

Year 4 History Knowledge Organiser - Cordoba: city of light

Cordoba

1. Abd al-Rahman organised for a mosque to be built in the city of Cordoba.
2. Abd al-Rahman II extended the mosque his father had built.
3. Abd al-Rahman II built colleges where people could learn about science, technology and agriculture.
4. Abd al-Rahman III made more improvements to the mosque.
5. Abd al-Rahman III built a tall minaret (48 metres high) which is the part of a mosque where Muslims are called to prayer.
6. Abd al-Rahman III built schools, libraries, public baths and hospitals.



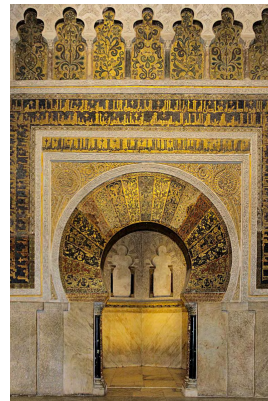
Islam bursts out of Arabia

1. Muhammed had taught his followers to worship one god, Allah.
2. A large part of Arabia was united by the Islamic religion.
3. After 632 AD, Muslim leaders brought the rest of Arabia under their control.
4. The Muslims marched in all directions, conquering lands in the Byzantine Empire and into the Persian Empire.
5. The armies marched further east, reaching central Asia and the River Indus in the land of Sing (now Pakistan).
6. Then they marched further west and seized territory along the north coast of Africa.
7. In 711 AD, they invaded Spain.
8. In France, after the Battle of Tours in 732 AD, they stopped their advances.

Mihrab in the Great Mosque

A mihrab shows the direction that Muslims should face when praying.

Al-Hakan II made his mihrab into a small room, made of marble.



Cordoba faced growing troubles

1. Weak rulers in al-Andalus fought each other for control.
2. The southern part of al-Andalus became known as the Kingdom of the gangs.
3. In 1013, the Berbers crossed the Mediterranean Sea and attacked al-Andalus. They attacked Cordoba and massacred many.
4. In 1090, the Cordobans sought help from north African Muslim forces.
5. The Almohads (a north African tribe that controlled the empire by the mid-twelfth century) were not tolerant of new ideas.
6. Christian forces attacked Cordoba in 1235.
7. In 1236, the Cordobans surrendered. Days after, all Muslims were expelled from the city.
8. A few months later, a few hundred Muslims were allowed to return. They had to worship in a separate part of Cordoba. They were not allowed near the great mosque.
9. The great mosque was mostly untouched for three centuries.
10. A new archbishop took charge of the Church in this part of Spain. He decided to build a huge cathedral in the middle of the mosque.

Important People

1. Abd al-Rahman: Abbasid that fled to Spain and became a ruler.
2. Abd al-Rahman II : ruler of al-Andalus from 822 AD - 852 AD.
3. Abd al-Rahman III : ruler of al-Andalus from 912 AD.
4. Al-Hakan II: Abd al-Rahman III's son who became caliph in 961 AD.
5. Al-Mansur: an official that ruled for al-Hakan II's son.

Umayyad vs. Abbasids

1. The Family that ruled the Muslim empire between 661 AD and 750 AD was called the Umayyad dynasty.
2. Over time, many Muslims started to criticise their Umayyad rulers.
3. Many started to support the Abbasids family.
4. In the 740s, the Abbasids rebelled.
5. Abd al-Rahman survived the Abbasids' attack on his family and fled.

Timeline

630 AD	Muhammed marched to Makkah with 10,000 men and took over the city peacefully.
632 AD	Muhammed died.
700 AD	Muslims controlled the whole north African coast.
711 AD	Muslims invaded Spain.
747 AD	Abbasids family rebelled and set out to destroy all Umayyads.
756 AD	Abd al-Rahman led his army to victory. He became emir of al-Andalus.
822 AD	Abd al-Rahman's grandson (Abd al-Rahma II) was on the throne.
912 AD	Abd al-Rahman III was on the throne.
961 AD	Al-Hakan II became caliph.
976 AD	Al-Mansur ruled for Al-Hakan II's young son.
1013 AD	Berbers crossed the Mediterranean Sea from Africa and attacked al-Andalus.
1236 AD	Cordobans surrendered to Christian forces and Muslims were expelled from the city.

Vocabulary

1. Caliphs	Muslim leaders
2. Disputes	A disagreement or argument
3. Massacre	A brutal slaughter of many people
4. Dynasty	A family that lasts over time, protecting its inheritance
5. Damascus	Capital city in Syria
6. Cordoba	A city in Andalusia, Spain
7. Emir	A ruler
8. Umayyad	A ruling family
9. Mosque	A Muslim place of worship
10. Fugitive	A person who has escaped from captivity or is in hiding