

MADRID

The Central Square: **Plaza Mayor** (town square) was first named **Plaza del Arrabal** (sub-urban square). It has gone through many name changes since, and it has been 'Plaza Mayor' since the end of the Spanish Civil war.



'**Palacio Real de Madrid**', the Royal Palace of Madrid is the largest in Europe with 3,418 rooms! The palace you see today was built in 1755 and replaced the 9th Century **Acázar** of Madrid which was burned down in 1734 .



The official symbol of Madrid is **El Oso y el Madroño**, a bear reaching towards a **Madroño**, a species of the hackberry tree, also known as a strawberry tree. This reflects fertile soil and aristocracy. The statue of this symbol can be found at **Puerta del sol**.



The **Manzananes River** flows through Madrid. It is a small river to flow through a capital city but it provided Important natural defences for the Republicans during the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s.



FUN FACTS

Madrid was not always the Capital. Spain has changed the location of its capital more than twice!

Located 635 meters above sea level, Madrid is Europe's highest capital city. According to Guinness World Records, Madrid has the oldest restaurant in the world, '**Restaurante Casa Botín**' est 1725!

Madrid is a huge arts capital and its '**Golden Triangle**'. It holds important Spanish and European art in 3 major museums, including **El Prado**, the largest European collection of art, as well as **Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza** and **Museo Reina Sofía**

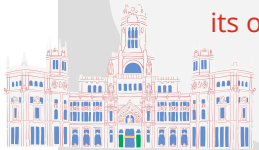
With 3 notable teams homed in the City, **Football** is a central part of the culture in Madrid, especially as 2 of those teams are major in European leagues, **Real Madrid** and **Athético Madrid**. **Real Madrid** was voted the most successful football team of the 20th Century.



People from Madrid are known as **Madrileños** though the individuals who have 3 generations of history in the city are named, **gatos** (cats). This is because of a story during the Christian capture of the city, when a soldier climbed the city walls alike a cat!



Palacio de cibeles, or '**cibeles palace**', used to be home of the cities post office and tele-communication headquarters. Due to its ornate church-like design locals jokingly named it, '**Nuestra Senora de las comunicaciones**' (our lady of communications) at the time of construction in 1907.



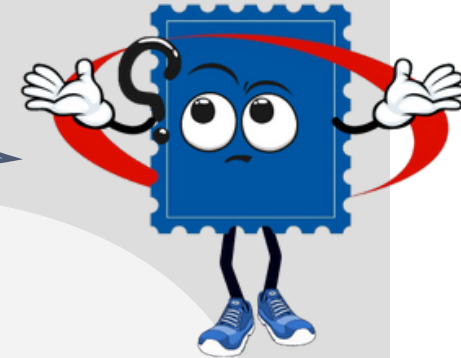
The busiest plaza in the city, '**Puerta del Sol**' or '**Gate of the Sun**' was originally one of the gates to the city. It later became a popular place to receive news and chat. The plaza has many monuments and statues, such as a statue of **Charles III** of Spain known as **el rey alcalde** (King of the Mayor).



QUESTIONS

MADRID

Test your knowledge
and answer these
questions!



1. How long has the Plaza Mayor been known by this name?

2. How many rooms are in the Palacio Real de Madrid?

3. Why do Madrileños call Palacio de Cibeles, 'Nuestra Señora de las comunicaciones'?

4. What was the original purpose of 'Puerta del sol'?

5. What is El Prado and why is it important?

6. Translate, 'El Oso y el Mardrono',

7. How many major football teams are found in Madrid, can you name 1?

8. Why are some Madrileños called 'gatos'?

9. Name an interesting fact about Madrid

CHALLENGE TASK:

Write a short letter to your friend describing why they should visit Madrid.



ANSWERS

MADRID



1. How long has the Plaza Mayor been known by this name?

Since the end of the Spanish Civil War. (1 mark)

2. How many rooms are in the Palacio Real de Madrid?

3,418. (1 mark)

3. Why do Madrileños call Palacio de Cibeles, 'Nuestra Senora de las comunicaciones'?

As it has an overly ornate architectural design compared to the ordinary purpose of the building, the locals are relating it to what would be expected of a church. (2 marks for an answer mentioning ornate design and ordinary purpose, 1 mark for ornate design).

4. What was the original purpose of 'Puerta del sol'?

A Gate to the City. (1 mark)

5. What is El Prado and why is it important?

The largest collection of art in Europe, Part of the Golden Triangle. (1 mark for each, total 2 marks)

6. Translate, 'El Oso y el Mardrono',

The Bear and the Madrono tree, OR, The Bear and the Strawberry tree. (1 mark)

7. How many major football teams are found in Madrid, can you name 1?

3. (1 mark), then name any of the 3, (total 2 marks)

8. Why are some Madrileños called 'gatos'?

When the Christian troops captured the city a soldier climbed the walls like a cat. (2 marks, 1 mark for just the soldier who claimed the wall like a cat)

9. Name an interesting fact about Madrid

(2 marks for any interesting fact about Madrid on the fact sheet)