

ESPANGLISH

The Spanish Department's Monthly Newsletter



Plaza de la Virgen in Valencia, Spain

¡Bienvenida de vuelta!

Hi everyone and welcome to the Spanish newsletter! We can't believe how long it has been since we were all last in school but we hope these newsletters are providing some free time reading.

This newsletter has been created for all those interested in the culture and languages of Spain and Latin America. Whether you're studying Spanish or not there is bound to be something for you in this newsletter. From cooking to music to stories to events.

If you have any suggestions or responses we would love to hear from you. Anything related to Spanish and the Latin American world is welcome just drop us an email at:

15Manhota295@kechg.org.uk

15Ahmad248@kechg.org.uk

EspanGLISH is a monthly newsletter so there aren't any deadlines. We look forward to hearing from you!

By Ruby Manhota, Maleeha Ahmad, Nicole Soo and Charlotte Green

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Una Guía de Bilbao

Bilbao es la ciudad más grande de la comunidad autónoma del País Vasco, con muchas cosas interesantes para hacer y ver. Con una fuerte presencia de la cultura vasca en la región, es normal escuchar tanto el castellano como el euskera, que es una de las lenguas oficiales del País Vasco, hablado en las calles.

Bilbao is the largest city in the autonomous community of the Basque Country, with many interesting attractions to see and do. With a strong presence of the Basque culture in the region, it is common to hear both Spanish and Euskera, an official language of the Basque country, spoken in the streets.

There is a lot to do in Bilbao, including the Guggenheim museum, with its impressive architecture and “puppy”, a 12-metre tall dog statue made of real flowers, who stands guard outside the museum. Alternatively, the Old Quarter (el Casco Viejo) is home to el Mercado de la Ribera, a 10 000 square metre market, making it the largest covered market in Europe, the Santiago Cathedral, a beautiful cathedral that historically acted as Bilbao’s main parish church, and el Museo Vasco de Bilbao, a museum dedicated to Basque culture.



If you ever get the opportunity to visit, you must try pintxos- small snacks that consist of small slices of bread with different ingredients skewered on top, which take their name from the word “pincho” (spanish for spike) and are often served in bars when going out with friends, similar to tapas. Seafood dishes such as bacalao al pil pil (fried cod with olive oil and garlic) and merluza en salsa verde (hake in a parsley and olive oil sauce) are also very popular.



The Guggenheim museum, Bilbao, Spain

Juan Carlos I

Recientemente, ha habido mucha polémica que rodea la monarquía inglesa. Este artículo trata de Juan Carlos I - el reino de España desde 1975 hasta 2014 que abdicó en favor de su hijo.

Recently, there has been a lot of controversy surrounding the British monarchy. This article is about Juan Carlos I– the King of Spain from 1975 to 2014 who abdicated in favour of his son.



In 1931, the Spanish Monarchy was abolished after the creation of the Spanish Second Republic. However, after the Nationalists won the Spanish Civil War in 1939, Francisco Franco (the ruler of the Spanish dictatorship) decided to restore the monarchy, with a king to be his successor. The heir to the throne would have been Don Juan but, as Franco thought he was too liberal, he was bypassed and his son Juan Carlos was named as heir.

After Franco's death in 1975, Juan Carlos was crowned on 22 November 1975, becoming the first King of Spain since 1931. Despite swearing loyalty to Franco's Movimiento Nacional (Franco's Fascist regime), he dismantled the Francoist regime and began Spain's transition to democracy when he became King. He dismissed Prime Minister Carlos Navarro, who wanted to continue Francoist policies and opposed Spain's democratisation, and also prevented a coup in 1981 which aimed to revert Spain back to a Francoist government. During this period, the support for the Spanish Monarchy rose significantly.

The King's popularity began to diminish during the Financial Crisis (known as the Great Spanish Depression) which began in 2008. The key event which led to his downfall was a Botswana hunting trip that he participated in, in April 2012. At the time, Spain's unemployment was at 23% and 50%



of young workers were unemployed. Juan Carlos faced criticism from the public after they found out about the secret elephant hunting trip that he went on. During the trip, Juan Carlos injured himself and broke his hip. An aircraft was sent to take him home to Spain and the public found out about it.

The trip also angered animal-rights activists globally. Prior to this incident, Juan Carlos had been the honorary president of the Spanish branch of WWF. After a petition called for him to resign from this role, WWF-Spain had a vote and decided with 226 votes to 13 that Juan Carlos must have his honorary presidency removed.

Not only did the trip cause a financial controversy, it also started a public scandal. Juan Carlos had been having an extra-marital affair with a Dutch entrepreneur Corinna zu Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn. She often organised rare animal hunts and was introduced to King Juan Carlos whilst doing so. She had organised the Botswana Hunting trip in 2012 and also accompanied him on it. After the emergency trip back to Spain after Juan Carlos injured himself, their affair was exposed. It was also revealed that in 2012, he had gifted her €65 million. The affair made international headlines and many were furious at King Juan Carlos.

Following all of the recent public criticism, Juan Carlos abdicated on 2 June 2014. His son took the throne and is now the current King of Spain. However in 2020, there were further scandals surrounding the former King and many investigations took place over multiple tax offences and credit card frauds. To escape media scrutiny, he left Spain on 3 August 2020 and has been living in self-exile since then.



By Maleeha Ahmed

Las Flores de Medellin

No hay muchas ciudades en el mundo de las que se pueda decir que usan la naturaleza regional en una forma más creativa que en la ciudad de Medellín en Colombia. La región es el corazón de las flores de toda América del sur, entonces durante los años cincuenta, decidieron fundar una feria para compartir los talentos locales con todo el mundo.

There aren't many cities in the world who can say that they use the regional nature in a more creative way than the city of Medellin in Colombia. The region is South America's flower capital and so during the nineteen fifties, they decided to found a festival to share local talent with the whole world. íris.



Historically, the festival was mainly attended by the local flower growers (silletteros) from the nearby town Santa Elena (which due to the festival now gets many visitors in the summer) who nowadays participate in a competition and parade (El desfile de silletteros - the main event of the festival) through the streets with their stunning flower arrangements (called Silletas, which can sometimes weigh up to 70 kilograms) attached to their backs in order to decide whose are the best.

Furthermore, the participants wear the traditional dress of Colombia and the parade also features dancing, music and many local young people also show off their skills in making Silletas.

It's far more than just a display of flowers though. Each Feria de las flores is such a huge social event for Medellin because the festival also encompasses many concerts held throughout the week - the biggest of which is the Trova festival where singers compete against each other but other performers such as the Medellin philharmonic have also played,



a pageant, an antique car parade and a horse parade too. It's the horse festival in Medellin which won the Guinness world record for being the world's largest horse parade! In total, the city holds about 140 cultural events for visitors. One of the festival's biggest years was 1999 because almost 500 Silleteros took part in the main parade which has grown a lot from the first festival where 40 Silleteros were involved. Saying this, in recent years, the number of Silleteros has declined because most now instead share the experience of making the flower arrangements instead of participating for one of 260 awards up for grabs.

The city's location in the North West of Colombia, fairly close to the equator and close to the dense forests of Northern Colombia is part of the reason Santa Elena as well as Medellin's botanical gardens (who display a traditional Colombian flower arrangement during the week of the feria de las flores) can grow so many amazing and exceptionally colourful flowers. The climate's hot but humid enough that Colombia still has a vast array of vegetation. Despite the first few flower festivals being held in May, the event ever since 1958 has been held at the height of the summer in August in order to commemorate the time of year when Antioquia (the region of Colombia where Medellin is) became independent.



By Charlotte Green

Las Antiguas Civilizaciones de América del Sur

Antes de que Cristobal Colón navegara hasta las Américas en 1492 ya había muchas civilizaciones avanzadas y bien establecidas en América del Sur. Sin embargo, a menudo es difícil distinguirlas, ya que tienen características superpuestas. Algunos de las civilizaciones más grandes y conocidas son los aztecas, los incas y los mayas.

Before Christopher Columbus sailed to the Americas in 1492 there were already many advanced and well established civilizations in South America. However, it is often difficult to distinguish between them as there are overlapping characteristics. Some of the greatest and most well known include the Aztecs, the Incas and the Mayans.

The Mayan's were the first ancient mesoamerican civilization to appear at around 2600 BC in what is now known as central Mexico. From archaeological evidence they lasted the longest of south american civilizations and were viewed as the greatest with their art, architecture, mathematics,

calendar, and astronomical system. One of their greatest achievements were the logosyllabic script which was an advanced writing method developed and one of a kind in the pre-columbian (before columbus) americas. They were ruled by kings and priests and were not wiped out like some of the other cultures, but gradually dissipated.



Next to follow were the Inca civilization can be traced back to about A.D. 1200. They lived in the mountains of Peru, far removed from the Maya and Aztecs, and at the peak of their power, the civilization extended for 4,000 kilometers (2,500 mi) and included 16 million people. They were extremely advanced and had an army, laws, roads, bridges, tunnels, and a complicated irrigation system far ahead of its time. However, they never

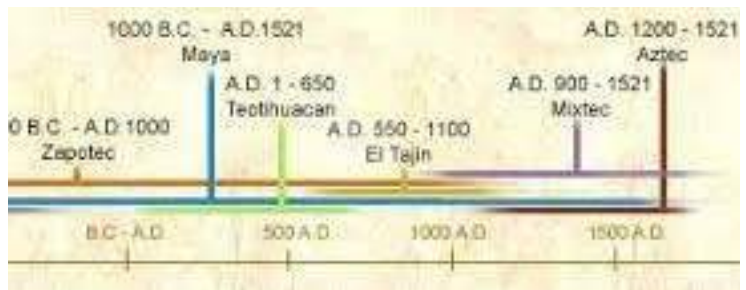
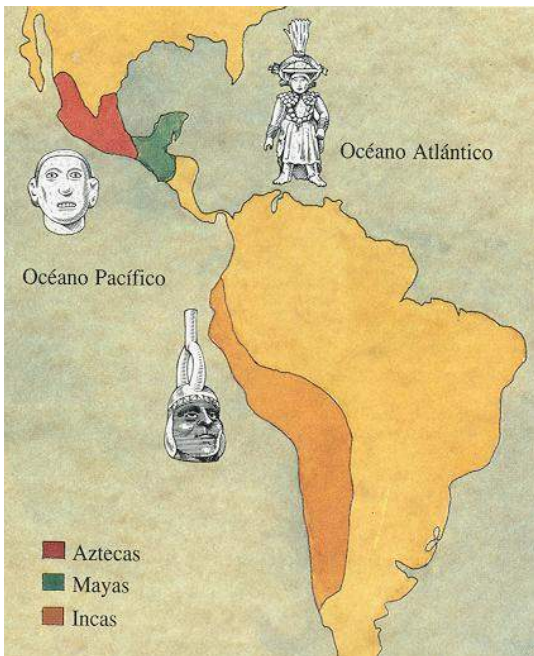
invented a system of writing, instead using knotted ropes for record-keeping. The civilization came mostly to an end when Spanish invaders brought small pox over and fought for power over their leader Atahualpa.

The last major South American civilization were the Aztecs who founded their biggest city, Tenochtitlan, in A.D. 1325, meaning they were much younger than any of the other three. Tenochtitlan was built on an island in a Mexican lake called Lake Texcoco. They gradually conquered the rest of the area, until they fell in 1521 at the hands of Spanish



invaders and small pox. Although they were not as advanced as the Inca, they did have a 365-day calendar and used hieroglyphics and still dominated the area for a long period of time.

By Ruby Manhota



EXPRESIÓN DE LA SEMANA

This month's saying is "Más ven cuatro ojos que dos." literally means that Four eyes are better than two. The deeper meaning however, is that looking at the situation or problem from another perspective may help you. So rather than making a decision solo, enlist the help of others. A fresh pair of eyes can unveil approaches and angles you haven't considered before. :-)

Recuerdo siempre sé feliz!