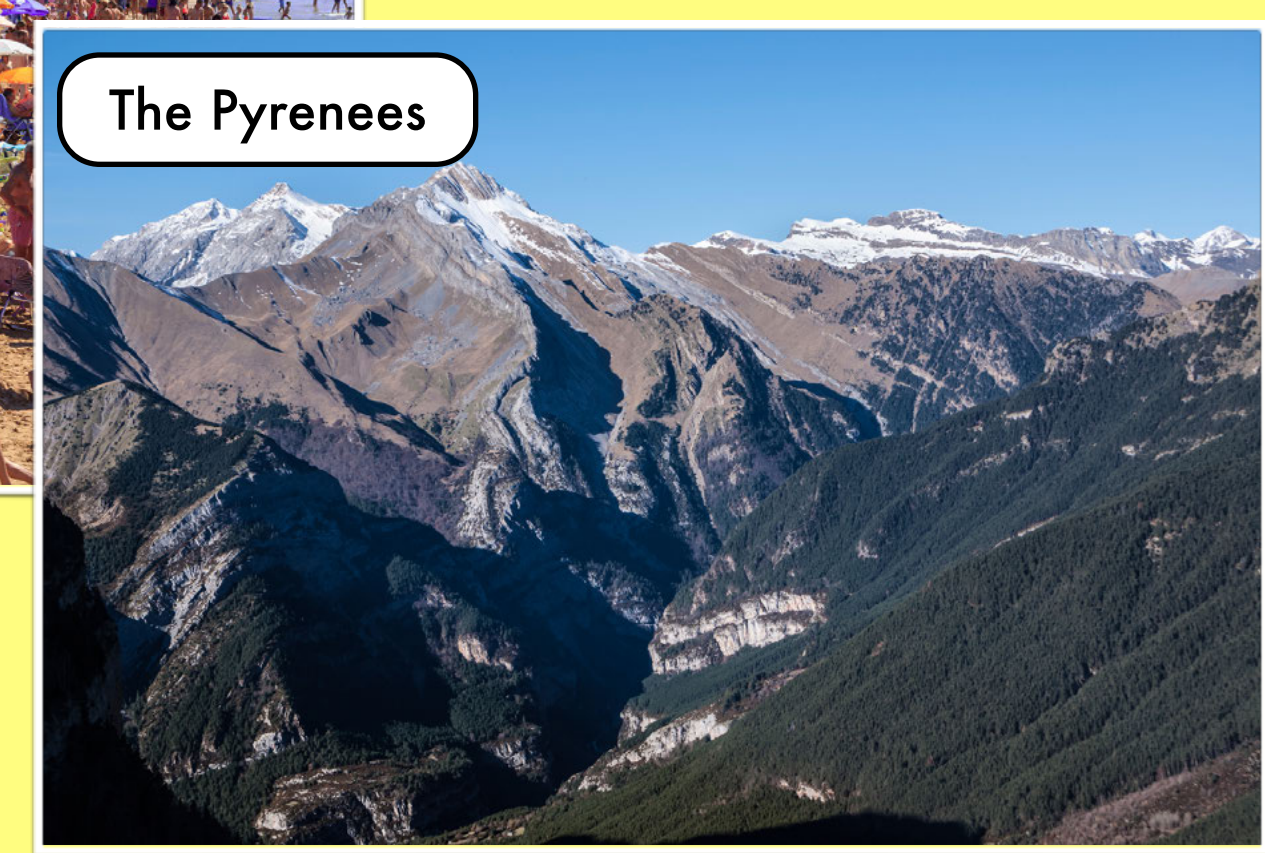
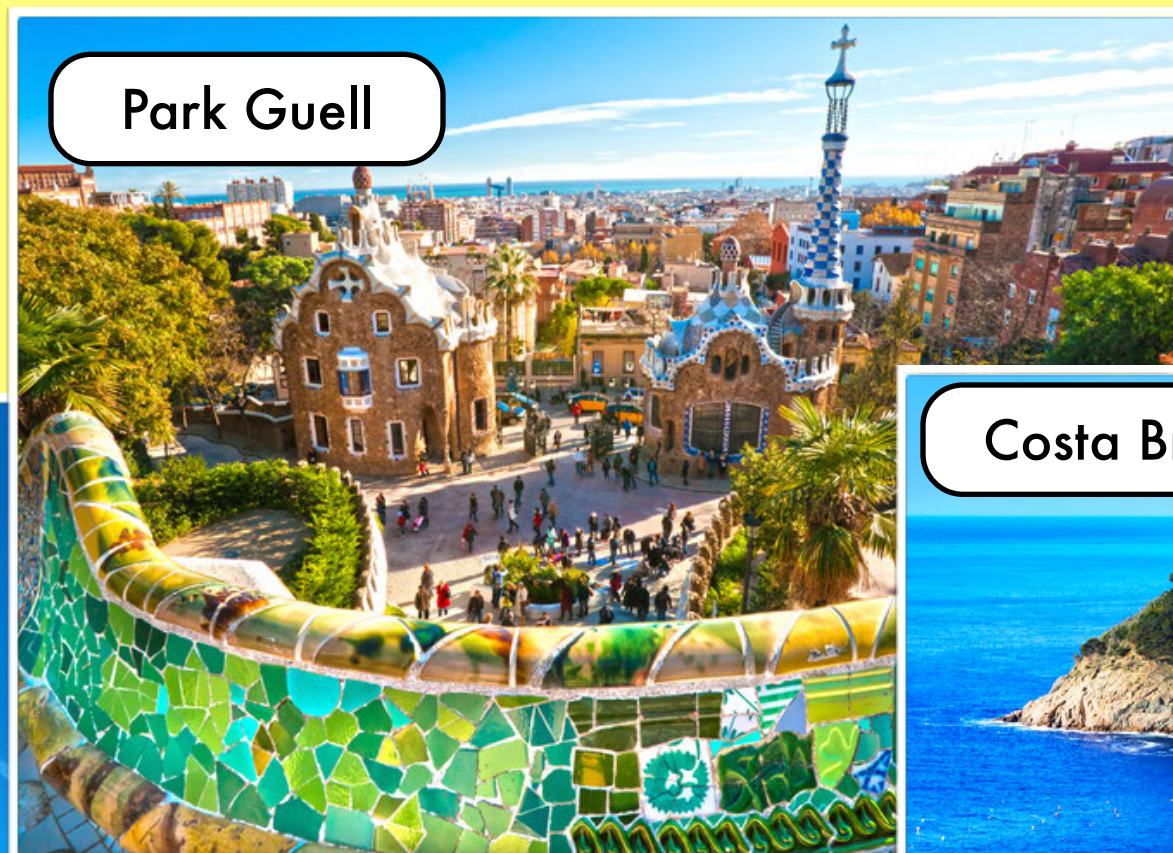
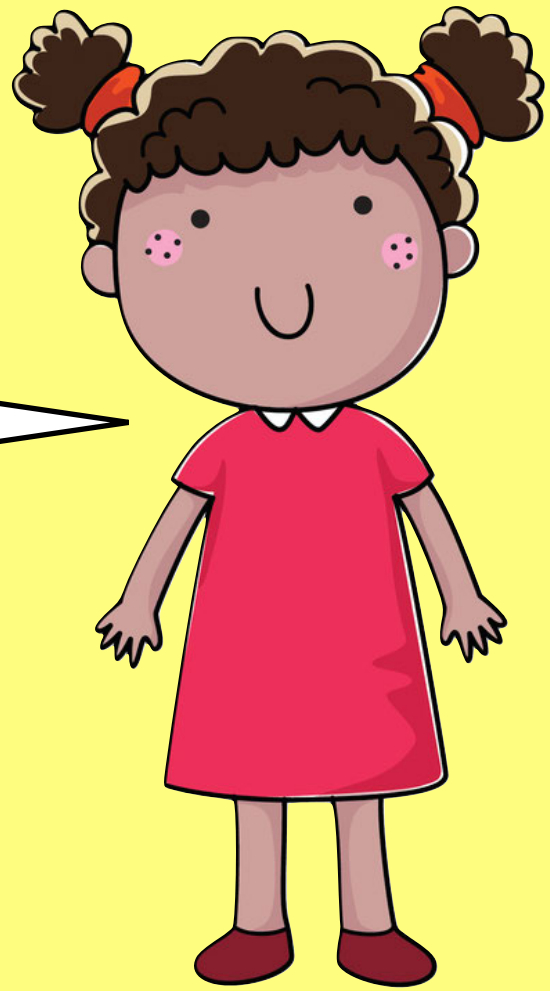




Learning Objective:

To know about the region of Catalonia

The population of Catalonia is approximately 7.5 million people. The region has two main official languages – Spanish and Catalan. It is very popular with tourists, due to the vibrant city of Barcelona, the mediterranean beaches of Costa Brava and Costa Dorada, and the magnificent Pyrenees mountain range.

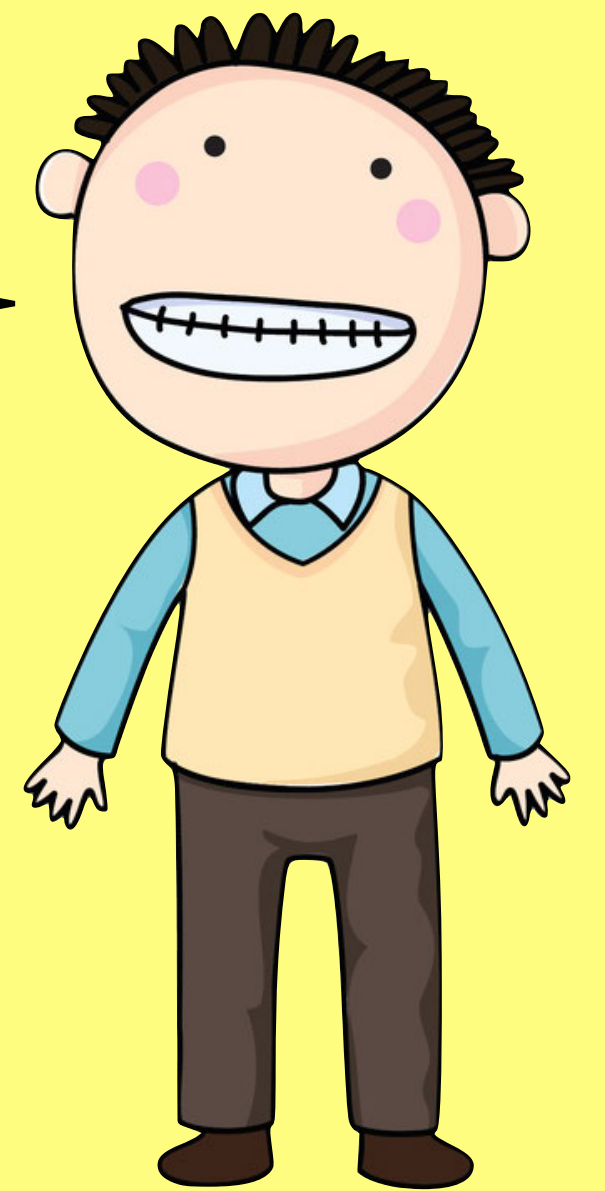


Catalonia is one of the 17 autonomous communities in Spain.



Can you remember what an autonomous community is?

Could you locate Catalonia on a map of Spain?



Think, pair then share your answers.



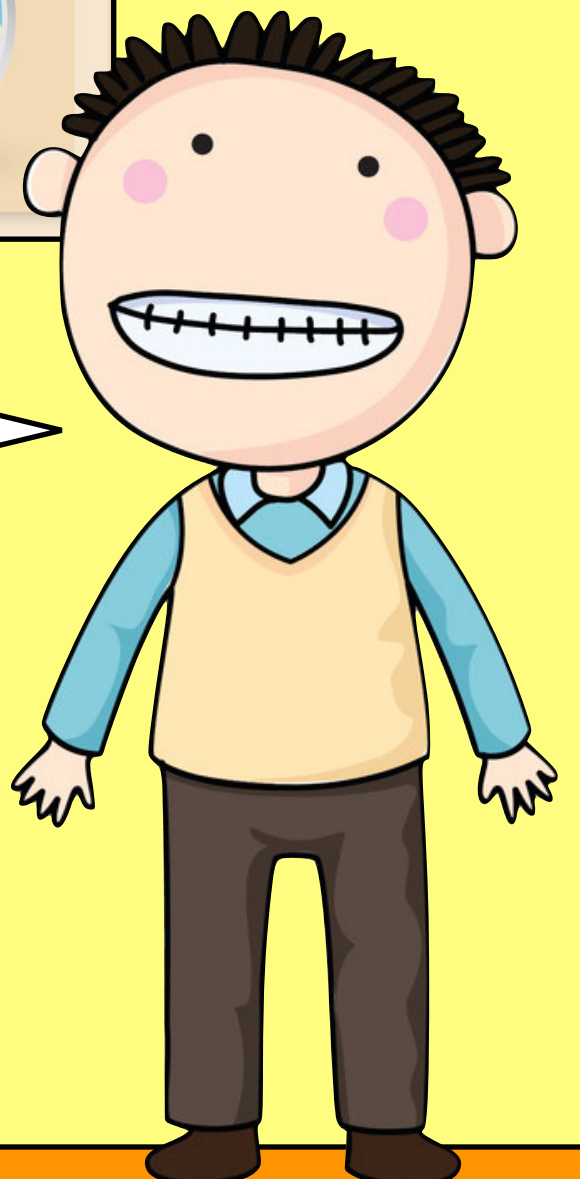
Just like in the UK, Spain is divided into regions. In the UK they are called counties, but in Spain they are called 'autonomous communities'.



Catalonia (or Cataluna in Spanish) is on the east coast of Spain. It has borders with the countries of France and Andorra, and two other autonomous communities: Aragon and Valencia.



Back



Next



Each autonomous community has its own capital city, flag and government, who are responsible for the region's education, health, culture and development. However, Spain is still in charge overall.



Barcelona is the capital city of Catalonia.



This is the flag of Catalonia.



This is the Palace of the Generalitat of Catalonia – the regional government's offices.





Some Catalans (people who live in Catalonia) would like independence from the rest of Spain.

What do you think this means?

Think, pair then share your ideas.



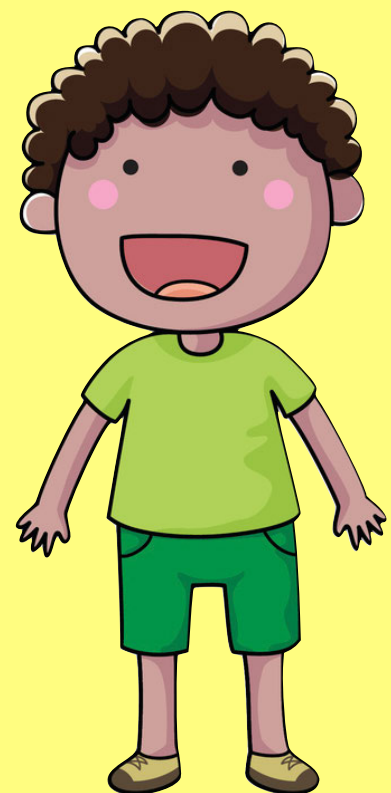


Independence for Catalonia would mean that they become an independent state.

They would have complete power over the running of the region.



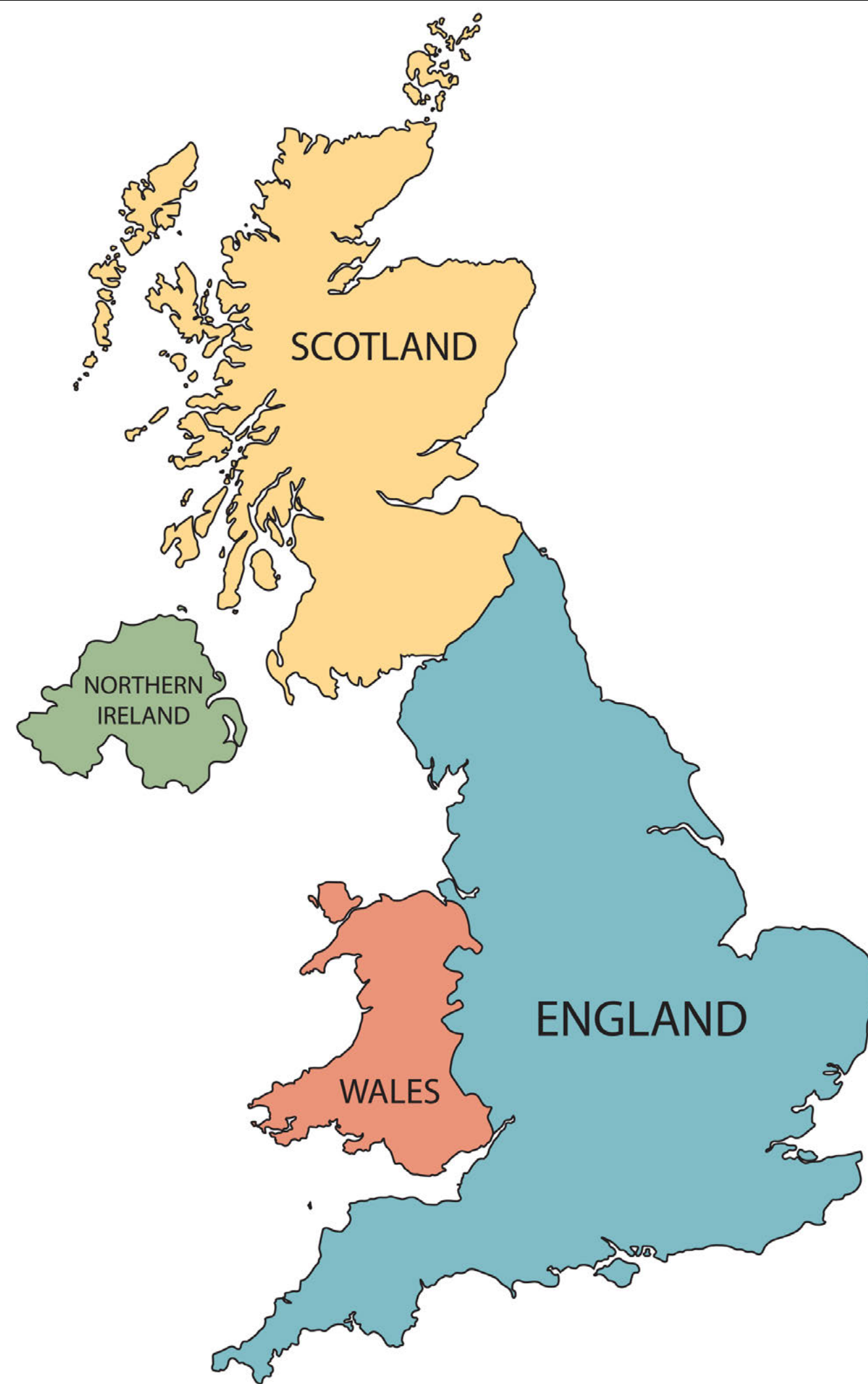
They would not have to defer to Spain about any decision they made.





Some people in Scotland, which is currently part of the UK, also want independence. On 18th September 2014, a referendum was held, where the public could vote to decide whether they thought Scotland should be an independent country.

85% of the people in Scotland voted, and of these, 55% voted 'no', and 45% voted 'yes'. A majority of over 50% is needed, so the 'no' vote won, and Scotland remains a part of the UK.



Map of the United Kingdom (UK)





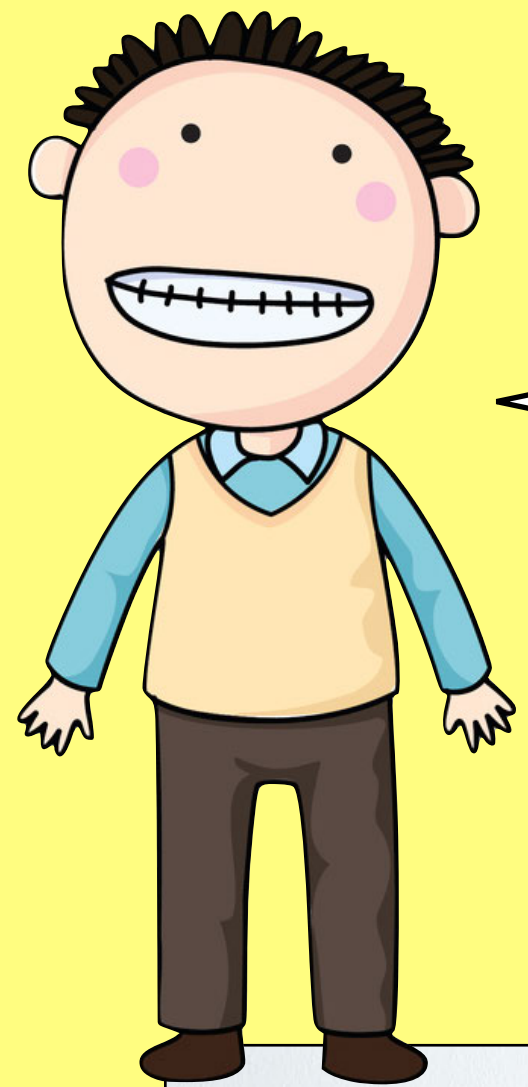
Catalonia also wants to hold a referendum to vote on the question of independence. There have been many demonstrations and informal votes, but no official referendum yet, as Spain will not currently allow it to take place.





**So why do some Catalans
want independence?**





Some people in Catalonia already see themselves as very separate to Spain, with their own distinct history, culture and language.



They believe that the rest of Spain do not respect their culture or the Catalan language enough. They worry that they will start to lose their culture and traditions if they do not become independent.



Some people in Catalonia believe that they pay more money in taxes to Spain than they receive back from the central government.



This means that they are in debt (they owe money), and so basic public services such as transport or healthcare are struggling because they do not have enough money. If they become independent, they would be in full control of their money, and be able to spend it how they think best.





**Why do some Catalans
prefer to remain part of
Spain?**





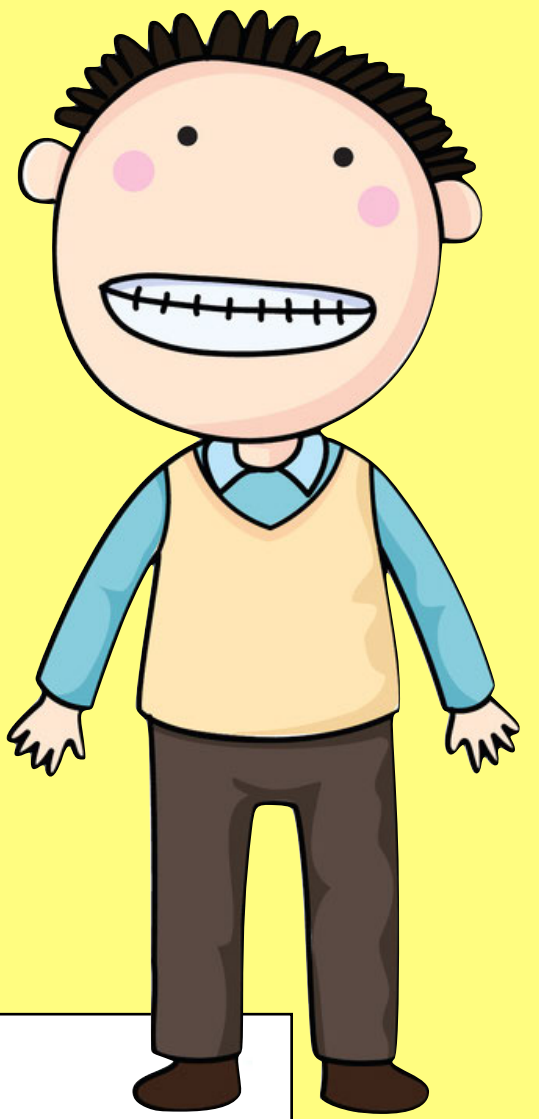
Some people think that if Catalonia becomes independent, they will be forced to define themselves as **either** Catalan **or** Spanish.



A lot of people who live in Catalonia see themselves as both, and are proud to be Catalan **and** Spanish – just like many people in Scotland are proud to be both Scottish and British.



Some people think that if Catalonia became independent, it would damage the economy of Spain. They believe that a united Spain is stronger than a divided one.



Economy – the way a country or region manages its money and resources in order to make, buy and sell goods and services.





One thing that most Catalans agree on, whether they are for or against independence, is that they should have the right to decide for themselves.



Plenary:



Now that you know the advantages and disadvantages of Catalonia becoming an independent state, it is your turn to vote!

BALLOT PAPER	
Vote (X) only once:	
Should Catalonia be an independent state?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

