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 us rice, olives, oranges and aubergines.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

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 conqured 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

-
-
-

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

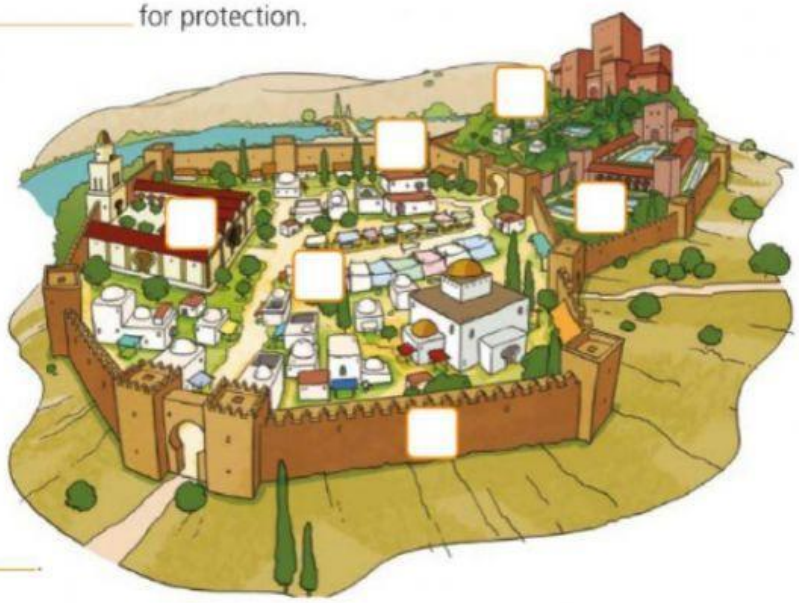
b. People practised their religion in the _____.

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 vities. **True / False**
3. The medina was were 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 Penininsula after the Romans. **True / False**
6. Farmers grew food inside the town walls. **True / False**

6 Match the the names of the Muslims buildings with their equivalent of todays buildings.

Fort	Zoco
Palace	Alcázar
Market	Alcazaba

LIVEWORKSHEETS