



Dear Family:

Welcome to *Descubre el español con Santillana!* This year, your child will be learning Spanish by exploring the culture of eight Spanish-speaking countries. Please join us as we travel through each of the countries and communities.

Our first stop is Perú. In this unit, your child will learn vocabulary associated with greetings, goodbyes, family members and friends.

As your child “travels” through Perú, you may help him or her to expand on these concepts by doing the following activities at home.

- Ask your child what he or she is learning to say in Spanish at school. Encourage your child to act as if he or she is your teacher. Ask:
  - ¿*Cómo nos saludamos y despedimos en español?* How do we greet and say goodbye to each other in Spanish?
  - ¿*Quiénes son los miembros de una familia?* What are the names for family members in Spanish?
  - ¿*Cómo se presentan los amigos?* How do friends introduce each other?
  - ¿*Qué palabras nos ayudan a describir a personas y lugares?* What words help us describe people and places?
  
- Encourage your child to talk about Perú. Allow your child to talk to you in English, but encourage him or her to give some of the information in Spanish. Then, use a map of the world to ask your child where Perú is.
  
- Help your child write one or two sentences about himself or herself. Encourage your child to use the lessons learned in class as a guide. Allow your child to bring the sentences back to school to share with the rest of the class.

Sincerely,

Dear Family:

In this unit, your child will explore the country of Argentina. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with their home, neighborhood, clothing, and colors. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about the location of people and places.

As your child “travels” through Argentina, you may help him or her to expand on these concepts by doing the following activities at home.

- Ask your child what he or she is learning to say in Spanish at school. Encourage your child to act as if he or she is your teacher. Ask:
  - ¿*Con quién vives?* Who do you live with?
  - ¿*Dónde compras ropa?* Where do you buy clothes?
  - ¿*Qué otra palabra quiere decir “bonito”?* What other word means “pretty”?
  - ¿*Qué indican las palabras primero, luego, después y por último?* What do the words first, next, then, and at last indicate?
- Encourage your child to talk about Argentina. Allow your child to talk to you in English, but encourage him or her to give some of the information in Spanish. Then, use a map of the world to ask your child where Argentina is.
- Have your child draw a picture of his or her favorite room in the house. Once finished, ask your child to write a few sentences explaining why the room is his or her favorite. Encourage your child to use as many Spanish vocabulary words as possible. Allow your child to bring the picture back to school to share with the rest of the class.

Sincerely,



Dear Family:

In this unit, your child will explore the country of Honduras. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with pastimes, hobbies, and telling time. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about cultural and school activities.

As your child “travels” through Honduras, you may help him or her to expand on these concepts by doing the following activities at home.

- Ask your child what he or she is learning to say in Spanish at school. Encourage your child to act as if he or she is your teacher. Ask:
  - ¿Cómo es un día en la escuela?* What is a day at school like?
  - ¿Cuál es tu primera clase del día?* What is your first class of the day?
  - ¿Cuáles son algunas de las actividades culturales de tu comunidad?* What are some of the cultural activities in your community?
  - ¿A qué hora es tu clase de español?* At what time is your Spanish class?
- Encourage your child to talk about Honduras. Allow your child to talk to you in English, but encourage him or her to give some of the information in Spanish. Then, use a map of the world to ask your child where Honduras is.
- Have your child imagine that a friend from Honduras is coming to visit. Ask your child to write down a list of all the things he or she would want to do with his or her new friend. Encourage your child to use as much Spanish as possible. Allow your child to bring the list back to school to share with the rest of the class.

Sincerely,



Dear Family:

In this unit, your child will explore the country of Colombia. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with pets, zoo animals, and farm animals. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about an animal's natural habitat.

As your child "travels" through Colombia, you may help him or her to expand on these concepts by doing the following activities at home.

- Ask your child what he or she is learning to say in Spanish at school. Encourage your child to act as if he or she is your teacher. Ask:
  - ¿Qué ves en el zoológico?* What do you see at the zoo?
  - ¿Cuáles son las partes de la cigüeña?* What are the parts of a stork?
  - ¿Quién cuida y alimenta a los animales de la granja?*  
Who takes care of and feeds the animals?
  - ¿Cuáles son algunos de los animales de la selva colombiana?*  
What are some of the animals of the Colombian rainforest?
  
- Encourage your child to talk about Colombia. Allow your child to talk to you in English, but encourage him or her to give some of the information in Spanish. Then, use a map of the world to ask your child where Colombia is.
  
- Ask your child to imagine he or she could have a conversation with any animal he or she chooses. Then, have your child write down a couple of questions to ask the animal along with the answers your child imagines would follow. Encourage him or her to use as much Spanish as possible. Allow your child to bring the questions and answers back to school to share with the rest of the class.

Sincerely,



Dear Family:

In this unit, your child will explore the country of the Dominican Republic. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with food, body parts, and healthy habits. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about the festive culture of the Dominican Republic.

As your child “travels” through the Dominican Republic, you may help him or her to expand on these concepts by doing the following activities at home.

- Ask your child what he or she is learning to say in Spanish at school. Encourage your child to act as if he or she is your teacher. Ask:  
*¿Cómo hablamos de los postres y los sabores?*  
How do we talk about desserts and flavors?  
*¿Qué crees que es más saludable, un refresco o un jugo natural? ¿Por qué?*  
What do you think is healthier, a soda or a natural juice? Why?  
*¿Cómo cuidas tu cuerpo?* How do you take care of your body?  
*¿Cómo describimos los dolores y las partes del cuerpo que duelen?*  
How do we describe pains and the parts of the body that hurt?
- Encourage your child to talk about the Dominican Republic. Allow your child to talk to you in English, but encourage him or her to give some of the information in Spanish. Then, use a map of the world to ask your child where the Dominican Republic is.
- Have your child imagine he or she is a doctor and you are the patient. Ask your child what you need to do to be healthy. Then, have your child write suggestions on living a healthier lifestyle. Encourage your child to use as much Spanish as possible. Allow your child to bring the suggestions back to school to share with the rest of the class.

Sincerely,





Dear Family:

In this unit, your child will explore the country of Spain. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with the seasons, the months of the year, the weather, and geography. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about transportation.

As your child “travels” through Spain, you may help him or her to expand on these concepts by doing the following activities at home.

- Ask your child what he or she is learning to say in Spanish at school. Encourage your child to act as if he or she is your teacher. Ask:  
*¿Cuáles son los meses del año y las diferentes estaciones?* What are the months of the year and the different seasons?  
*¿Cuántos días tiene diciembre?* How many days does December have?  
*¿Cómo quieres viajar?* How do you want to travel?  
*¿Qué medio de transporte prefieres para llegar a la escuela?*  
What means of transportation do you prefer to go to school?  
*¿Cómo es tu ciudad?* What is your city like?
- Encourage your child to talk about Spain. Allow your child to talk to you in English, but encourage him or her to give some of the information in Spanish. Then, use a map of the world to ask your child where Spain is.
- Ask your child if it would be more fun to travel by plane or by boat. Then, have your child write a paragraph or two explaining why he or she prefers that mode of transportation. Encourage your child to use as many Spanish vocabulary words as possible. Allow your child to bring the paragraph back to school to share with the rest of the class.

Sincerely,



Dear Family:

In this unit, your child will explore the country of Panamá. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with professions, technologies and inventions. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about the workplace.

As your child “travels” through Panamá, you may help him or her to expand on these concepts by doing the following activities at home.

- Ask your child what he or she is learning to say in Spanish. Encourage your child to act as if he or she is your teacher. Ask:
  - ¿Cuáles son algunas de las profesiones que tienen las personas?  
What are some of the professions people have?
  - ¿Cuáles son algunos de los inventos tecnológicos importantes y cómo funcionan? What are some of the important technological inventions and how do they work?
  - ¿Qué aparatos nos ayudan a comunicarnos? What devices help us communicate?
  - ¿Qué serás en el futuro? What will you be in the future?
- Encourage your child to talk about Panamá. Allow your child to talk to you in English, but encourage him or her to give some of the information in Spanish. Then, use a map of the world to ask your child where Panamá is.
- Have your child imagine he or she is an inventor. What would he or she invent? Ask your child to write a paragraph or two explaining his or her invention using as much Spanish as possible, and have him or her draw a picture to go with it. Allow your child to bring the paragraph and picture back to school to share with the rest of the class.

Sincerely,



Dear Family:

In this unit, your child will explore the country of México. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with Mexican celebrations, traditions, and customs. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when comparing and contrasting how México and the United States celebrate some of their national holidays.

As your child “travels” through México, you may help him or her to expand on these concepts by doing the following activities at home.

- Ask your child what he or she is learning to say in Spanish at school. Encourage your child to act as if he or she is your teacher. Ask:
  - ¿*Cómo se celebran los quince años en México?* How is a fifteenth birthday celebrated in México?
  - ¿*Cuáles son algunas de las celebraciones del país y cómo son?* What are some of the national holidays and what are they like?
  - ¿*De qué país se independizó México?* From which country did México gain its independence?
  - ¿*Dónde crees que se celebrar más el Día de la Madre: en Estados Unidos o en México?* Where do you think Mother’s Day is celebrated more, in the United States or in México?
- Encourage your child to talk about México. Allow your child to talk to you in English, but encourage him or her to give some of the information in Spanish. Then, use a map of the world to ask your child where México is.
- Ask your child to imagine that he or she is helping to plan a huge Independence Day festival in México. Then, have your child write down plans and ideas for the party. Have your child write in as much Spanish as he or she can and to include as many details as possible. Allow your child to bring the party plans back to school to share with the rest of the class.

Thank you for accompanying your child on his or her trip through the Spanish-speaking world. We encourage you and your child to continue to learn about the Spanish language and culture by accessing Web sites containing more information about the countries studied this year. You may also consider enriching your child’s experience by establishing communication with your local Spanish-language community.

Sincerely,