

UNIT 3. THE LANDSCAPES OF SPAIN



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PRIMARY 4 / Social Science
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THE RELIEF OF SPAIN

→ Relief is the shape of Earth's surface. Spain has a diverse land relief.

PLATEAUS

The **MESETA CENTRAL** is a great elevated plain that take up the centre of the Iberian Peninsula.

It is divided into two part:

SUBMESETA NORTE and **SUBMESETA SUR**.

DEPRESSIONS

They are areas of low land crossed by rivers.

- **The DEPRESIÓN DEL EBRO.**
- **The DEPRESIÓN DEL GUADALQUIVIR**

MOUNTAINS WITHIN THE MESETA

The **SISTEMA CENTRAL** and the **MONTES DE TOLEDO**.

The Sistema Central is the mountain range that divides the Meseta en two parts.

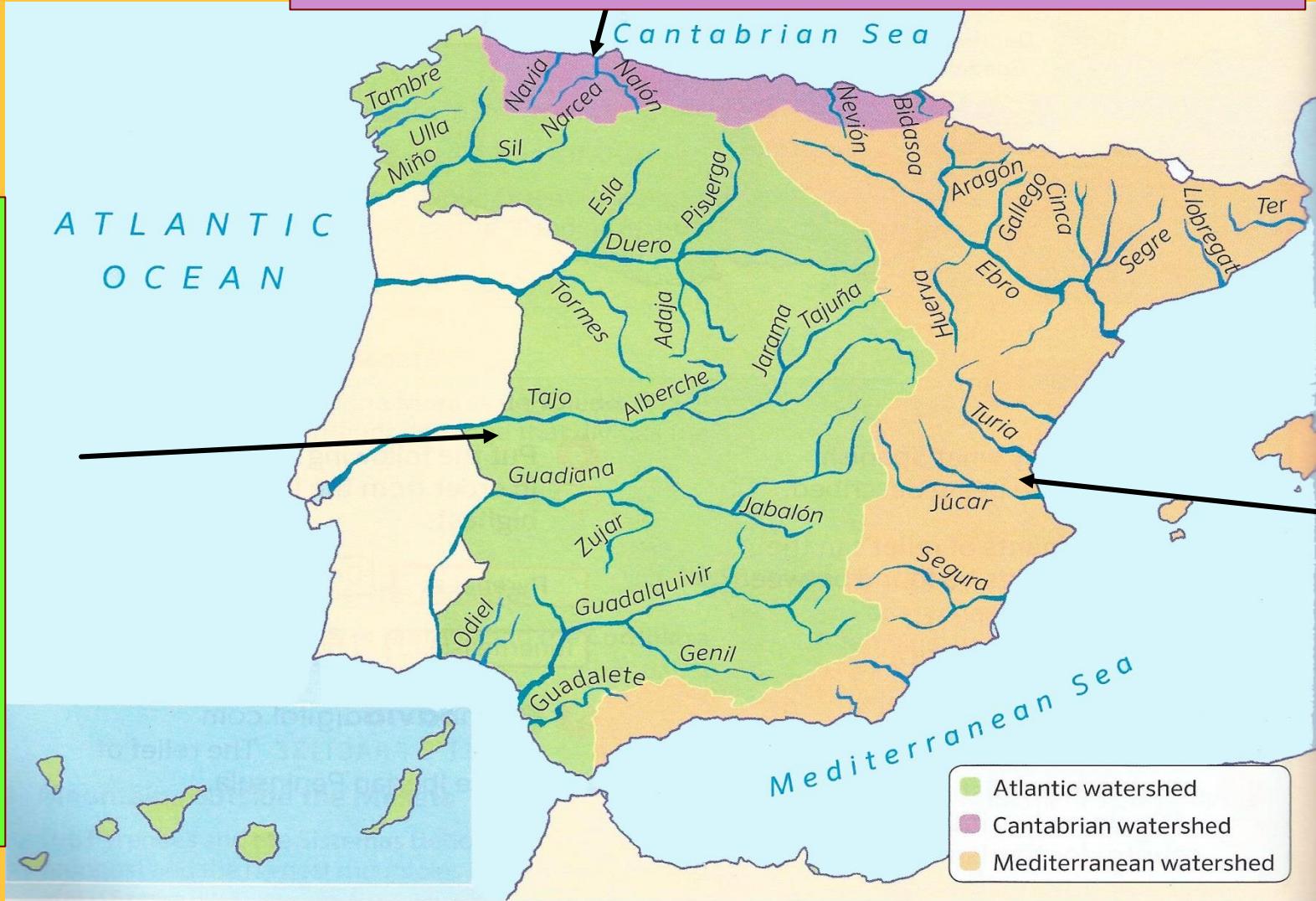


THE RIVERS OF SPAIN →

Spanish rivers are very different according to the landscape or the climate they are found in. Depending on the sea or ocean, that they flow into, the rivers can be grouped together in **WATERSHEDS**.

RIVERS IN THE CANTABRIAN WATERSHED: They are short rivers. They have a high and regular volume of water.
The most important are: **BIDASOA, NAVIA, NARCEA and NERVIÓN.**

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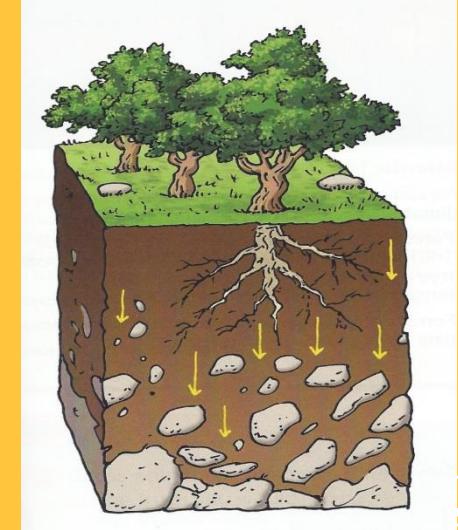
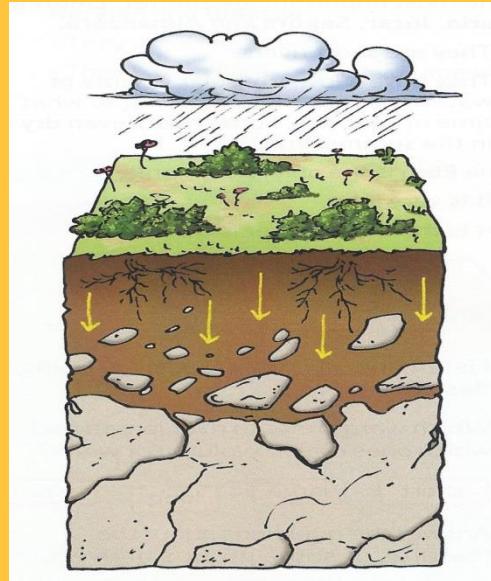
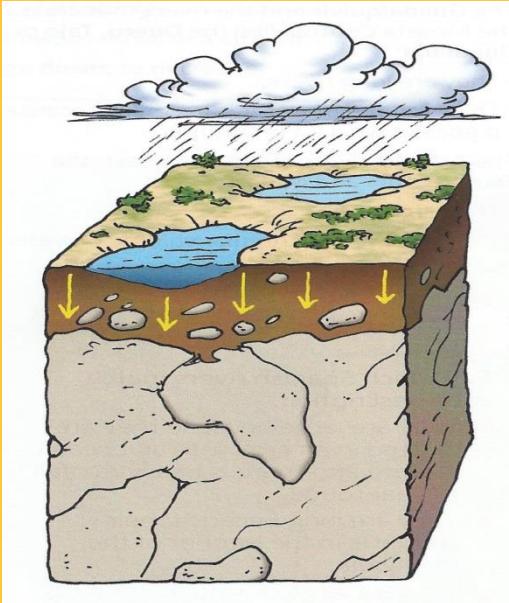


THE FORMATION OF LANDSCAPES

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Landscapes are formed over a period of millions of years due to the actions of natural forces such as rock, relief, climate, water and living things.



MATURE LAND

- After thousands of years, as the rock wears down the land becomes thicker.
- In this way the land gets richer in humus and vegetation and dense landscape are created.
- If the rock is too hard or there is not enough water, mature land will not form.

PRIMITIVE LAND

- All the land was made up of rock.
- The wind eroded the rock and the water broke it down by penetrating the pores.
- The little pieces of rock formed land.

YOUNG LAND

- The rock became worn down.
- Living things decompose when they die and form a very fertile substance called humus.
- The interaction between water, wind and living things in the fertile land allowed plants to grow.

MEDITERRANEAN LANDSCAPE

The vegetation is made up of:

- Forests of evergreen trees like, cork oak tree and pine tree.
- Scrub areas with shrubs, like thyme, rockrose or heather.
- Plants that need little water like esparto grass. They are known as steppes.



MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPE

The vegetation depends on the altitude and relative geographical position.

As we go up the mountain, we can pass by:

- Forests of deciduous trees like oak trees.
- Forests of coniferous trees like pine trees.
- Areas of scrub and fields.

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THE LANDSCAPES OF SPAIN

ATLANTIC LANDSCAPE

The vegetation is made up of:

- Forests with deciduous trees and green fields. The most common trees are the beech tree, oak tree and chestnut tree.
- Plants need mild temperatures and a humid atmosphere.
- Forests of tree species brought in by man like pine trees and eucalyptus trees.



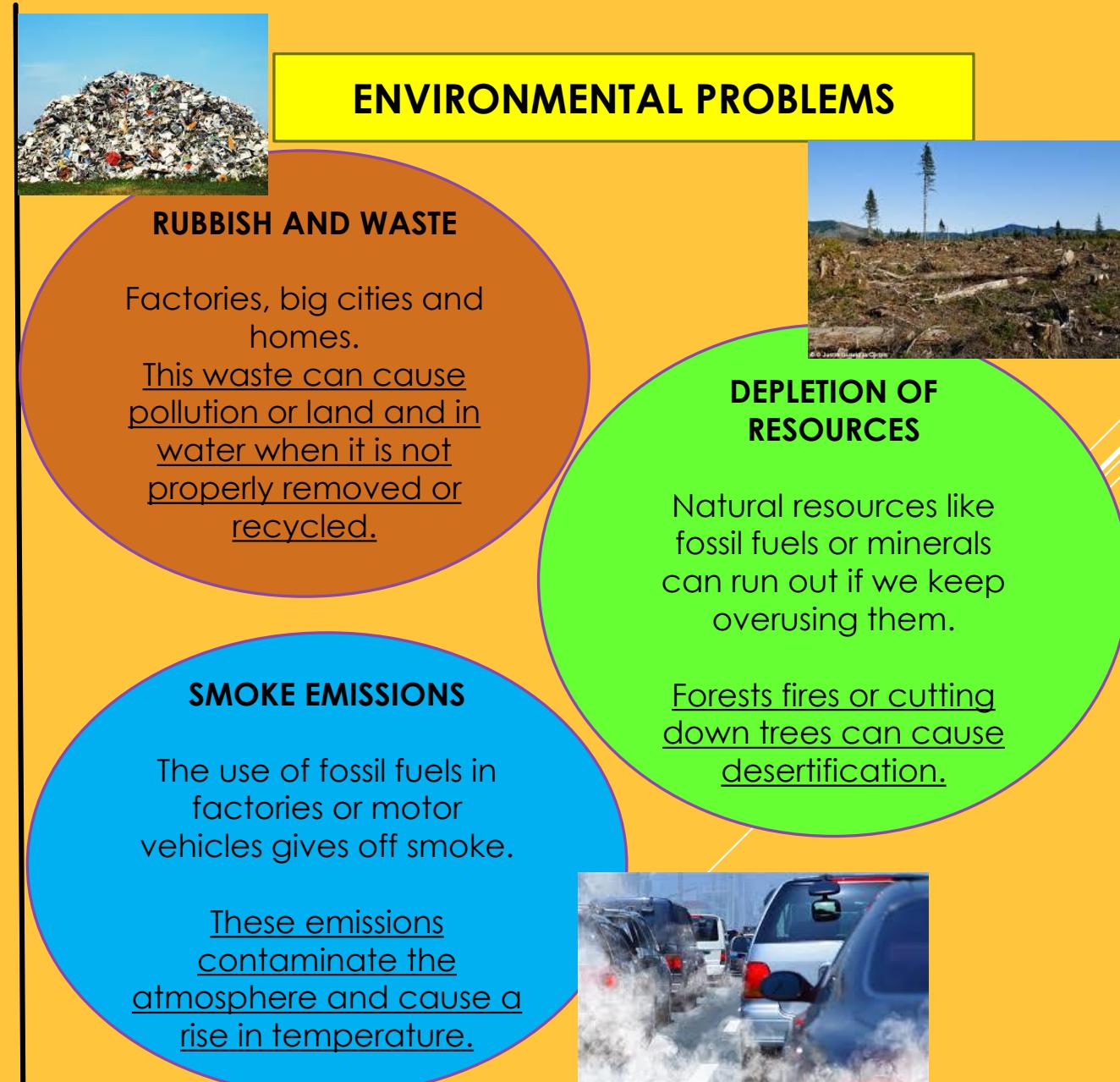
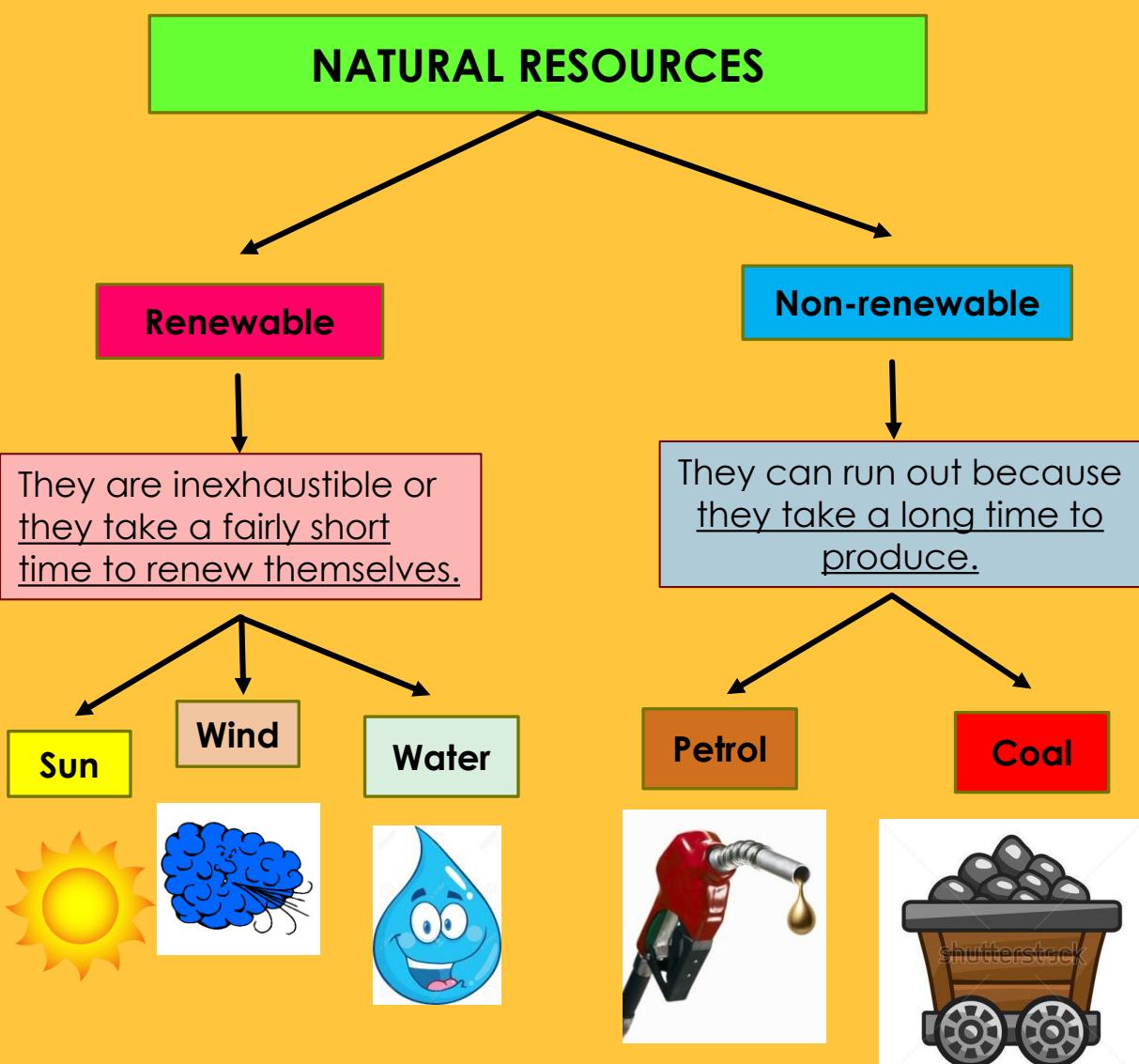
CANARY ISLAND LANDSCAPE

It is a subtropical climate. The vegetation changes on each island depending on its height and orientation:

- Species that adapt to the lack of water, like cactus.
- A type of subtropical forest called laurisilva or laurel forest in wet areas.
- Forests of Canary Island pine in the high areas.

TAKING CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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