8 Landscapes — Andalucía

Andalucía is in the south of the Iberian Peninsula and has many different **landscapes**. It is divided into three geographical regions. In the north, the Sierra Morena mountain range, is one region. The second region is the Betic **mountain range**. In the third region we have the **valleys** and the **river** Guadalquivir. The south of Andalucía is on the Atlantic and the Mediterranean **coasts**. Andalucía has the only **desert** in Europe in Almeria.

The Mulhacen

The Mountains

The Sierra Morena mountain range in the north separates Andalucia from the **plains** of Extremadura and Castilla-La Mancha. These plains are called the Meseta Central. The mountains here are not very high – the biggest is La Bañuela at 1.323m. The Betic mountain range contains the Penibetic **Cordillera**. The Sierra Nevada mountains are part of the Penibetic Cordillera and have the highest mountain in the Iberian Peninsula.

Read and answer the questions.

a What are the two main mountain ranges in Andalucía called?

_____

b Where is the highest mountain?

_____

DID YOU KNOW?

The highest mountain in the Iberian Peninsula is in Andalucía. It is the Mulhacén with a summit at 3.478m.

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The Rivers

Andalucía has **rivers** that **flow** into the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The Guadiana, Guadalquivir, Barbate, Guadalete and Odiel-Tinto flow into the Atlantic. The Guadiaro, Guadalhorce, Guadalmedina , Guadalfeo, Andarax and Almanzora flow into the Mediterranean. The longest river is the Guadalquivir – it's 657km long! The Atlantic rivers flow through **flat valleys**. Their **mouths** or **estuaries** form **wetlands**. The wetlands of Doñana are part of a famous natural park.

The Coast

There are two **coasts** in Andalucía, the Atlantic coast and the Mediterranean coast. The Atlantic coast has lots of **beaches**. The Mediterranean has beaches but also has a lot of **cliffs**. There are lots of tourist resorts in Andalucía. Some of the famous ones are Marbella, Torremolinos, Fuengirola and El Puerto de Santamaría.

Read and answer the questions.

a Which is the most important river in Andalucía?

_____

b Are the cliffs on the Atlantic or the Mediterranean coast?

_____

c Where is there a natural park?

_____

Doñana

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Read and answer the questions.

a What are the two main mountain ranges called?

The Sierra Morena and the Sierra Betica (Betic mountain range)

b Where is the highest mountain?

The highest mountain is in the Betic mountain range

Read and answer the questions.

a Which is the most important river in Andalucía?

The Guadalquivir

b Are the cliffs on the Atlantic or the Mediterranean coast?

They are on the Mediterranean coast

c Where is there a natural park?

The natural park is in Doñana

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