

La Vuelta ciclista a España

Annual cycle race

Background information

This is the annual cycle race around Spain held from the 4th – 26th September and is approximately 3,000km long. The race starts in León and finishes in Madrid. It first took place in 1935 with 50 competitors and is now the third largest cycle race in Europe. It now consists of 20 stages. Competitors are timed in each stage. The fastest rider has the honour of wearing the golden jersey for the following stage. Spanish people love to cheer on the competitors with banners, and many enjoy a picnic on the roadside. The other two famous European cycle races are the *Tour de France* and the *Giro d'Italia*.



Teaching activities

- ◆ Find out which other countries hold cycle races.
- ◆ Use a map of Spain to trace the route which is taken.
- ◆ Use the Internet to find out about a famous Spanish cyclist.
- ◆ Which other sports do they play in Spain?
- ◆ Choose a famous Spanish sports person and write a profile about them.
- ◆ Which attributes does an excellent cyclist need? List and explain them.
- ◆ Make a small banner in Spanish to cheer the competitors on.
- ◆ Research similarities and differences between the *Tour de France* and *La Vuelta*.

Vocabulario

la vuelta ciclista	cycle race
la bici	bike
ganador/ora	winner
Maillot amarillo	Golden jersey
or	
Jersey de Oro	