

Medieval Spain: Al-Ándalus

After the fall of the **Roman Empire** in **AD 476**, a Germanic tribe called **the Visigoths** came to live in Hispania. They conquered most of the Iberian Peninsula and made **Toledo** their capital. Visigoths were in Hispania from AD 507 to AD 711.



*AD: After Christ



The **Muslims** invaded the Iberian Peninsula and won the Visigoths at the **Battle of Guadalete** in **AD 711**. They conquered most of the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands in a few years and called it **Al-Ándalus**.

There were different stages in Al-Ándalus during the years the Muslims were in the Iberian Peninsula. This period finished in **1492** when the **Christians** conquered **Granada**, the last city left.



Life in Al-Ándalus

Most people lived in walled towns.

- The town center had the **medina**, where the craftspeople lived, and the **zoco**, the market place. There were a lot of merchants.
- The Muslims prayed in the **mosque**.
- Inside the town walls, there was a fort called an **alcazaba**, a fortified palace called **alcázar** and the **local baths**.
- Jewish people lived in separate areas called **juderías**.
- Farmers grew food like cereals, grapes and olives in the **fields** outside the town walls.



Al-Ándalus legacy

Architecture: horseshoe arches, mosaics, domes and open courtyards.

Maths: Mosaics with geometrical patterns. They introduced Arabic numbers and the number 0.

Food: They introduced new and improved methods of irrigation. They introduced new crops, such as rice, olives, oranges and aubergines.



1

A timeline is a representation of time where you place events during a period of time. Complete this timeline with the given events.

Events:

- Battle of Guadalete
- Fall of the Roman Empire
- Christians conquest of Granada
- Beginning of the Visigothic kingdom



2

Choose the correct answer.

1. The Christians conquered the Kingdom of Granada in

- a) 1469 b) 1492 c) 711

2. The _____ invaded Hispania after the Battle of Guadalete.

- a) Muslims b) Christians c) Visigoths

3. The capital of the visigothic kingdom was

- a) Madrid b) Toledo c) Granada

4. The name of the Muslim territory on the Iberian Peninsula in the Middle Ages was

- a) Spain b) Hispania c) Al-Ándalus

5. The neighbourhoods where Jewish people lived in the Muslims territory was called

- a) Judery b) Medina c) Juderias

6. The people of Al-Ándalus introduced

- a) Irrigation b) Number 0 c) A and B are correct

3

Classify these components of the Al-Ándalus legacy.

Rice / Arabic numbers / Number 0 / Domes / Geometrical mosaics / Irrigation / Open courtyards / Oranges



Architecture

-
-
-



Maths

-
-
-



Food

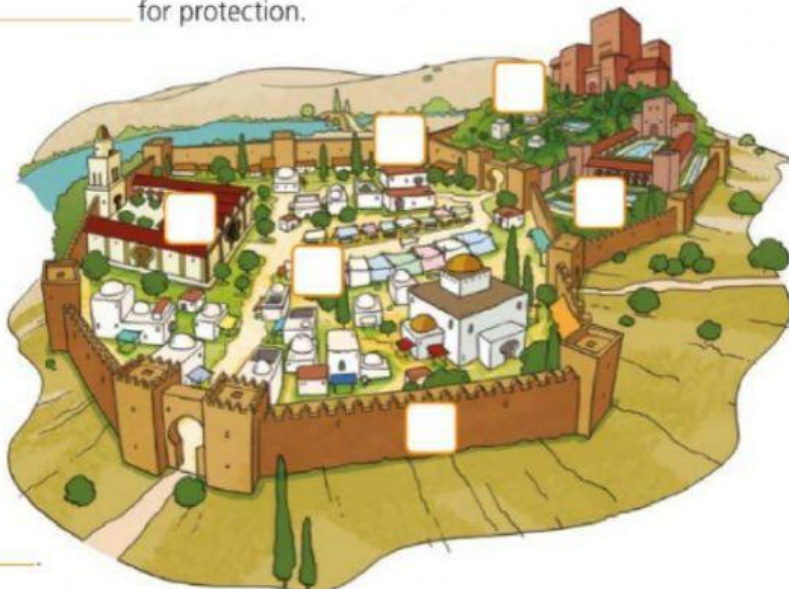
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4

Look at the picture of an Al-Ándalus city. Complete the sentences and label the picture.

Alcazaba / Alcázar / Mosque / Medina / City wall / Zoco

- a The cities were surrounded by a _____ for protection.
- b People practised their religion in the _____.
- c People bought and sold products in the _____.
- d The royal palace was called the _____.
- e The _____ was where the craftspeople lived.
- f The fort was also called _____.



5

Mark if these sentences are true or false.

- 1. In Al-Ándalus the people lived in walled towns. **True / False**
- 2. Jewish people lived in the fields that surrounded the cities. **True / False**
- 3. The medina was where the Muslims went to have a bath. **True / False**
- 4. Muslims invented the numbers we use today. **True / False**
- 5. The Visigoths lived in the Iberian Peninsula after the Romans. **True / False**
- 6. Farmers grew food inside the town walls. **True / False**

6

Match the names of the Muslims buildings with their equivalent of today's buildings.

Fort

Zoco

Palace

Alcázar

Market

Alcazaba