4th GRADE MINIMUM CONTENTS-SOCIAL SCIENCE

UNIT 8: WHERE WE LIVE: ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

► WHERE IS SPAIN?

Spain is a country in south-west **Europe. Spanish territory** is the land that belongs to Spain. It consists of:

- Most of the **Iberian Peninsula**.
- The **Balearic Islands** in the Mediterranean Sea.
- The **Canary Islands** in the Atlantic Ocean
- The cities of **Ceuta** and **Melilla** on the coast of North Africa.

Spanish territory borders other countries. On the Iberian Peninsula, Spain borders **France** and **Andorra** to the north-east and **Portugal** to the west. Ceuta and Melilla border **Morocco**.

► AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES

The largest administrative division in Spain is the **Autonomous Community**. There are seventeen Autonomous Communities. Fifteen are on the Iberian Peninsula. The other two are the archipelagos of the Balearic Islands and Canary Islands.

Spain has two **Autonomous cities** on the coast of North Africa: Ceuta and Melilla.

Each Autonomous Community has its own history and traditions. They all have their own **capital city** and **government**. We live in **Andalucía**, an Autonomous Community in the south of Spain.

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PROVINCES

Each Autonomous Community is divided into one or more **provinces**. A province consists of **many municipalities**. Each province has **a capital**.

← *Andalusia is divided into eight provinces.*

► MUNICIPALITIES

The smallest administrative division in Spain is called a **municipality**. A municipality consists of one or more cities, towns or villages, governed by a **local council**. Some municipalities, such as Madrid or Seville, are very big, with a large population. Others are very small, such as Benitagla in the province of Almeria. Each municipality has its own festivals and monuments.

The head of the local council is the **mayor**. The mayor and the **councilors** work in the **Town Hall**. The local council organizes **municipal services**. These services include: *health care* services (hospitals), *environmental* services (street cleaning), *police* and *fire* services, *cultural and leisure* services (libraries), *town planning* services (organizing public transport) and *education* services (schools)

HOW MUNICIPALITIES ARE GROUPED

In Spain, municipalities are grouped into ***comarcas***. Municipalities in the same *comarca* usually <u>share similar characteristics</u>, for example, the landscape and traditions. Inhabitants share similar types of jobs, for example crop farming or tourism. Within a *comarca*, inhabitants also <u>share basic municipal services</u>, such as hospitals and schools.
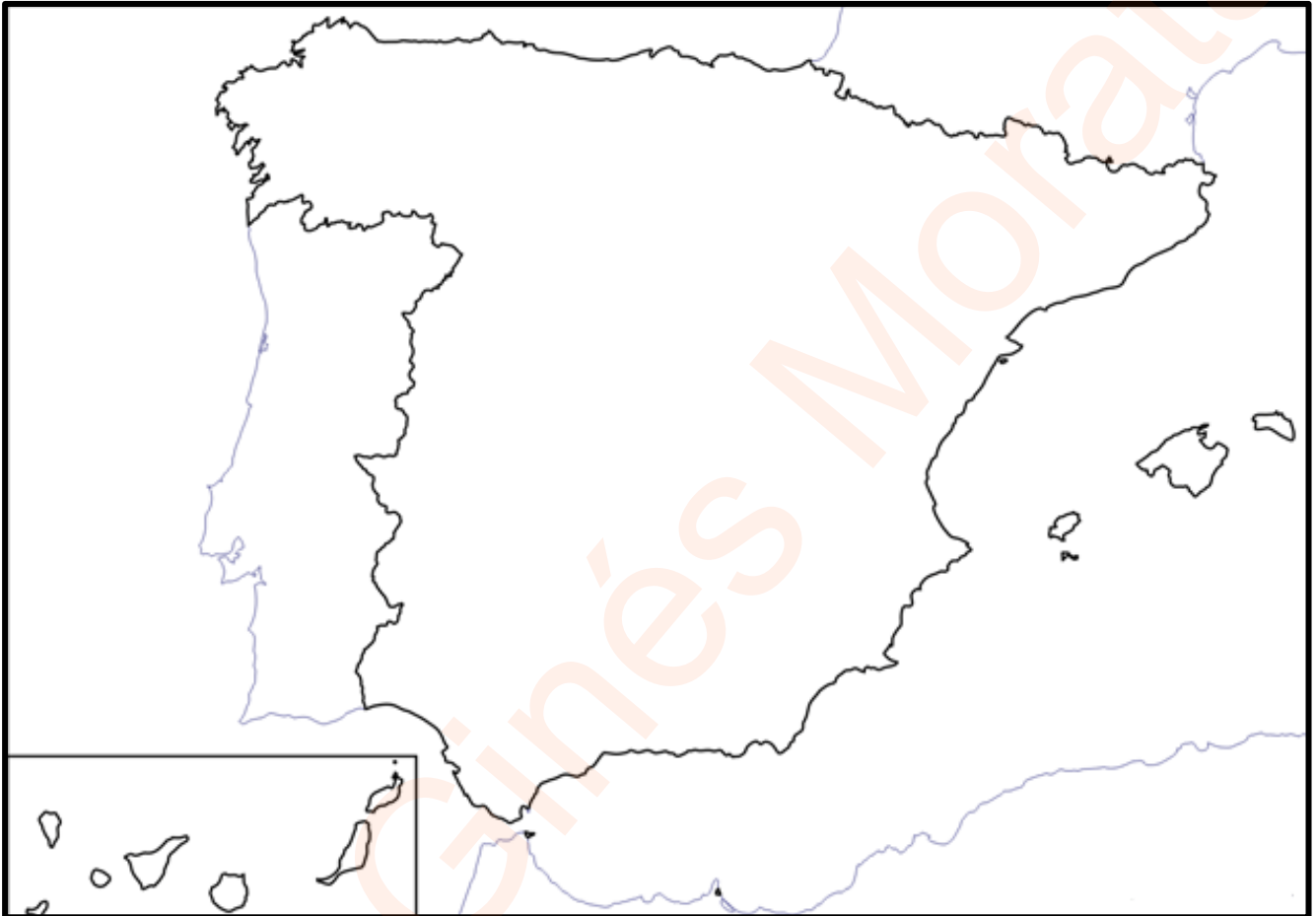

This is the map of the province of Almeria and its comarcas. The capital of the province is Almeria city →

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ACTIVITIES

1.- Colour the Spanish territory <u>orange</u>, Europe <u>yellow</u> and Africa <u>green</u>. Then, write the name of the seas and oceans.

2.- Complete the sentences.

a. There are _____ Autonomous Communities in Spain.

b. There are _____ Autonomous Communities on the Iberian Peninsula.

c. Two Autonomous Communities are insular; the _____ _____ and the _____ _____.

d. The two Autonomous _____ of Ceuta and _____ are on the north coast of Africa

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3.- Look at the map. Write the numbers next to the Autonomous Communities and Cities.

☐ Andalusia

☐ Aragon

☐ Cantabria

☐ Catalonia

☐ Ceuta

☐ Melilla

☐ Castile - Leon   ☐ Basque Country

☐ Balearic Islands   ☐ Castile – La Mancha   ☐ Rioja

☐ Canary Islands   ☐ Extremadura   ☐ Galicia

☐ Community of Madrid   ☐ Principality of Asturias

☐ Region of Murcia   ☐ Community of Valencia

☐ Chatered Community of Navarra

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4.- Use the words to complete the text.

| council | coummunications | Municipality | jobs | comarcas | services |

A _____ consists of one or more cities, towns or villages governed by a local _____. Municipalities in the same region are grouped into _____. The municipalities in a *comarca* share similar characteristics, for example, landscapes and traditions. Inhabitants share similar _____, for example, crop farming or tourism. All the inhabitants of a *comarca* share basic _____, such as hospitals and schools. These services are usually found in the town with the best means of transport and _____.

5.- Complete your bilingual dictionary.

WHERE WE LIVE - *Administrative Division*	
- Country: _____	- Autonomous Community: _____
- Border: _____	- Insular Autonomous Community: _____
- The largest: _____	- Autonomous city: _____
- The smallest: _____	- Municipality: _____
- Government: _____	- Local council: _____
- Province: _____	- Town hall: _____
- Population: _____	- Capital city: _____
- Festival: _____	- Environmental services: _____
- Mayor: _____	- Landscape: _____
- Councilor: _____	- Inhabitant: _____
- Share: _____	- Iberian Peninsula: _____
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-	-