

GEOGRAPHY

Spain. Vegetation.



1 Write.

In the humid areas in the north of Spain there are oak, chestnut, beech, eucalyptus and pine trees. Heather, ferns and gorse grow in the highlands.

In the dry areas in the south and east of Spain the most common trees are evergreen trees like pines, cork oaks and holm oaks. Rosemary and thyme grow on the plains. In very dry areas there are also palm trees.

Evergreen trees like pines and firs grow in the mountains throughout Spain.

	Vegetation	Vegetation (.....)
Humid areas		
Dry areas		
Mountains		

2 Read.



Cork oaks grow in the south of Spain. They grow up to 20 metres high.

They produce cork and acorns. Corks in wine bottles are made of cork. Pigs, deer and mice eat acorns.

Cork oaks are evergreen trees. They don't lose their leaves in autumn.

Chestnuts grow in humid areas in the north of Spain. They grow up to 35 metres high.

They produce nuts.

Chestnuts are deciduous trees. In autumn their leaves turn red, orange, yellow or brown and then fall to the ground.



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Aim

- To study the vegetation of Spain.

Language focus

Key vocabulary: *oak, chestnut, beech, eucalyptus, pine, fir, heather, fern, gorse, cork oak, holm oak, rosemary, thyme, palm tree, nut, deer, acorn, cork, deciduous, evergreen.*

Key language: *In the humid areas in the north of Spain there are oak trees. Chestnuts are deciduous trees. Cork oaks produce cork and acorns.*

Materials

- Worksheet.
- A geographical map of Spain.

Warm-up

- Ask the pupils to draw a forest in their notebooks. Tell them to draw some trees, bushes and grass and then encourage them to complete their pictures by asking questions and making suggestions, eg, T: *What is there in the forest?* Class: *Animals.* T: *What animals live in the forest?* Class: *Deer.* T: *Draw a deer.* *What other animals live in the forest?* Class: *Rabbits.* T: *Draw one or two rabbits.* *What's the weather like?* Class: *It's raining.* T: *Draw some clouds and some rain.*

Completing the Worksheet

Activity 1

- Ask a pupil *Have you got any plants in your house?* Encourage him or her to answer *Yes, I have* or *No, I haven't.* Follow the same procedure with a few other pupils. Explain that *we need to take care of the plants and trees in our house or garden. Plants and trees need air, sunlight, water and soil.*

- Ask the class *Why are plants and trees important?* They are important because some animals eat plants. Plants and trees are part of the food chain. Plants also produce the oxygen that we need to breathe. Draw a simple map of Spain on the board (or use a poster) and explain that there are different kinds of trees and plants in different areas of Spain, depending mainly on the climate and the soil. Ask the pupils where we can find rainy and humid areas in Spain (in the north) and dry and hot areas (in the south/east). Point to these areas on the map.
- Ask the pupils to read the text in Activity 1 in small groups and underline the words that they think are trees or plants. Read the first sentence with the class and encourage the pupils to call out the names of the trees. Continue in the same way with the rest of the text.
- Ask the pupils to complete the *Vegetation* column in the table in Activity 1. Check answers.

Extension activity

Write the names of some trees on the board, eg, *oak, chestnut, eucalyptus, pine, beech, cork oak, holm oak.* Invite some pupils to write the names of the trees in their own language on the board, next to the English names. Arrange the pupils in small groups. Ask each group to write the names of the trees in English and in their own language on pieces of paper or card. Ask the groups to place their cards face down on the table. Pupils then take turns to turn over two cards at a time. If they get the English tree and its equivalent in their own language they keep the two cards. If they don't, they put the cards back on the table face down. The pupil with the most cards at the end of the game is the winner.

Activity 2

- Draw a map of Spain on the board. Write *chestnut* and *cork oak* on the board. Explain that *chestnut trees and cork oaks grow in Spain. They are important for the environment and for the economy.*
- Draw a table on the board similar to the one below (but without the answers) and ask the pupils to copy it into their notebooks. Then ask them to read the texts in Activity 2 and complete the table. Check answers with the class.

Answers:

	grow in ...	can be __ metres tall.	produce ...	are evergreen/deciduous.
Chestnuts ...	humid areas in the north of Spain	35 metres	nuts	deciduous
Cork oaks ...	the south of Spain	20 metres	cork and acorns	evergreen