

WHY STUDY SPANISH?

Objectives:

- Develop an awareness of the importance of learning Spanish
- Develop an awareness that Spanish plays a significant role in the United States
- Identify occupations that benefit from second language acquisition
- Develop personal foreign language study strategies

1. There are 340 million people in the 21 countries that speak Spanish.
2. Spanish is the third most common language in the world.
3. Spanish is the second most common language spoken in the United States.
4. Latinos (or Spanish-speakers) are the largest and fastest growing segment of the population in the U.S.
5. The Spanish-speaking world is rich in music, food, art, literature, history, and everyday traditions. Learning about culture helps you understand other people's perspectives, patterns of behavior, and contributions to the world.
6. Your career options expand as businesses in the twenty-first century look for employees who can communicate in Spanish.
7. Studying a second language improves your first language skills: vocabulary, grammar, reading, and writing. Research shows your test scores may improve!

STUDY TIPS

1. Take risks, relax, and be patient. The goal of studying Spanish is to communicate! Don't wait until you get it perfect. Just start talking and you'll get better and better.
2. Use what you already know. Use your knowledge of English to help you figure out new words such as *comunicación*, *delicioso*, *limón*, and *oficina*. There are also many words that we have "borrowed" from Spanish such as *rodeo*, *tacos*, and *patio*.
3. One way to learn a new word is to make a flashcard. Create a picture of the word on an index card. On the back, write the Spanish word. Then use the card to study: look at the picture and say the word or look at the picture and write the word.
4. There are many resources available for you today to explore the language and culture. Use the Internet to discover new information and practice your language skills. Local radio stations and cable television provide regular programming in Spanish. Get to know a native Spanish-speaker in our school.
5. Study and practice with a friend or family member.



