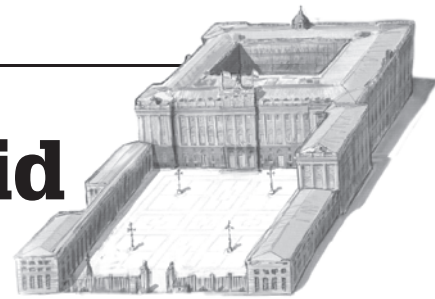


A day out in Madrid

Teachers' notes



- Use a map of Europe to establish Madrid's position in relation to the United Kingdom. What direction would flights travel in to reach the Spanish capital? Investigate ways of reaching Madrid using a sea crossing. After crossing the English Channel, get the children to plan a car journey down through France and Spain until they reach Madrid. Or plot the sea crossing from Portsmouth to either Santander or Bilbao and then by road to Madrid.

- Madrid is one of the few capital cities positioned almost in the centre of its country. Using Madrid as the focal point and the map of Spain on **Photocopiable 2**, 'Right direction', ask the children to match each place to a point on the compass (from the Spanish capital), moving in a clockwise direction. For example, Santander to the north, and so on.

- Talk about when it is best to visit Madrid. Its climate has been described as 'nine months of winter (*invierno*) and three months of hell (*infierno*)'. Provide the children with the climate information on **Photocopiable 3**, 'Weather forecast', and ask them if they feel the description is justified. Encourage them to make their own decision about when to visit. Based on the figures provided, they should give as many reasons as possible for their choice.

- Using the street map on the poster and a map showing road names, plan a walk around the 'centro' area of Madrid taking in tourist attractions like the Catedral de la Almudena, Palacio Real, Teatro Real and the Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales.

Ask the children to plan the shortest and most convenient route, naming some of the main roads they would use and when important turns would be made to the right or left.

- The word 'real' means royal in Spanish. Children may be familiar with the football team Real Madrid. The Palacio Real (Royal Palace), which is used for official ceremonies, has its own pharmacy and armoury. Ask the children to find out what these words mean and to explain why they think they were needed in the palace. The Palacio Real also contains paintings by the Spanish artist, Goya. Look at some examples of his work and compare his style with another famous Spanish artist, Pablo Picasso.

- Locate Plaza Mayor and Plaza de Oriente on the map. Discuss why these squares are popular with tourists and locals today and what they might have been used for in the past. (The Plaza Mayor, for example, although popular for picnics now, has been a market, an open air theatre, a bullring and a place of execution.

- Madrid is famous for its painted enamel street signs. Let the children choose the name of one of the squares above or a street name like *Calle Mayor* or *Calle del Arenal* and make a clay tile with the name written on it. This can later be painted, glazed and fired in the kiln.

- The information given on **Photocopiable 4**, 'Meeting place', provides children with the opportunity to carry out basic conversation in Spanish. Ways of meeting and greeting are given, as well as numbers up to ten.

