

**CHAPTER 16**

**Map Activity**

**Spain's Autonomous Communities**

Spain is organized into 17 “autonomous communities,” regions of the country with common historic, cultural, and economic characteristics. These regions are allowed some local control, under the greater authority of the national government. The map below shows Spain and its autonomous regions. Study the map, then answer the questions on the following page.



**Chapter 16, Map Activity, continued**

1. In which autonomous community is the national capital located? Which communities border that region?

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2. Which region of Spain has coastline on both the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean? What is the regional capital?

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3. Where are the two island communities located? What are the approximate latitude and longitude coordinates of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria?

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4. In which communities are the regional capitals of Barcelona, Oviedo, and Mérida located?

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5. **Critical Thinking: Location** Three autonomous communities—Catalonia, the Basque provinces, and Galicia—are designated “historic nationalities” due to their distinct cultural characteristics. What do these regions have in common in terms of location?

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**ACTIVITY** Read about the cultural, political, and economic factors that have given rise to the conflict between the Basque region and the Spanish government. Find a news article about some aspect of that struggle and bring it to class. Discuss the article in light of your research on the Basque problem.