

INTRODUCTION – BASQUE HISTORY AND CULTURE I

1. Do you know what the Basques call the Basque language?

EUSKERA or EUSKARA

2. Do you know what people who speak the Basque language call themselves?

EUSKALDUNAK, which means “those who have the Basque language”.

3. How many speak it and where is it spoken?

In Euskal Herria (the land of Basque). It has approximately one million speakers.

4. How many provinces does the Basque Autonomous Community have?

Three: Bizkaia, Gipuzkoa and Araba

5. Does the Basque Country belong to Spain, France or is it independent?

There is a part of the Basque Country that belongs to Spain and another part that belongs to France.

6. How many provinces are the Basque Country?

Officially, there are 3 provinces that are considered the Basque Country: Bizkaia, Gipuzkoa and Araba. The three boards are called the Basque Autonomous Community (CAV) and they are in Spanish territory. Then there are 3 other provinces that are in French territory: Lapurdi, Behe Nafarroa and Zuberoa. And then there is Nafarroa / Navarra which is also in Spanish territory, it alone is called Comunidad Foral de Navarra.

7. What is Euskal Herria? How many provinces are there?

Euskal Herria means Basque Country. "Euskal" means Basque and "Herria" town or country. In total there are seven provinces.

8. Besides Basque, are other official languages spoken in the Basque Country, which ones?

Spanish and French

9. To which family does the Basque language belong? What theories are there?

Basque does not have family ties with the rest of the Indo-European languages. Therefore, it is considered an isolated language.

There are different theories such as Caucasian origin, Basque-Iberian or native origin.

10. Why is Basque mythology so extensive?

Basque mythology reflects Basque human history. Through gods, characters, stories Basques could give their world a meaning. They could face lack of facts or unknown events.

The fact that it is so expensive might result from the large history of Basque people.

11. When and where were the first words in Basque found?

In the 10th and 11th century A.C. In some glosses of st. Emilianus in San Millán de la Cogolla in La Rioja.

12. What is Proto-Basque?

Proto-Basque is understood to mean the reconstruction by deduction of the Basque language that could have been spoken before this language came into contact with Latin. It dates back to the 5th century BC and the year 1.

13. What is the name of the flag of the Basque Country? What colors do it have?

IKURRIÑA. The colors are red, green and white.

14. What is Gernika? Have you heard anything about it?

Gernika, is a town in Bizkaia, which became known for the Bombing of Gernika during the Franco dictatorship. Also famous is the painting "Gernika" painted by Picasso as a commemoration of the tragic event.

15. Do you know what a "pintxo" is?

Pintxos are bite-sized appetizers that are served in bars and taverns throughout the Basque Country. They are the quintessence of Basque cuisine and form the center of local gastronomy culture.