

Natural Science Unit 2 Coastlines and water

Name: Personal Number:

- **The Peninsula is classified into Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines.**
 - The Atlantic coastline is divided into the: Cantabrian, Galician and Andalusian Atlantic coasts.
 - The Mediterranean coastline is divided into the: Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Coasts.

(Las Actividades de la página 24 son importantes de aprender...)

THE ATLANTIC COASTLINE

- Are the Cantabrian and the Andalusian Atlantic coast.
 - **The Cantabrian Atlantic coast** includes The Basque Country, Cantabria, Asturias and Galicia. The coast is straight with high, rocky cliffs. There are sandy beaches and coastal inlets called **rías*. There are also wave-cut platforms, with flat, sloping areas of rocks at the base of the sea cliff. **(Las rías son entrantes de mar, largos y estrechos.)*
 - **In the Galician Atlantic coast** there are rocky cliffs and several wide deep rías. Altas north of Fisterra Cape and Bajas south of Fisterra Cape. The rías were formed when the sea flooded the valleys of the foothills o the Galicia Massif. **The Andalusian Atlantic coast** from the Guadiana River to the Strait of Gibraltar. The coastline is straight with long flat, sandy beaches and dunes. There are wetlands near the Guadalquivir Depression and there are areas filled with salt water and sediments brought in by the tides (... traídos por las mareas.)

(Las Actividades de la página 27 son importantes de aprender...)

THE MEDITERRANEAN COASTLINE

The **Andalusian Mediterranean coast** is straight with high cliffs as it is near the Penibaetic Range. The coastline is flatter around Málaga.

The **Eastern Mediterranean coast** is divided into two sections.

- The Eastern coast of Murcia and Valencia has coastal plains, sandy beaches, river deltas and large lagoons*. The Mar Menor is a salt water lagoon, and the Albufera is a fresh water lagoon. There are cliffs where the Subbaetic Range reaches the coast.
- The Catalan coast has cliffs and small coves where the Catalan Coastal Range meets the sea. There are coastal plains with beaches.

Ceuta and Melilla's coastlines are on the Mediterranean Sea. Ceuta has low plains and Melilla has rocky cliffs. The coastline of the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea is high with many coves. The coastline of the Canary Islands in the Atlantic Ocean consists of some high cliffs and sandy beaches.

The shape and features of coastlines are influenced by the relief of the land, tides and coastal erosion*.

THE SPANISH ARCHIPELAGOS

- The **Balearic Islands** in the Mediterranean Sea. Beaches are mainly mountainous, with coves or long sandy beaches.
- In the **Canary Islands** in the Atlantic Ocean. Some beaches are mountainous and volcanic with high cliffs, *pebble or sandy beaches *(*pedras de pedral*)

RIVERS IN SPAIN

Rivers carry water from high to low places. The water is carried in **channels/ course** (curso) The start of a river is the **source** (nacimiento) and the end is the **mouth** (desembocadura). Often some small rivers called **tributaries** (afuentes) join to large rivers before reaching the mouth of a river.

When rivers reach the sea, they spread out over a wide area called **estuary** (*Estuario: tramo de un río de gran anchura y caudal que ha sido invadido por el mar debido a la influencia de las mareas...*)

Water flows slowly in here so that rivers cannot carry the *silt forming a new area of land called delta. (*silt- limo es barro con restos orgánicos)



THE CHARACTERISTICS OF RIVERS

- A river's **length** is the distance from its source to its mouth.
- The **discharge** is the amount of water that passes through a particular place at a particular time.
- Depending on the amount of discharge, the **regime** of a river can be **stable** if the amount is constant all year or **variable** if it changes.

A river's characteristics depend on relief and climate.

Length- longitud

Discharge- caudal

Regime- régimen

Stable- regular

Variable- irregular

(Las Actividades de la página 30 son importantes de aprender...)

DRAINAGE BASINS (desembocadura)

This is an area of land that drains water into the same sea, ocean or lake.

There are three in Spain: The Cantabrian, The Atlantic and the Mediterranean Basin.

The Cantabrian: short rivers because their source are close to the sea, with stable regimes.

They flow into through Asturias, Cantabria and the Basque Country. These areas have heavy rainfall all year with reservoirs because there are many steep valleys.

The Atlantic: rivers flow through the Meseta and the Guadalquivir Depression. They have variable regime. They flow into the Atlantic and are divided into two groups

Rivers in **Galicia** are short with a high discharge and stable regimes. The main ones are the Eume, the Tambre, the Ulla and the Miño, with its tributary, the Sil. The Miño creates a physical border with Portugal.

Rivers in the **Meseta** and the **Guadalquivir Depression** are long with a high discharge and variable regimes. They begin in mountains inland, and cross areas that have rain in autumn and spring.

Mediterranean Basin. Rivers are short, **except the Ebro** with variable regimes.

These rivers sometimes are dry in summer.

The rivers in the **east** vary in length. They have a low discharge and extremely variable regimes. The exceptions are the rivers Ter and Ebro.

The rivers in the **south**, like the Guadiaro, are short because they start in the Penibaetic Range near the coast. They have a low discharge and variable regimes.

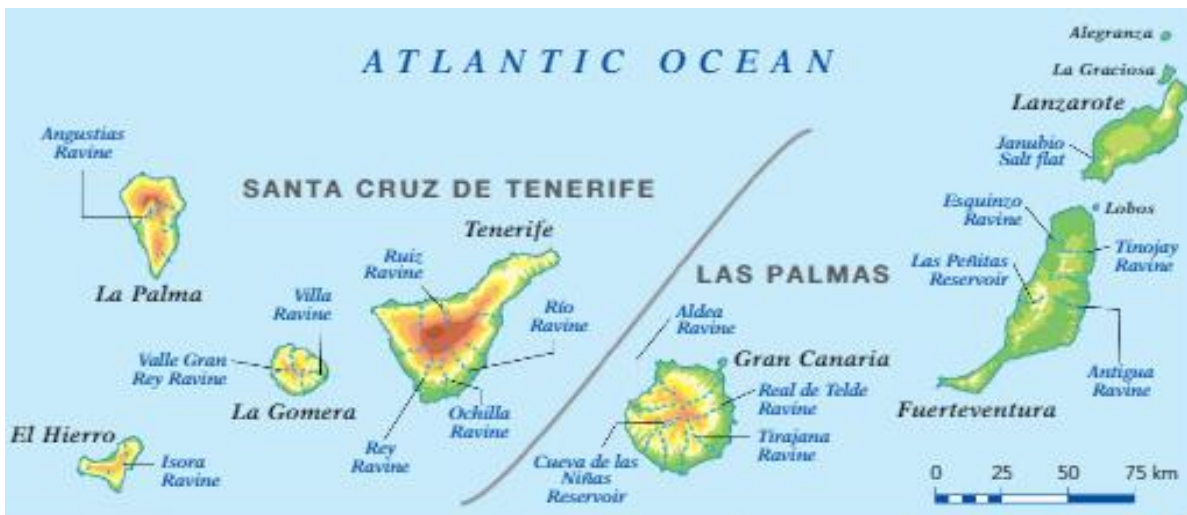
The main reservoirs in the Mediterranean Basin are Mequinenza (Zaragoza), Alarcón and Contreras (Cuenca), and Almanzora (Almería).

(Las Actividades de la página 32, 33 34 and 36 son importantes de aprender...)

WATER ON THE ISLANDS

** There are NOT permanent rivers in: Balearic or Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla, but sometimes on the islands there are tropical storms with heavy rain in a short period of time.

Over time, **ravines** are formed by this heavy rain. Ravines are deep, narrow, steep-sided valleys formed by running water.



Ravines – barrancos / reservoirs- embales



What is the hydrology of the Balearic Islands like?

The landscape and climate of the **Balearic Islands** prevent the formation of permanent rivers. **Torrents** are fast-flowing streams of water that occur when it rains heavily. They begin in steep mountains and are very erosive.

Most of the torrents form in the Tramuntana Range. They usually only carry water when it rains. The Torrents de Muro in Mallorca, the Mercadal in Menorca and the Fruitera in Eivissa are the main ones. These torrents can be very fast and cause flash floods.

