



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 Nicaragua. In this unit, your child will learn vocabulary associated with greetings, goodbyes, and family members. 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 Nicaragua, 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:
 - ¿Es la palabra *señor* distinta de la palabra *don*? Is the word *señor* different from the word *don*?
 - ¿Cómo nos saludamos y presentamos a otros? How do we greet and introduce ourselves to others?
 - ¿Cómo describimos a los miembros de una familia? How do you describe family members?
 - ¿Cuándo escribes una nota de gracias? When do you write a thank-you note?
- Encourage your child to talk about Nicaragua. 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 Nicaragua and its capital city are.
- Ask your child to write a paragraph introducing one member of the family. Encourage your child to be as descriptive as possible using 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 Paraguay. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with the rooms of a house, places in a neighborhood, and shopping for clothes. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about the basic jobs in a community.

As your child “travels” through Paraguay, 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 describes el vecindario y los lugares de la casa? How do you describe the neighborhood and the rooms in a house?
 - ¿Qué color te gusta más para tu ropa? What color do you like best for your clothes?
 - ¿Qué encuentras en un centro comercial? What do you find at a mall?
 - ¿Qué usan para limpiar el piso en Paraguay? What do they use in Paraguay to clean the floor?
- Encourage your child to talk about Paraguay. 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 Paraguay and its capital city are.
- Have your child imagine that he or she is a community worker in Paraguay. Ask your child to write a paragraph describing his or her job and what a day in the life is like at his or her job. 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 México. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with activities done at school and after school. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about a vacation.

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:
 - ¿Qué te gusta estudiar? What do you like to study?*
 - ¿Qué actividades haces después de la escuela? What activities do you have after school?*
 - ¿Qué haces cuando vas de vacaciones? What do you do when you go on vacation?*
 - ¿Cuáles son algunos de los eventos especiales y las actividades de tu comunidad? What are some of the special events and activities in your community?*
- 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 and its capital city are.
- If your child could teach one subject in school, which would it be? Have your child write a paragraph answering this question and explaining why he or she chose that subject. Encourage your child to use as much Spanish 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 Costa Rica. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with pets, farm animals, and zoo animals. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about what their pets look like and what they eat.

As your child “travels” through Costa Rica, 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 animal te gusta? Which animal do you like?*
 - ¿Por qué crees que los guacamayos son mascotas populares en Costa Rica? Why do you think macaws are popular pets in Costa Rica?*
 - ¿Qué animales hay en la granja y cómo los cuidas? What animals are found on a farm and how do you care of them?*
 - ¿Qué es un fábulas? What is a fable?*
 - Como guía en el zoológico, ¿cómo puedes educar al público? As a guide at the zoo, how can you educate the public?*
- Encourage your child to talk about Costa Rica. 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 Costa Rica and its capital city are.
- Have your child write his or her own moral lesson just like one they would read in a fable. Ask your child to draw a picture that illustrates his or her lesson. Allow your child to bring the picture and written down lesson back to school to share with the rest of the class.

Sincerely,



Dear Family:

In this unit, your child will explore the country of Cuba. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with Cuban food, the food pyramid, and the five senses. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about staying healthy.

As your child “travels” through Cuba, 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 comes?* How do you eat?
 - ¿*Cómo es el sabor del los plátanos maduros?* What do ripe plantains taste like?
 - ¿*Qué alimentos debes comer para estar sano?* What foods should you eat to be healthy?
 - ¿*Cuáles son los cinco sentidos y cómo te ayudan?* What are the five senses and how do they help you?
 - ¿*Qué hacen las personas para mantenerse sanas?* What do people do to stay healthy?

- Encourage your child to talk about Cuba. 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 Cuba and its capital city are.

- Have your child write a paragraph describing Cuban food and why everyone would like it. Remind your child that he or she is trying to sell Cuban food to someone who has never tried it before. Encourage your child to be as descriptive as possible using as much Spanish 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 Chile. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with the weather, the seasons, and transportation. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about historical places.

As your child “travels” through Chile, 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 estación prefieres? Por que? What season do you prefer? Why?
¿Cuándo es necesario usar un mapa de un país? When is it necessary to use a map of a country?
¿Hace calor durante el día en un desierto? Is it hot during the day in a desert?
¿Cómo cambia tu vida cuando cambia el tiempo? How does your life change when the weather changes?
¿Cómo son los monumentos históricos que quieres visitar? How would describe the historical monuments that you want to visit?
- Encourage your child to talk about Chile. 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 Chile and its capital city are.
- Help your child make a list of all the places he or she would like to visit. Then, have your child write a sentence or two describing why he or she would like to travel to each place and what time of year would be best to go there. 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 Venezuela. Your child will learn vocabulary associated with professions, technical innovations, and mass production. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about how things work.

As your child “travels” through Venezuela, 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 nombres de algunas profesiones?* What are the names of some professions?
 - ¿Cuáles son los nombres de los aparatos electrónicos y las tecnologías innovadoras?* What are the names for electronic devices and innovative technologies?
 - ¿Qué quieres ser cuando seas grande?* What do you want to be when you are older?
 - ¿Qué es importante en cualquier profesión?* What is important in any profession?
 - ¿Quién usa una nave espacial?* Who uses a spaceship?
- Encourage your child to talk about Venezuela. 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 Venezuela and its capital city are.
- Ask your child to draw a picture of his or her favorite invention. Then, have your child write a few sentences describing the effect the invention has had on the world and explaining his or her choice. Encourage your child to be creative and use as much Spanish as possible. If possible, please write or have your child write all the words you both used during your conversation, and have your child bring the words back to school. Allow your child to bring the drawing 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 Spanish celebrations, historical figures, and important dates. In addition, your child will learn to use Spanish descriptive words when talking about Spanish holidays and customs.

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:
 - ¿Cómo celebras el Año Nuevo con tu familia?* How do you celebrate the New Year with your family?
 - ¿Por qué celebran los españoles el Día de la Hispanidad?* Why do Spaniards celebrate Hispanic Heritage Day?
 - ¿Cuáles son algunas de las costumbres y tradiciones de España?* What are some of the customs and traditions in Spain?
 - ¿Por qué se llama la celebración la Tomatina?* Why is the celebration called la Tomatina?
- 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 and its capital city are.
- In a paragraph, have your child explain why it is important to celebrate one’s heritage. Then, have your child write what he or she plans to do at home to celebrate his or her own heritage. Allow your child to bring the paragraph 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,