

FLAMENCO VIVO

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Performance Guide

The dance and music seen in our performance is the **Spanish art form** called **Flamenco**. Flamenco expresses many of our everyday feelings—happiness, loneliness, and anger, to name a few.

In the show you will hear an explosion of clicking castanets, strumming guitars, and dancers making rhythms with their hands and feet. You will see powerful artists encouraging each other on stage while shouting **Ole, Toma,** & **Eso es!**

You are part of the show!

Flamenco dancers can feel when you are paying attention and enjoying the show. When you see them close with a strong pose, yell **OLE** to show your support! This is a Spanish way of telling the performers you like what you see. It's like saying "Yay!" in English. You are invited to shout "Olé!" when you clap at the end of each dance.

What is Flamenco?

Flamenco is an art form made of song, music, and dance from the south of Spain, **Andalucía**. Many musical, cultural, and historical influences have shaped this art form into what it is today. In **Andalucía**, many people suffered terrible poverty, discrimination, and hardship. The response to these forces can be seen in flamenco's dynamic dancing, soulful singing, and complex music. At its core, flamenco is a profound expression of the triumphs and hardships of life. Flamenco has universal appeal, because it speaks of the feelings we all experience as humans no matter where we live.

CULTURAL INFLUENCES

Al Andalus

In 711 A.D., Muslims from North Africa and the Middle East invaded the Iberian Peninsula. They called that region "Al Andalus" and ruled there for about 700 years. This time is known as "La Convivencia," because Jews, Christians, and Muslims lived together. Through their sharing of cultures, they developed a common musical style that greatly influenced the folk music of Spain that later played an important role in the development of flamenco as we know it today.

the Americas

Music from Latin America helped create many types of flamenco song (known as *de ida y vuelta*) and continue to today. This includes music from Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico, as well as Argentinian tango and folk music. A great example of this ongoing exchange is how flamenco started using the Peruvian "cajón" (or box instrument) in the 1970's.

Gitano

The *Gitanos* (also called Roma) were a travelling people who arrived in Spain during the late 1400's. They suffered discrimination throughout history. *Gitanos* have greatly contributed to creating flamenco and keeping its traditions and culture alive.

Spain

Spanish folk and popular music and dances, as well as Christian music, are important to the flamenco art form.

Africa

In addition to early North African influences, many rhythms and dances were brought to Spain by enslaved African people between the 15th and 18th Centuries. African diaspora throughout the Americas and the Caribbean also contributed to the music and dance of flamenco.

What is Culture?

Culture is the arts, customs, civilization, and achievements of a particular people.



How does flamenco connect to your life?

What cultures are in your family? Your neighborhood? What types of music and dance you enjoy? Write a paragraph connecting the music and dance cultures in your life to flamenco. What similarities are there? What differences?

elements of flamenco



Cante

(Song)

The song developed out of a need that flamenco singers had to express pain, joy, and their life in all its colors. The singers show their deepest emotions through song. The *letras* (song verses) are either made up by the singer on the spot or drawn from traditional songs, often learned from family members and *maestros* (teachers). Each singer has their own voice and style.



Baile

(Dance)

As the musicians set the mood, the dancer interprets and embodies the emotions of the music. Dancers have a plan of what they want to dance but often invent steps in the moment. Musicians and dancers must communicate and take turns following each other's lead. Dancers stand tall, showing strength, elegance, and *orgullo* (pride). Dancers use their arms, pound their feet, and clap their hands to make different rhythms.



Guitarra

(Guitar)

When playing for *cante* & *baile*, the guitarist is the link between the dancer and the singer, the thread that weaves the three elements together. The guitarist must have technical virtuosity as well as an ability to respond spontaneously to the singer and dancer. The guitarist mirrors the dancers speed, mood, and intensity. If the dancer wants to let the musicians know that they should sing a verse or play a guitar section, they give the guitarist a special flamenco signal known as a *llamada* (a call). The guitarist must also follow the *letras* (verses), musical tones, and moods of the singer.

FLAMENCO VOCABULARY



Compás

The *compás* is the rhythm on which flamenco dance & music is based. There are different rhythms with 4, 6, or 12 beat measures.



Palo

Palos refer to the different types of flamenco songs. They can have different rhythms, tempos, and moods. Dancers can create a choreography to any *palo* they choose depending on how they are feeling.



Jaleo

Jaleos are shouts of encouragement from the artists on stage as well as people in the audience. *Ole* is a famous *jaleo* that comes from the Arabic word Allah, meaning God.



Palmas

Palmas refer to the complex hand-clapping that accompanies the rhythm for flamenco dancers, singers, and guitarists. Sordas are soft palmas, and abiertas are palmas with a louder sound.

Try Palmas!

High-pitched claps or claras (*abiertas*) are done with the hands open, striking the fingers of one hand against the palm of the other. Muted claps, or *sordas* are done by cupping the hands and striking palm against palm. Look at the palmas photos. Try clapping 4 counts of *sordas* together as a class. Try two counts of 4, then four counts of 4. Can you stay together? Next, try *claras*!



FLAMENCO VOCABULARY



Llamada

Dancers use *llamadas* to call for a new song verse or guitar section, or to accompany a change or ending in the music.



Escobilla

The dancer's footwork section is called an *escobilla*. The dancer strikes different parts of the foot to create rhythmic patterns: *planta* (ball of the foot), *golpe* (whole foot), *tacón* (heel), & *punta* (toe).



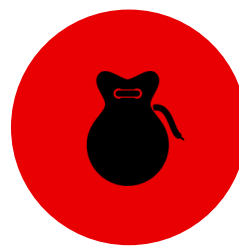
Pitos

Finger snaps are often used to accompany flamenco rhythms.



Braceo

From the word *brazo* that means arm, *braceo* refers to the arm movements in flamenco, which can be sharp or fluid.



Castañuelas

Castañuelas are instruments made of two chestnut-shaped pieces of wood or other materials tied together with a cord. *Castañuelas* are held in each hand and struck together to create rhythmic music.

Costumes

CHAQUETA
JACKET

FLOR
FLOWER, OFTEN WORN IN THE HAIR



VESTIDO

DRESS,
FLAMENCO
DRESSES
USUALLY HAVE
VOLANTES
(RUFFLES)



SHOES IN FLAMENCO HAVE HUNDREDS OF TINY NAILS
THAT COVER THE BOTTOM OF THE HEEL AND TOE AREAS.

ZAPATOS



Costumes



Palos

A PALO IS A MUSIC STYLE IDENTIFIED BY ITS RHYTHMIC PATTERN, MELODY, AND LYRICS.



ALEGRÍAS

Happy and playful mood often talking about the beach and ocean. It has a 12 beat rhythmic cycle and fast speed.

TANGOS

Medium speed in 4/4 time influenced by African and Caribbean rhythms. *Tangos* can be playful and are sometimes improvised.

RUMBAS

Happy and lively mood with medium to fast speed, usually danced at parties and celebrations. Rhythms in 4/4 time come from the Caribbean.

BULERÍAS

A highly improvisational style, *bulerías* have a fast speed and 12 or 6 count rhythmic structure. They are often performed in social settings such as parties, weddings, and festivals.

FANDANGOS

Fandangos de Huelva is a folk dance/music from Huelva, Spain, that has been adapted for flamenco. It has a 6 beat rhythmic cycle.

SEVILLANAS

Fun and joyful folk dance from Sevilla. This dance is done in couples often in the spring fair of Sevilla, known as *la Feria de Abril*.

Flamenco Poses

All of the pictures in this guide show flamenco poses. Choose one of the pictures and make the pose. Try to get the strong posture, arms, hands, and feet just right. See if your classmates can guess which picture you chose!





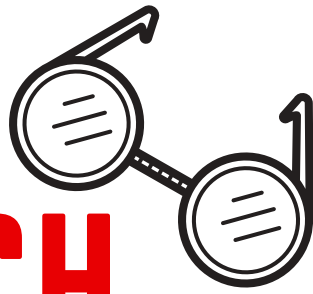
FLAMENCO GUITAR

Guitarra means “guitar” in Spanish. The flamenco guitar has nylon strings that are played without a pick. The guitarist uses their left hand to make chords that match the singer's tone while their right hand strums in time to the dancer's zapateado. In doing this the guitarist connects the singer and dancer through music.

Practice Your Skills!

Rasgueado is a technique the guitarist uses to play without a pick. To try it, pretend your knee is the guitar. Use your right hand to strum up with your thumb, next strum down with your fingers, and finally, strum down with your thumb. Repeat until you can do it quickly!

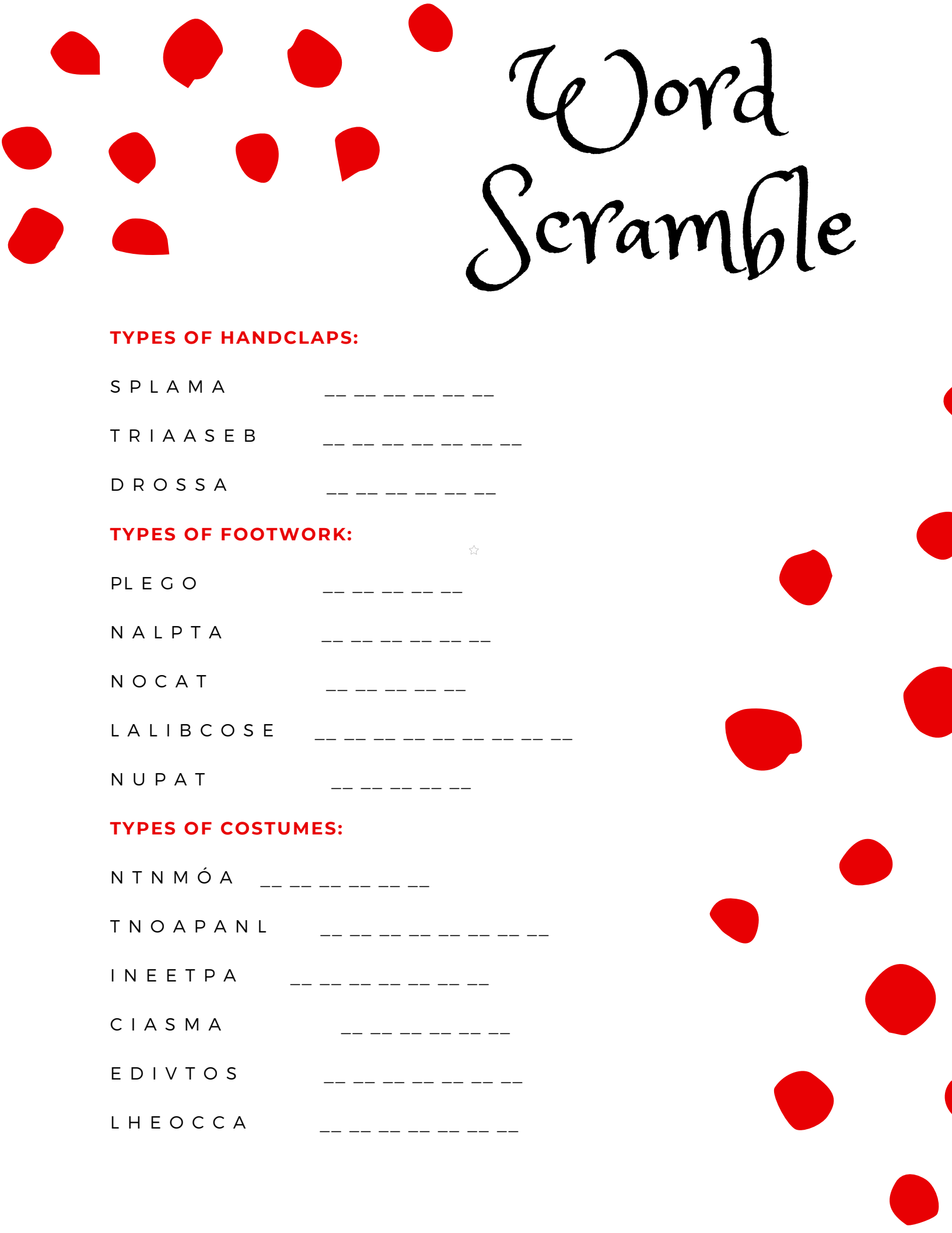
WORD SEARCH



CIRCLE 20 FLAMENCO WORDS

castanets, cante, sevillanas, peineta, falda, bata de cola, guitar, pitos, escobilla,
botas, gitanos, ole, braceo, alegrías, camisa, compás, palma, chaqueta, rumba pañuelo

O	R	E	C	N	I	P	B	C	E	L	M	I
C	O	R	A	T	I	U	G	I	N	I	L	H
A	R	U	L	T	A	D	O	K	H	C	A	J
E	S	G	O	J	M	B	P	A	F	S	T	R
O	E	S	C	A	S	I	M	A	C	A	E	C
B	V	T	E	W	T	B	R	U	Y	R	S	A
R	I	U	D	Q	E	R	O	S	R	I	C	H
R	L	V	A	U	N	A	Z	T	J	T	O	B
A	L	G	T	K	A	C	Q	U	A	J	B	D
T	A	C	A	N	T	E	J	M	L	S	I	R
E	N	D	B	C	S	O	R	F	O	C	L	A
U	A	O	L	N	A	D	L	N	O	T	L	I
Q	S	T	H	A	C	I	A	H	C	H	A	P
A	T	A	E	P	F	T	A	O	K	O	W	Y
H	B	Z	U	N	I	A	M	R	E	L	H	G
C	C	S	A	G	I	P	L	D	M	E	C	H
E	B	E	T	J	A	E	A	F	U	U	S	C
H	O	V	I	S	W	Y	P	L	Q	N	O	E
C	G	H	S	A	I	R	G	E	L	A	D	A
H	A	T	S	A	C	R	B	I	P	P	U	L



Word Scramble

TYPES OF HANDCLAPS:

S P L A M A _____

T R I A A S E B _____

D R O S S A _____

TYPES OF FOOTWORK:

P L E G O _____ ☆

N A L P T A _____

N O C A T _____

L A L I B C O S E _____

N U P A T _____

TYPES OF COSTUMES:

N T N M Ó A _____

T N O A P A N L _____

I N E E T P A _____

C I A S M A _____

E D I V T O S _____

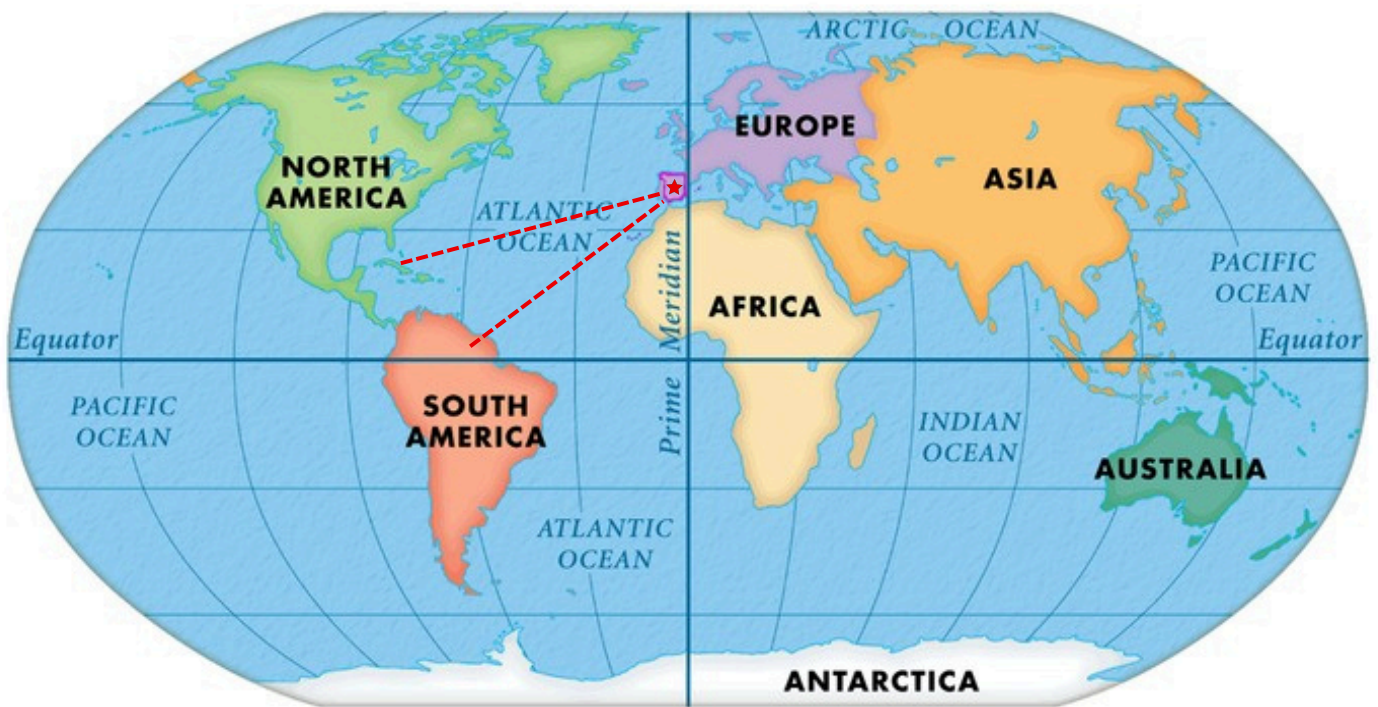
L H E O C C A _____

map of Spain

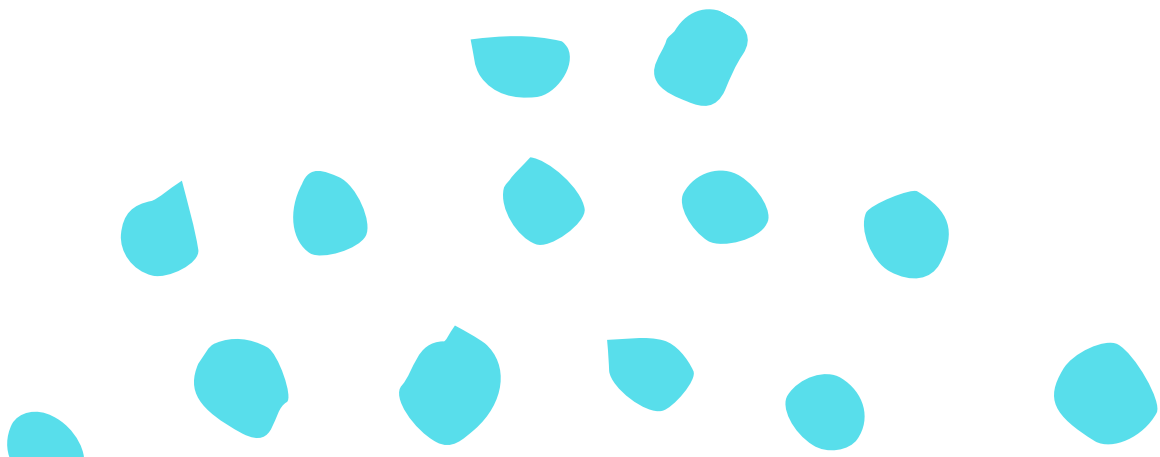
MAPA DE ESPAÑA



World MAP



**DOTTED LINES ON MAP SHOW SPAIN'S CONNECTION TO CUBA AND SOUTH AMERICA.



answers

Word Search

O R E C N I P B C E L M I
C O R A T I U G I N I L H
A R U L T A D O K H C A J
E S G O J M B P A F S T R
O E S C A S I M A C A E C
B V T E W T B R U Y R S A
R I U D Q E R O S R I C H
R L V A U N A Z T J T O B
A L G T K A C Q U A J B D
T A C A N T E J M L S I R
E N D B C S O R F O C L A
U A O L N A D L N O T L I
Q S T H A C I A H C H A P
A T A E P F T A O K O W Y
H B Z U N I A M R E L H G
C C S A G I P L D M E C H
E B E T J A E A F U U S C
H O V I S W Y P L Q Ñ O E
C G H S A I R G E L A D A
H A T S A C R B I P P U L

Word Scramble

TYPES OF HANDCLAPS: PALMAS,
ABIERTAS, SORDAS

TYPES OF FOOTWORK: GOLPE,
PLANTA, TACÓN, ESCOBILLA,
PUNTA

TYPES OF COSTUMES: MANTÓN,
PANTALONES, PEINETA, CAMISA,
VESTIDO CHALECO

