

WORKSHEET 'THE RICOTE VALLEY'

GRADE 5-6



The Ricote valley is an authentic paradise.... nature trails along the banks of the beautiful River Segura, picturesque villages surrounded by orange and lemon orchards, mountain paths with breath-taking views, archaeological sites, ancient water wheels and the famous hot water springs!

The Ricote valley includes Cieza, Abarán, Blanca, Ricote, Ojós, Ulea, Villanueva and Archena. It's also known as 'Valley of the Moriscos' due to the rich cultural heritage left by the Moors who inhabited these lands many centuries ago.

Springtime is possibly the most wonderful time of the year to visit the valley with it's beautiful sights of tree blossom tainting the lands pink and white as far as the eye can see.....



Only 24 kilometres away from Murcia City, Archena is a good base. Here you'll find the Valle de Ricote interpretation centre. There's a variety of accommodation and restaurants in the town, as well as the three classy hotels on the Balneario de Archena spa complex. The therapeutic properties of the mineral water, which flow out of the rocks at a temperature of 51 degrees, have been known more than 2,000 years. The whole place is great fun for the entire family!

Ulea is a picturesque village with palm trees and orchards beside the riverbank, and a maze of narrow streets climbing up the surrounding mountainside. It's the sort of place that seems to stand still in time, where the locals friendly say 'good day' when you pass them on their way to church.



The village is full of charm with its original townhouses in different colours. The small central plaza is amazing with the 'Casa Parisina'. It looks like it's straight out of Disneyland. In the same square, you'll find the magnificent 16th century San Bartolomé Church and the town hall. There is a steep footpath behind the village up to a viewpoint where a statue representing 'Christ the Saviour' watches over the valley. If you take the path beside the river towards Ojós you will see an old waterwheel, just one of many along the Segura.

Abarán is known for the five characteristic waterwheels which are still functioning today. The 'Norias' date back to the Moors era, being used to elevate water to irrigation channels on higher agricultural land which still produces vegetables and citrus fruits. Noria Grande (1805) is the biggest waterwheel in Europe. It measures 12 metres in diameter, elevates 25 litres of water per second and was reconstructed in 1951 from iron and wood.



If you want to know more about this wonderful valley, come to Spain and explore it yourself!

Read the information about the Ricote valley and answer the questions with true or false

The Ricote valley is also called the Valley of the Moriscos.	TRUE	FALSE
The best season to visit the Ricote valley is Summer.	TRUE	FALSE
The Moors lived in the Ricote valley a long time ago.	TRUE	FALSE
Molina de Segura is part of the Ricote valley.	TRUE	FALSE
The water of the hot springs contains minerals.	TRUE	FALSE
The temperature in the Archena spa complex is 51 degrees.	TRUE	FALSE
The Archena Spa is only interesting for adults.	TRUE	FALSE
The locals in Ulea are friendly.	TRUE	FALSE
Some of Ulea's inhabitants were born in Disneyland.	TRUE	FALSE
Ulea's church was built in the 15 th century.	TRUE	FALSE
Ulea has a viewpoint with a statue of Christ.	TRUE	FALSE
All waterwheels in the valley aren't functioning anymore.	TRUE	FALSE
A waterwheel is used to help vegetables and fruits grow.	TRUE	FALSE
The Noria Grande is the biggest waterwheel in the world.	TRUE	FALSE
The Noria Grande elevates 25 liters of water every minute.	TRUE	FALSE
The Noria Grande is made from iron and wood.	TRUE	FALSE