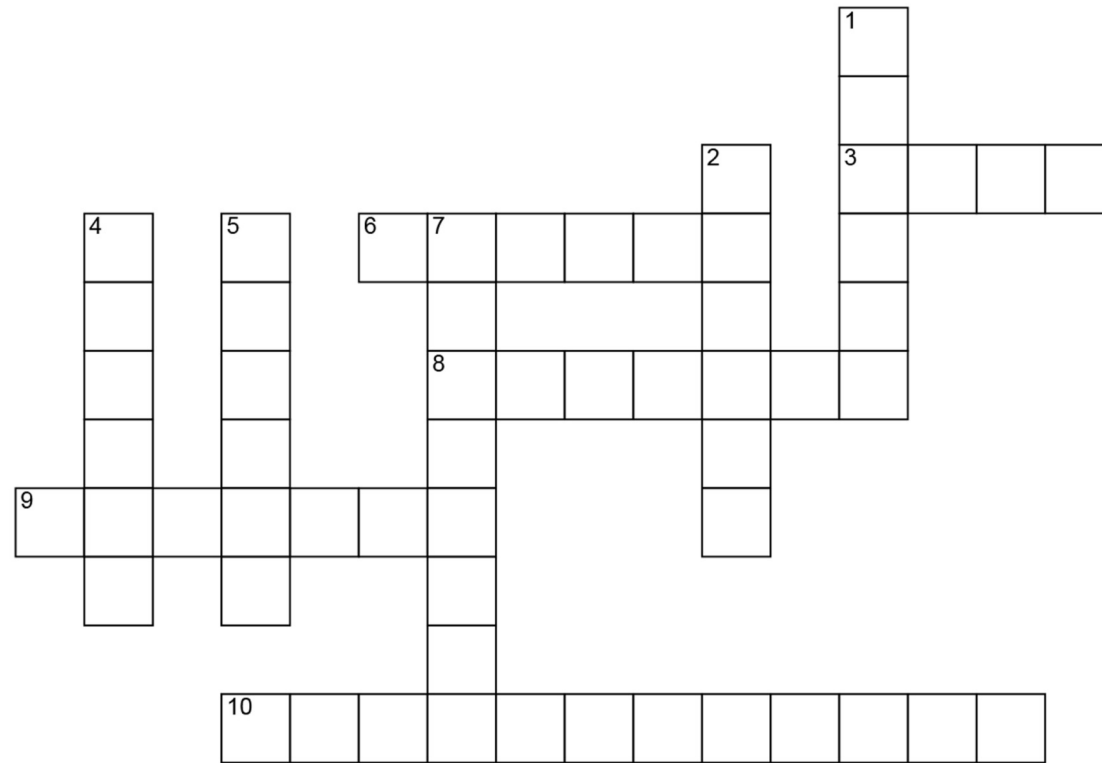
## Some Spanish words explained:

**Fiesta** is the Spanish word for festival or party. Spanish culture is largely centered on the many festivals that take place during the year. **La Tomatina** is a Spanish festival that is celebrated in Valencia in the East of Spain during the month of **August**. It is a weeklong festival which includes parades, fireworks and cooking contests and ends with a big food fight where everyone throws squished tomatoes at each other.

**Siesta** is the word used for an afternoon nap that is common in hot countries such as **Spain, Greece, Italy, Costa Rica and Mexico**. At this time, usually between 2 and 4 pm many shops and banks close while the employees take their lunch break and escape the hottest part of the day.

**Bailar** means to dance in Spanish. **Flamenco** is a traditional Spanish dance and music genre from the Andalusian region of Spain which is located in the South of the country. Flamenco is usually danced by a man and a woman dressed in traditional Spanish costumes and it is very beautiful to watch.

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## Across

3. What is the Spanish currency?
6. Spain is the only European country that borders which continent?
8. Where was the Spanish peseta used besides Spain?
9. Which fourth kingdom is represented on the Spanish flag, besides Leon, Navarre and Aragon?
10. What is the Spanish flag's nickname?

## Down

1. How do you say a "nap" in Spanish?
2. What is the capital of Spain?
4. How do you say "to dance" in Spanish?
5. What is the Spanish word for "festival" or "party"?
7. What is the traditional Spanish dance and music genre from the Andalusian region, usually danced by a man and a woman dressed in traditional Spanish costumes?