Spain, locate and describe

» Activity 1. In pairs, read and complete.

Spain

Words bank:
African
Balearic
Douro
Galician
Gibraltar
Guadalquivir
Ibérico
Morena
Tagus

Spain lies on the Iberian Peninsula, which it shares with neighbouring Portugal. We are going to focus on the portion of this peninsula occupied by Spain and its islands-the Canary and Balearic- and others territories in the northern coasts -Ceuta, Melilla and some little islands- that belong to Spain.

The Pyrenees are the natural border between France and Spain along the Iberian Peninsula northeast edge (about 400km), crossing the isthmus from the Bay of Biscay in the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea. The Iberian Peninsula is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west -coasts (NW), Portugal coastline and Huelva and Cádiz coasts in Andalusia (SW). On the other hand, the Mediterranean Sea is located along the east coastline, from the border with France to the southern tip of Europe at Strait of (Europe and Africa are only 14 km apart).

The Iberian Peninsula is formed by the Meseta Central (or Iberian Plateau also Central Plateau), run by the River (Duero is naming in English after the Portuguese name), the River and the Guadiana River. All these rivers find the Atlantic Ocean because the Peninsula is tilted slightly toward the west. This plateau is the peninsula core area which is ringed by mountain ranges. Summarizing, most relevant are the Cantabrian Mountains to the north (Cordillera Cantábrica), the Sistema to the northeast and the Sierra to the south. The Central Plateau is divided into two halves by the Sistema Central.

Two depressions or basins can be found in Spain: The Ebro Valley and the Valley. The first one is located among the Pyrenees and the Sistema Ibérico, and the second one is flanked by Sierra Morena and the Baetic Mountains (Sistemas Béticos).

Spain territory also includes the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean (over 100 km off Africa are volcanic in origin) and in the Mediterranean, the Islands, and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla on the northern coast of Africa. In addition, some little islands offshore Africa (Islas Chafarinas, Peñón de Alhucemas, and Peñón de Vélez de la Gomera, etc.)

Take it further! Create an Alphabet game… “Beginning with the letter A…, It is a region…”

Note: In bold, description verbs for your cards.