

SECTION
2

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

After the division and fall of the Roman Empire, Greece and Italy developed into different nations.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Like Greece and Italy, Spain and Portugal were ruled by foreigners. After gaining independence, both developed overseas empires to fuel their economies.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

Moors the group of Muslims from North Africa who conquered Spain in the eighth century

Reconquista the successful effort by the Spanish to drive the Moors out of Spain

Christopher Columbus Italian navigator and explorer who sailed for Spain and explored the Caribbean and the coast of Central and South America

Basque (bask) an ethnic group living in the western Pyrenees and along the Bay of Biscay in Spain and France; also the name of their language

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

separatist a person who wants a region to break away from the nation it is a part of



Visual Vocabulary Christopher Columbus reaches the New World.

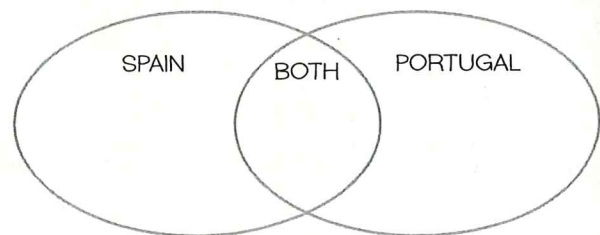
▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the Venn diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the diagram to help you compare and contrast Spain and Portugal.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R9

COMPARE AND CONTRAST



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

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Spain and Portugal

Connecting to Your World

Without ever visiting Spain, most Americans know more about Spanish culture than they think. For over 300 years, Spain had an empire in what is today Mexico and the southwestern United States. In places where Spain once ruled, the impact of Spanish culture is easy to see. Many southwestern cities have Spanish names and buildings influenced by Spanish architecture. Throughout the United States, many people speak Spanish and eat Spanish food. Spanish culture itself was the product of influences from many other cultures.



Spanish Food

Spanish food—including small appetizers called *tapas*, such as this squid dish—has become popular in the United States.

Spain

KEY QUESTION What regional differences affect Spain's culture?

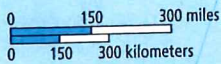
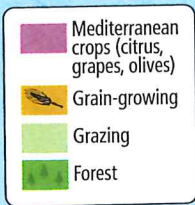
For centuries, Spain was part of the Roman Empire. When the empire fell, a Germanic tribe conquered the peninsula and established a Christian kingdom. It lasted until the early A.D. 700s, when the **Moors**, Muslim peoples from North Africa, took control of southern Spain. Spain's Moorish rulers brought a more advanced culture to medieval Europe. Muslim scholars made new discoveries in medicine, mathematics, and other fields. They remained there for almost eight centuries, when groups of Christians still living in northern Spain succeeded in driving them out of the region.

The Alhambra

Located in Granada, Spain, the Alhambra was a Moorish palace and fortress.



Iberian Peninsula Land Use c. 1500



CONNECT Geography & History

Human-Environment Interaction What parts of Spain could be used to grow crops?

History In the 1000s, Christians in northern Spain began the **Reconquista**, the effort to drive the Moors out of Spain. It lasted until the 1400s, when King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella conquered the last Muslim kingdom. Once unified under its Catholic monarchs, Spain began to look beyond its territory, which was poor in resources and farmland. Spain turned to the sea, and sponsored **Christopher Columbus's** first voyage to the Americas in 1492. By the 1500s, Spain's conquests in the Americas had made it rich. Its colonies provided Spain with resources it

lacked. For a time, Spain was the world's greatest power. By the 1800s, Spain's power had faded, and its colonies declared independence.

Spain remained neutral during World War I. In the 1930s, the Spanish fought a civil war over whether the country should be a monarchy or a republic. During the struggle, Francisco Franco of Spain's fascist party won control of the government. He ruled as a dictator for almost 40 years.

Culture The Spanish share many cultural traits. Until a few decades ago, however, most people identified more with the region they lived in than the country. Spain has many regional languages, such as Catalan and Valencian, which emphasize cultural differences. The Roman Catholic Church was the biggest common tie. Almost all Spaniards are Catholic.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Spain's economy developed quickly and changed the way many people lived. Many people left farms to take manufacturing jobs in cities. Today, most of Spain's people live in cities or towns. Their homes are apartments rather than houses. Even in rural areas, better farming methods and labor-saving machinery have made life easier.

Flamenco Flamenco, a traditional Spanish dance, consists of men and women in elaborate costumes performing intricate steps and gestures. **How do dances like the flamenco preserve Spanish culture?**



The Running of the Bulls Every July, tourists come to Pamplona in northern Spain for the Fiesta de San Fermín. The main attraction is the daily stampede of a half-dozen bulls through the city's narrow streets to the bullfighting ring. Runners sprint ahead, trying to avoid getting slashed by sharp horns. According to legend, the run may have started in the 1200s as a way to move the bulls through town to be sold at market.

CRITICAL THINKING

Make Inferences Why might some people object to the Running of the Bulls?



While the shift to an urban society threatened some Spanish traditions, many Spaniards still enjoy taking part in the old customs. *Paella* (pah•AY•yah), a flavorful dish of seafood, meat, and vegetables mixed with yellow rice, remains a popular choice. Spaniards like soccer, but bullfighting remains Spain's most famous traditional sport. Audiences also enjoy watching Spanish dances, such as the flamenco.

Government and Economics After Franco's death in 1975, Spain became a parliamentary monarchy. This change allowed the people to have a voice in their government. King Juan Carlos I has ruled the country alongside elected officials since the monarchy was formed.

Today, Spain's leaders face demands by some in the **Basque** (bask) ethnic group to create a separate Basque nation. The Basque people live in the Pyrenees Mountains. They have lived in Spain longer than any other group and have kept a distinct language and customs. Some Basque **separatist** groups have tried violence to further their cause.

For centuries, Spain's economy depended heavily on fishing and farming. It lagged behind most of Western Europe in industrial growth. After World War II, Spain's economy grew more rapidly. Factories began turning out cars and steel, and tourism increased. In the 1980s, Spain joined the EU. Membership boosted the economy by promoting trade and by making financial aid from the EU available.

EVALUATE Explain some of the regional differences that exist within Spanish culture.



Portugal

KEY QUESTION How did Portugal's location contribute to its role as a leader in the Age of Exploration?

Portugal shares the Iberian Peninsula with Spain, but occupies a much smaller area. It is located on Europe's western coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. Despite its small size, its location and keen interest in exploration helped it build an empire.



HISTORY MAKERS

Prince Henry 1349–1460

Historians call Prince Henry "the Navigator" because he made major contributions to maritime exploration. He wasn't a sailor, and he rarely traveled far from his homeland of Portugal. During his lifetime, he sponsored more than 50 voyages of exploration. His dedication to exploration eventually led Portugal to discover valuable trade routes to Asia. These voyages greatly advanced European knowledge of the world. Prince Henry's efforts helped make Portugal a major sea power and put the nation on the path to empire.



ONLINE BIOGRAPHY

For more on the life of Prince Henry, go to the Research & Writing Center @[ClassZone.com](https://www.classzone.com)

History For many centuries, the region that is now Portugal was, like Spain, under Muslim rule. In 1143, Portugal became an independent kingdom. Because of its coastal location, the Portuguese became skilled sailors, navigators, and shipbuilders. In the 1400s and 1500s, Portugal played a key role in Europe's Age of Exploration. Prince Henry of Portugal sponsored many expeditions. Portuguese explorers helped their country build an empire.

For a time, overseas colonies brought prosperity. Portugal profited from the spice trade with Asia and the gold, diamonds, and other resources taken from its African and South American colonies. By the 1800s, however, Portugal had lost its position as a world power to larger European nations. In 1822, Brazil, Portugal's richest colony, declared independence.

In 1908, revolutionaries overthrew Portugal's king and made the country a republic, but political unrest continued. In 1926, military leaders seized control. Dictators ruled until 1976, when Portugal became a parliamentary democracy in a peaceful revolution.

Culture The official language of Portugal is Portuguese. Like Spanish, Portuguese is a Romance language. Most Portuguese are Roman Catholics. Especially in rural areas, Catholic priests play a key role in political and social life. Traditional Catholic celebrations are important.

Unlike much of Western Europe, Portugal today is still a largely rural country with many small farming and fishing villages. Just under half of its citizens live in rural areas. Although Portugal remains a rural country, its cities are growing. Each year, many people move from the countryside in search of jobs in the cities.

One-third of the population lives in or near its two largest cities, Lisbon and Porto. Lisbon, in southern Portugal, is the nation's capital and largest city. It is a center of tourism and commerce. Porto is a major seaport and industrial center.

Government and Economics Since 1976, Portugal has been a parliamentary democracy. Citizens elect members of parliament and the president. Candidates from many political parties compete for seats in its parliament.

Portugal's colonies once made it the richest nation in Europe. Today, it is one of the poorest, with the lowest per capita GDP in Western Europe. For decades, leaders failed to strengthen its economy and neglected its roads, ports, and factories. Lack of energy resources and a poor educational system also slowed its growth. Since joining the EU in 1986, however, Portugal has worked hard to improve its economy. It has diversified and expanded the role of service industries. Membership in the EU has helped increase trade. Today, Portugal continues its efforts to develop its economy.



Albufeira, Portugal Two fishermen tend to their nets in this fishing village. Fishing remains an important part of the Portuguese economy. **What geographic trait makes Portugal a major fishing nation?**

ANALYZE EFFECTS Explain how Portugal's location contributed to its role as a leader in the Age of Exploration.



ONLINE QUIZ

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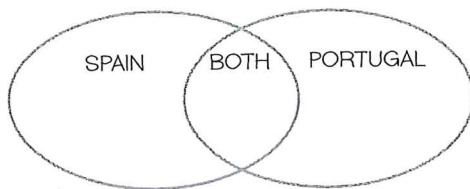
Section 2 Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

- 1. Explain the importance of**
 - Moors
 - Reconquista
 - Christopher Columbus
 - Basque

USE YOUR READING NOTES

- 2. Compare and Contrast** Use your completed diagram to answer the following question:
How is Spain's government different from Portugal's government?



KEY IDEAS

- 3.** What major event in Spain's history occurred in 1492?
- 4.** What role did Portugal play in the Age of Exploration?
- 5.** In what ways are the cultures and histories of Spain and Portugal similar?

CRITICAL THINKING

- 6. Analyze Causes** What are some reasons for Portugal's slow economic growth?
- 7. Summarize** How has EU membership changed Spain's economy?
- 8. CONNECT to Today** How has increased urbanization affected the societies of Spain and Portugal?
- 9. WRITING Plan an Itinerary** Plan a cultural and historical tour of a city in Spain. Choose two places that show its diverse religious and ethnic heritage. Tell why you have chosen each place and explain its importance to the history of the city.