

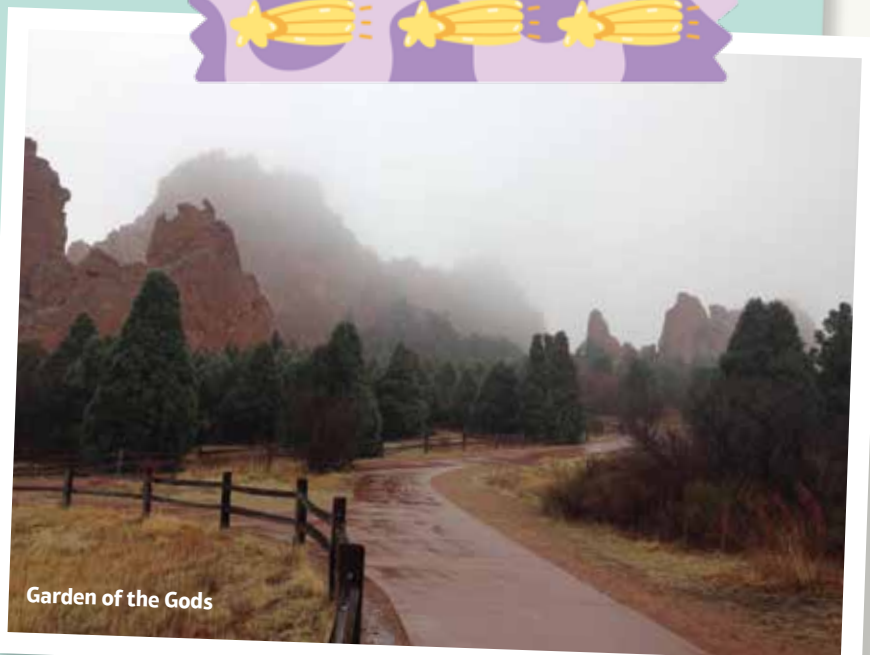
This month, Alex corresponds with Ariadne from the small Spanish island of Tenerife. The two talked about the beautiful natural attractions near their homes and their shared love of music.

## Hello, Ariadne,

My name is Alex. I'm very excited to talk with you and learn more about Spain. My mother is Hungarian, so I've visited Europe several times, but never Spain. Each place I've visited is known for something very special. Venice has its canals. Budapest is known for the Parliament building. The Colosseum was my favorite attraction in Rome. What is the most interesting place you would show me if I visited your hometown?

I live in Colorado. Here our cities are not very old. Instead of buildings, I would show you some of our natural attractions. We have many beautiful mountains for winter skiing and summer hiking. But I think my favorite place to show you would be the Garden of the Gods. It is a park with natural rock formations that rise up at unusual angles. These rock formations are a bright reddish color and are found in many places throughout Colorado. These red rocks give our state its name.

From,  
**Alex**



Garden of the Gods

Hi, Alex,

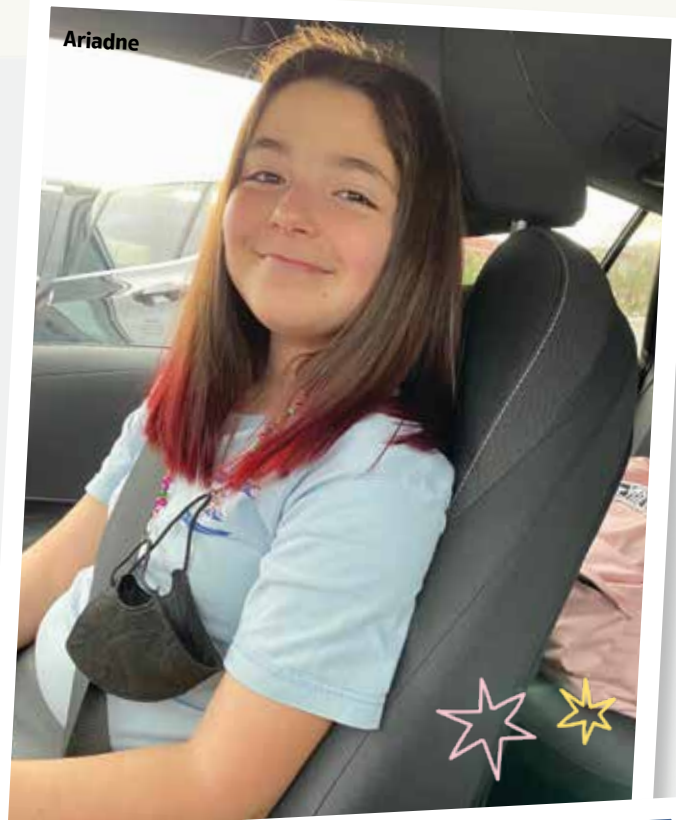
This is Ariadne. It's nice talking to you. I'm happy to hear that you want to learn about my country. I think it is kind of cool that you live in Colorado, have a mom from Hungary, and know so many places around Europe.

My family and I live in Europe, but we are quite far from your mom's birthplace.

We live on an island called Tenerife. It's part of the Canary Islands. It's actually closer to the western coast of Africa than to mainland Spain. I was born here and I like it very much. The temperature is nice all year long, and it's very beautiful.

Our island has many tourist and natural attractions. The most famous one is the Teide volcano. It's a huge national park and the colors around it are very similar to the Garden of the Gods that you mentioned in your letter. My favorite place in Tenerife is a water park called Siam Park. Its architecture is inspired by the Thai Kingdom of Siam.

Best wishes,  
Ariadne





## Hi, Ariadne!

The picture of the volcano you sent is beautiful. It's so cool that you live on an island. I'm jealous. You have warm temperatures year round. I love tropical weather. Colorado is very snowy this time of year. We are expecting six inches of snow tonight!

I love going to water parks, but I have never been to one that looks as amazing as the one you showed me. It would be so fun to visit and also check out the national park you mentioned.

Sincerely,

Alex



## Hi, Alex!

You would love to visit an island like Tenerife because of its nice weather, but right now there is nothing I would like more than to go to a snowy mountain! Sometimes we dream about having things that are impossible to get at the moment, don't you think?

It also snows here in Tenerife every year, but not everywhere. It mainly snows above 2,000 meters; near the mountain I sent you in the last letter. That mountain is a volcano called El Teide. The Guanches, the native people of my island, called it Echeyde, which means "the house of Guayota, the Evil One."

One last thing that I would like to share with you now is that I love singing!

Best wishes,

Ariadne



## Hi, Ariadne,

I also like singing sometimes, but I am not great at it. I hope to join the Karaoke Club at school. Do you have any favorite songs you like to sing?

I noticed you are holding a trophy in one of your photos? Did you win some kind of competition?

Sincerely,

Alex

Dear Alex,

I love to sing and the picture with my friend Carmen is from the day I won the school singing competition last year. Although I love acting and singing, I am very shy sometimes. It was a huge challenge for me to sing in front of so many people.

I like music so much that I really can't say which is my favorite band or song. Every day on my way to school with my dad, I sing. I like to sing songs from many different bands like ABBA, BTS, Queen, and Black Pink. As you can see, my tastes are varied.

One thing I would love right now is to sing karaoke with you. I think we would make a fabulous team!

Best wishes,

Ariadne



Ariadne and her friend pose with her singing trophy.

Alex and her brother

Dear Ariadne,

I love music, too. I went to my first concert just a few weeks ago. I saw a band called Panic! At the Disco with my brother and sister. There were 20,000 people all singing together. I think music is a great way to bring people together no matter where you come from.

I would love to sing with you someday.

Sincerely,

Alex

