

# The landscapes of inland Spain



Track 1

## Landscapes

Wherever we look, we can see a **landscape**. A landscape is an area of land that you can see from a particular point.

## Elements of a landscape

In a landscape, there are **natural** and **man-made elements**.

Natural elements are things that are not made by man:

- **Relief**, such as mountains, plains and valleys.
- **Water**, such as rivers, seas and lakes.
- **Vegetation**, or plants, and the **fauna**, or all the animals.

Man-made elements are the things that are made by man. These include houses, roads and train tracks.

## Changes in landscapes

Over time, all landscapes change. These changes can be caused by nature or by man.

- **Natural causes** can be earthquakes, floods and volcanic eruptions. Natural causes can destroy buildings, bridges and vegetation.
- **Man-made causes** can be the building of roads, buildings, tunnels and bridges. Man-made causes can change the landscape a lot.



Natural elements



Man-made elements

- 1 What are the elements of landscapes? Give two examples of each.
- 2 Think about the landscape where you live and answer the questions in your notebook.
  - 1 How has it changed?
  - 2 Are these changes man-made or natural?
  - 3 Are these changes positive or negative?





Track 2

## Interior landscapes

### Mountain landscapes

**Mountains** are the most common **landform** in mountain landscapes.

- The highest part is called the summit.
- The lowest part is called the foot.
- The sides are called slopes.

When mountains are close together they form groups called **mountain ranges**. A group of mountain ranges is called a **mountain system**.

There are also elevations that are isolated. They include:

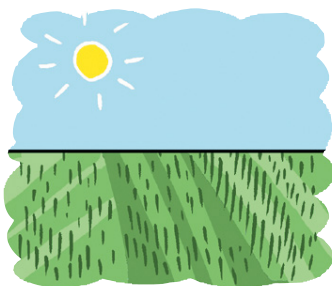
- **Hillocks**. These aren't very high and are rounded in shape.
- **Hills**. These are similar to mountains but they aren't as high.
- **Massif**. This is a group of old, corroded mountains.

### Flat landscapes

**Flat landscapes** have several types of landforms. Large areas of flat land are called **plains**. Flat land that is close to a river is called a fertile plain. It is often used to grow crops.

Flat land that is higher than the land around it is called a **plateau**.

Flat land that is between mountains is called a **valley**. Flat land that is lower than the land around it is called a **gorge**.



fertile plain



gorge



valley

## 1 Copy and complete the sentences.

- 1 A ... is flat land higher than the land around it.
- 2 A ... plain is used to grow crops.
- 3 A ... is a large area of flat land.
- 4 A ... is flat land between two mountains.
- 5 A ... is flat land that is lower than the land around it.

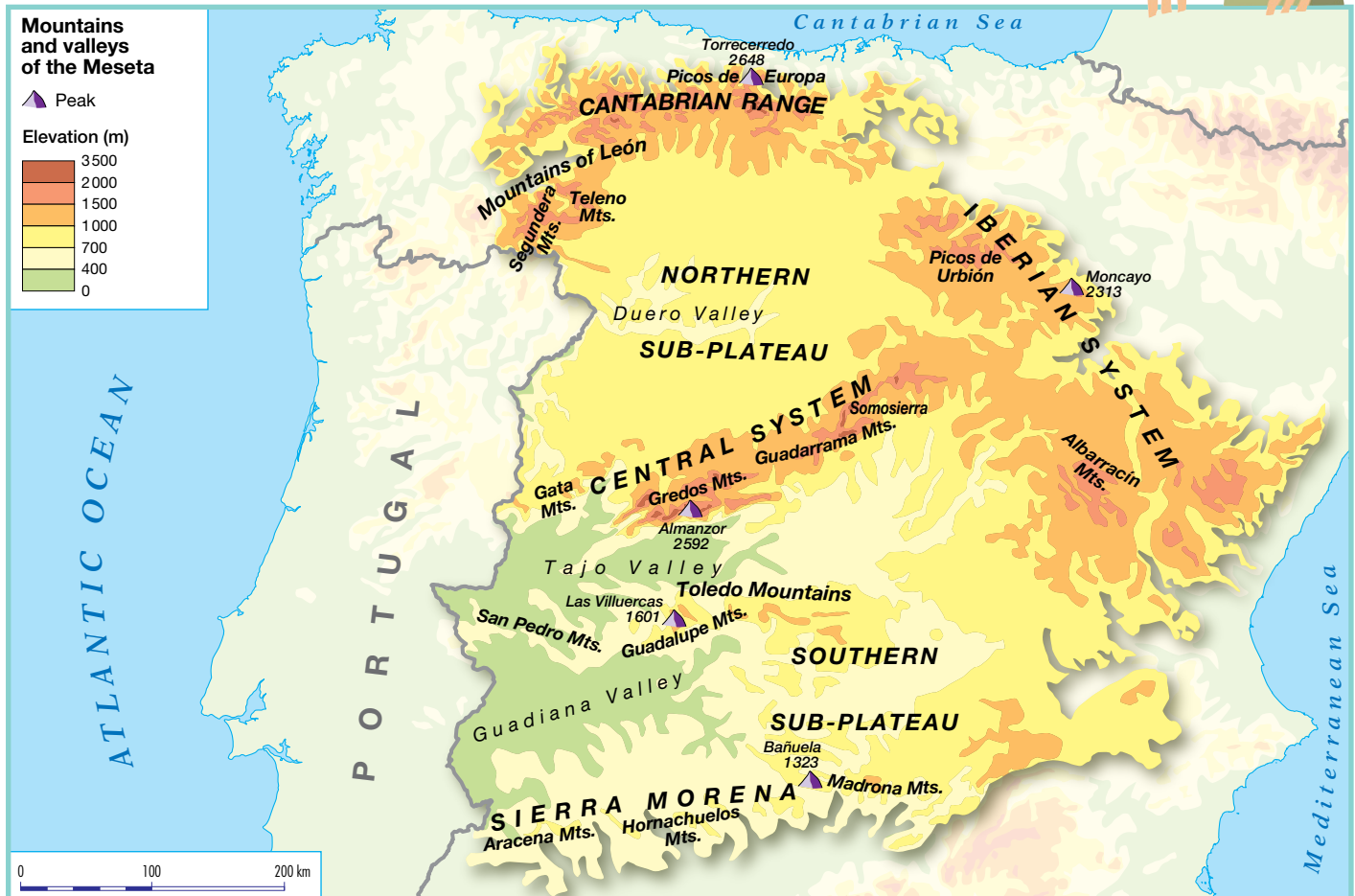
## Interior landscapes in Spain (I)

### The Meseta

The Meseta is a plateau in the centre of Spain. It is very large and covers the areas of Castilla y León, Madrid, Castilla-La Mancha and Extremadura. It is high, with an average elevation of 650 metres.

There are two mountain systems on the Meseta:

- The Central System divides the Meseta into two regions, the northern Sub-plateau and the southern Sub-plateau. The Central System includes the Somosierra, Guadarrama, Gata and Gredos mountains.
- The Toledo Mountains are in the centre of the southern Meseta, between the Tajo and Guadiana River Valleys.



- 1 In your notebook, write three sentences saying what the Meseta is, where it is located and what mountains are found on it.



Track 4

## Mountains on the edge of the Meseta

The Meseta is surrounded by four mountain systems:

- **The Mountains of León** are in the northwest, between Castilla y León and Galicia. They include the Teleno and Segundera mountains.
- **The Cantabrian Range** is in the north, between the Meseta and the Gulf of Bizkaia. They form a natural border between Castilla y León, Cantabria and Asturias. The Cantabrian Range includes the Picos de Europa, and the highest peak is Torrecerredo.
- **The Iberian System** is in the east, between the Meseta and the Ebro River valley (in Castilla y León, La Rioja, Aragón, Castilla-La Mancha and Valencia). This range includes the Picos de Urbión and the Albarracín and Moncayo mountains. Their highest peak is the Moncayo.
- **The Sierra Morena** is in the south, between the Guadiana and Guadalquivir River Valleys. Its mountains include the Aracena and the Madrona.

- 2 List the four mountain systems on the edge of the Meseta.
- 3 Look at the map on page 6. Point to the Central System, the Cantabrian Range and the Sierra Morena. Then say which one is in the centre of Spain, which one is in the north and which one is in the south.
- 4 Match the mountain systems to the mountains in your notebook.

- 1 Central System
- 2 Mountains of León
- 3 Iberian System
- 4 Sierra Morena



- a) Aracena
- b) Somosierra
- c) Moncayo
- d) Teleno

- 5 Put these landforms in order from north to south: the Southern sub-plateau, the northern sub-plateau, the Cantabrian Range and the Central System.
- 6 Name the highest peak in the...

- 1 ... Iberian System.
- 2 ... Cantabrian Mountains.

Use the map of the Meseta to do the activities!



## Interior landscapes in Spain (II)

### Mountains outside the Meseta

There are five mountain systems outside the Meseta.

- **The Galician Massif** is a group of low mountains in northwest Spain. The Cabeza de Manzaneda is the highest peak.
- **The Basque Mountains** are low mountains located in northern Spain, between the Cantabrian Mountains and the Pyrenees. Their main peak is called Aizkorri.
- **The Pyrenees** are very high mountains in the northeast. They separate Spain from France. The highest peak of the Spanish Pyrenees is called Aneto.
- **The Catalan Coastal Range** is also in the northeast. Its mountains are less than 2000 metres high.
- **The Baetic System** are high mountains in southern Spain, with two main ranges:
  - **The Penibaetic Range** is near the Mediterranean coast. The Sierra Nevada is one of its most important mountain ranges. This range is home to the peninsula's highest peak, the Mulhacén, which has got an elevation of 3478 metres.
  - **The Subbaetic Range** is further away from the coast. Its main mountains are the Cazorla, the Segura and the La Sagra.

1 List the five mountain systems outside the Meseta.

2 Match the mountain systems and peaks in your notebook.

1 Pyrenees

2 Baetic System

3 Basque Mountains

4 Galician Massif



a) Aizkorri

b) Cabeza de Manzaneda

c) Aneto

d) Mulhacén

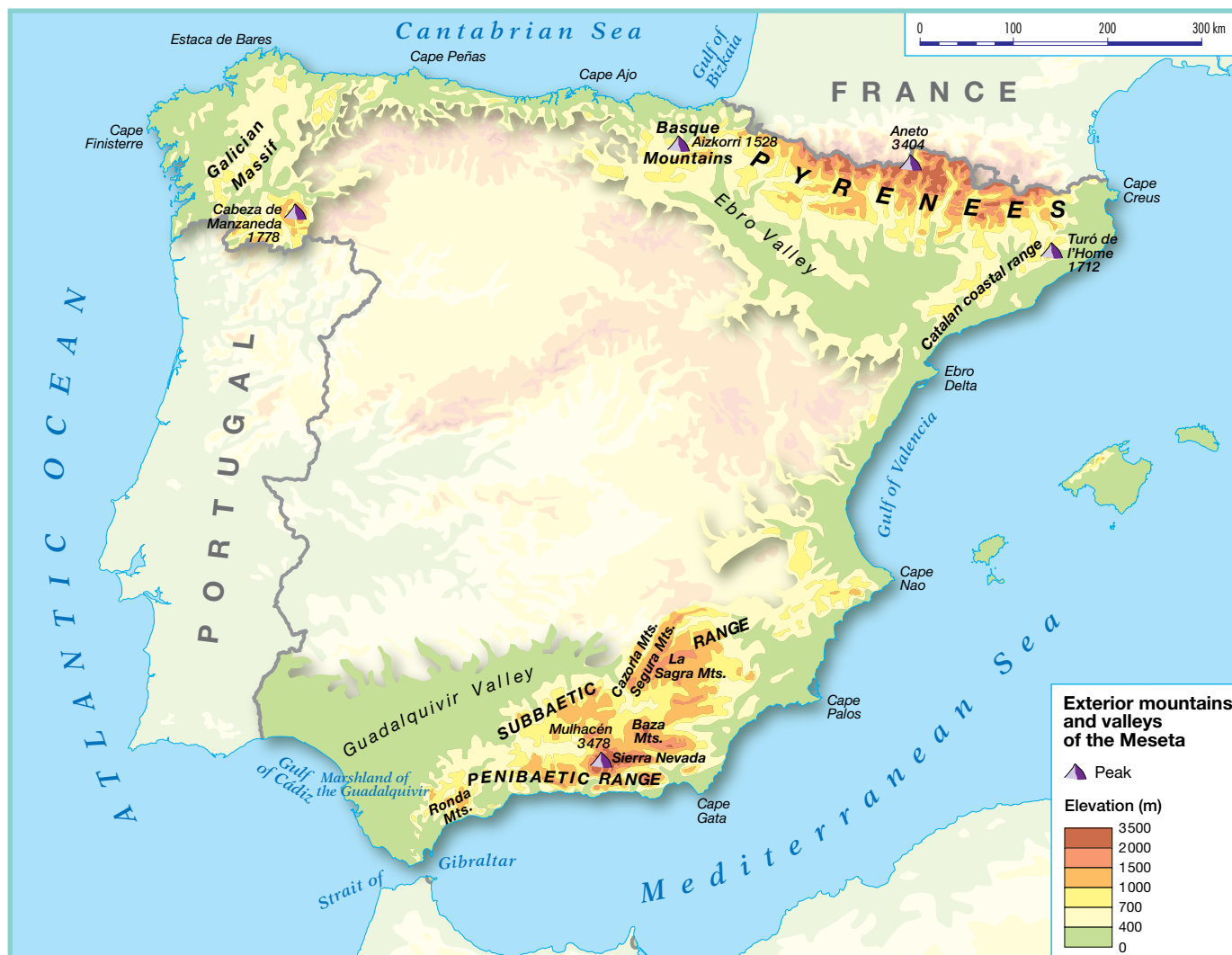
3 Use the map to do these activities with a partner.

1 Find and name the mountain system that touches France and point to it.

2 Name the ocean next to the Galician Massif.

3 Using the map, put these things in order from north to south: the Guadalquivir marshlands, the Mediterranean Sea and the Ebro River Valley.





Track 6

## River valleys

There are two large river valleys outside the Meseta.

- The **Ebro River Valley** is a large triangular plain between the Iberian System and the Pyrenees. The area where the Ebro meets the sea, which is flat and full of sediment from the river, is called the Ebro Delta.
- The **Guadalquivir River Valley** is also a large triangular plain. It is located between the Sierra Morena and the Subbaetic Range. Where the Guadalquivir meets the sea, there is an area of wet, fertile land called marshlands.

## 4 Answer the questions in your notebook.

- 1 What is the name of the place where the Ebro River meets the sea?
- 2 What is the shape of the two plains?
- 3 What are marshlands?



Apply  
your skills!

## Project 1 A mountain range study

**Step 1** Choose a mountain range in the world and research it. Answer the following questions and include any other interesting information.

- 1 What is the name of the mountain range?
- 2 Which continent is it in?
- 3 What countries does it pass through?
- 4 What is the highest mountain?

**Step 2** Make a poster to display your research. Include illustrations and photos!

**Step 3** Present your mountain range to your classmates.



## Project 2 Interior landscapes

**Step 1** In groups, look at a map of Spain and choose a village with an interior landscape.

**Step 2** Research as much as you can about your village. Find out about:

- 1 climate
- 2 landscape and landforms
- 3 resources
- 4 transport
- 5 way of life

**Step 3** Using everything you have learnt, prepare a short presentation about your village for the class.



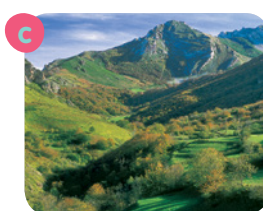
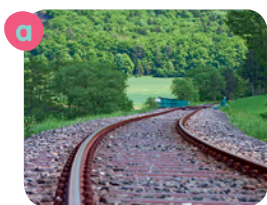
# Check what you know!

Work in your notebook

## 1 Copy and complete the sentences.

- 1 Landscapes have two elements: ... and ... .
- 2 Four things that can change landscapes are... .

## 2 Look at these pictures. Which is the odd one out? Why?



## 3 Choose the correct answers. Write them in your notebook.

The Meseta is a large 1 *pool* / *plateau* in central Spain. There are 2 *two* / *seven* mountain systems on the Meseta, and 3 *two* / *four* mountain systems surrounding it. The five mountain systems outside the Meseta are called the 4 *Galician* / *Morena* Massif, the Basque 5 *Mountains* / *Hillocks*, the Pyrenees, the Catalan Coastal Range and the Baetic Mountains. The 6 *Ebro* / *Mississippi* and Guadalquivir River Valleys form another important part of the interior landscape in Spain.

## 4 Copy and complete the sentences in your notebook.

There are 1... mountain systems on the Meseta, the 2... System and the 3... Mountains. There are 4... mountain systems surrounding the Meseta, the Mountains of 5..., the 6... Range, the Iberian System and the Sierra 7... .

## 5 Are these landforms found in northern or southern Spain?

- 1 Guadalquivir River Valley
- 2 Picos de Europa
- 3 Pyrenees
- 4 Baetic System

## My Word list

### Landscapes

changes  
fauna  
man-made elements  
natural elements  
relief  
vegetation

### Interior landscapes

flat  
gorge  
landforms  
mountain  
mountain range  
mountain system  
plain  
plateau  
valley

### Spain

Baetic System  
Basque Mountains  
Cantabrian Range  
Catalan Coastal Range  
Central System  
Ebro River Valley  
Galician Massif  
Guadalquivir River Valley  
Iberian System  
Meseta  
Mountains of León  
Toledo Mountains  
Pyrenees  
Sierra Morena