

## **Module 7(b)**

# **Provinces of Spain Research Project**

## **Instructional Guide**

### **Introduction**

Games are a great way to introduce a topic, enliven a class, and promote interaction. One way to present geography is by the use of a jigsaw puzzle. The following are instructions on how to create multiple puzzles to introduce a class to the study of the provinces of Spain.

### **Puzzle Preparation**

- Use a blank map of Spain that provides delineations of the provinces. Make a transparency of the map using transparencies for a copier.
- Purchase enough 18' x 24' poster boards in order to divide a class into groups of three to five students. It is recommended that they be of different colors in order to avoid mixing up the puzzles later.
- Using *PowerPoint*, create circles with the names of the capitals of each province. Copy these on heavy card stock and carefully cut out. Prepare one set per puzzle.
- Using the transparency and an overhead projector, reflect the transparency on the poster board. Make the map as large as the poster board will permit. With a black felt-tip marker (Sharpie, Permanent) trace the outlines of the country and the provinces.
- With sharp scissors, carefully cut out the shapes of the provinces. The more accurately they are traced and cut, the easier the activity is.
- Place the cut-out puzzle and circles in a large manila envelope.
- Divide the students into groups. Give each group of students an envelope with the materials, and instruct them to put the puzzle together as quickly as possible.
- After the first group has finished, stop the activity, and have the students consult a map of Spain. They should check for accuracy.
- Still consulting the map, the students should now take the circles with the capitals of each province and correctly place them in the appropriate province.
- Before putting the materials away, have the students select a province that they would like to study in detail.

### **Information to Be Researched Per Province**

Selecting and limiting the number of topics helps the students to focus on the most important material; it gives cohesion to the presentation, and it helps all of the students to remember a common and limited amount of information.

#### **Name of the Province**

Does it have a particular meaning?

What is the origin? (i.e., Roman, Arabic, Visigothic, Hebrew)

#### **Geography**

Where is the province located?

Does it have any special features that distinguish it from the other provinces?

Where are the main bodies of water or mountains found?

What is the climate like during the year?

What are some of the natural resources?

#### **Historical Importance**

Limit your information to the five most important facts that you find in your research.

#### **Cities and Sites**

Limit your research to the capital city and no more than two of the most important tourist sites. Others may be named and shown in your presentation, but only two should be described in detail.

#### **Particular Traditions or Celebrations**

Limit your description to one important tradition.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

In order to obtain the maximum number of points per section, the student must . . .

- Include all of the specified information.
- Present originally written material rather than copied material from the website.
- Use correct grammatical structure in written and oral presentation.
- Demonstrate creativity in use of the technology.