

Chapter 33

History of Spain



EARLY INHABITANTS

1. The Iberians (*los iberos*) and the Celts (*los celtas*), the earliest inhabitants of Spain, united to form the Celtiberians (*los celtiberos*).
2. The Phoenicians (*los fenicios*) and the Greeks (*los griegos*) established colonies and trading posts in Spain from about the eleventh to the eighth century B.C.
3. The Carthaginians (*los cartagineses*) invaded Spain in the third century B.C.
4. The Romans (*los romanos*):
 - a. defeated the Carthaginians (about 200 B.C.).
 - b. ruled Spain for six centuries (until about A.D. 400).
 - c. built bridges, aqueducts, and roads.
 - d. introduced their language, Latin, from which present-day Spanish is derived.
5. The Visigoths (*los visigodos*) were a Germanic tribe that defeated the Romans and invaded Spain (A.D. 409).
6. The Moors (*los moros*) invaded Spain, defeating the Visigoths in A.D. 711. They ruled large areas of Spain for about seven centuries, and were finally driven out of Spain in 1492. The Moors:
 - a. made great contributions in the fields of philosophy, medicine, mathematics, and astronomy.
 - b. developed commerce and agriculture and devised an irrigation system by means of a waterwheel called *noria*.
 - c. introduced many Arabic words into the Spanish language, mostly those beginning with *al-* (*algodón*, *alcalde*, *álgebra*, and many others).

HEROES OF THE RECONQUEST

1. Don Pelayo was the first leader in the Reconquest of Spain from the Moors. He defeated them in the Battle of Covadonga (A.D. 718).

2. El Cid (Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar), is Spain's national hero. He continued the struggle against the Moors and captured Valencia from them in 1094.

IMPORTANT RULERS

1. Fernando and Isabel, known as *los Reyes Católicos* (the Catholic Rulers), completed the Reconquest by driving the Moors from Granada, the last remaining Spanish region under Moorish control (1492). They also financed Columbus's four expeditionary voyages.
2. Carlos V (1516–1556), grandson of Fernando and Isabel, was one of the most powerful Spanish kings. During his reign, Spain ruled most of Europe and the New World.
3. Felipe II, son of Carlos V. His "Invincible Armada" was defeated in an attempt to invade England in 1588.

NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES

1. The War of Independence (1808–1814) started with a rebellion of the people against French rule under Napoleon.
2. The Spanish-American War (1898) between the United States and Spain resulted in the latter's defeat. Spain agreed to give up Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam.
3. The Civil War (1936–1939) was won by General Francisco Franco and his supporters, who overthrew the republic and set up a dictatorship. At Franco's death (1975), Spain became a constitutional monarchy.
4. In 1975, Prince Juan Carlos de Borbón was proclaimed King. In 1982, Felipe González Márquez became Prime Minister. Spain joined the European Common Market in 1985.

EXERCISE A

Match the words in column A with their related words in column B.

- A**
- _____ 1. Pelayo
 - _____ 2. waterwheel
 - _____ 3. A.D. 711
 - _____ 4. el Cid
 - _____ 5. Felipe II
 - _____ 6. 1808
 - _____ 7. 1492
 - _____ 8. Celtiberians
 - _____ 9. Franco
 - _____ 10. Fernando and Isabel

- B**
- a. early inhabitants of Spain
 - b. dictator
 - c. Catholic Rulers
 - d. Moorish defeat at Granada
 - e. Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar
 - f. Invincible Armada
 - g. brought to Spain by the Moors
 - h. War of Independence
 - i. Moorish invasion
 - j. Covadonga

EXERCISE B

If the statement is true, write *Sí*; if it's false, correct it by replacing the word(s) in boldface. Write the word(s) in the space provided.

- 1. The Spanish "Invincible" Armada, at war with England, was defeated in 1588. _____
- 2. The Moors governed Spain for **two** centuries. _____
- 3. The **Celtiberians** established trading posts in Spain. _____
- 4. The **Visigoths** invaded Spain in A.D. 711. _____
- 5. Carlos V was the father of **Felipe II**. _____
- 6. El Cid captured **Valencia** from the Moors. _____
- 7. The **Carthaginians** built bridges and aqueducts in Spain. _____
- 8. Fernando and Isabel completed the Reconquest from the **Moors**. _____
- 9. The **Moors** developed philosophy and the sciences. _____
- 10. The **Phoenicians** conquered the Carthaginians. _____

EXERCISE C

Select the word or expression that correctly completes each sentence.

1. The first leader in the Reconquest of Spain was (Franco / Pelayo / el Cid).
2. The Spanish-American War took place in (1898 / 1936 / 1516).
3. Felipe II was the son of (Fernando and Isabel / el Cid / Carlos V).
4. The Spanish language is derived from (Portuguese / Latin / Basque).
5. The Moors were driven out of Spain in (1588 / 1808 / 1492).
6. The Romans ruled Spain for (two / six / eight) centuries.
7. Many Spanish words that begin with al- are of (Greek / Arabic / Portuguese) origin.
8. Prince Juan Carlos de Borbón was proclaimed King in (1898 / 1975 / 1982).
9. Columbus's voyages were financed by (Carlos V / Fernando and Isabel / Felipe II).
10. Spain's national hero is (don Pelayo / el Cid / Franco).

EXERCISE D

a. When did . . .

1. the Moors invade Spain? _____
2. don Pelayo win at Covadonga? _____
3. Fernando and Isabel recapture Granada? _____
4. the Spaniards rebel against Napoleon? _____
5. England defeat the "Invincible Armada"? _____

b. Who . . .

6. captured Valencia from the Moors? _____
7. financed Columbus's voyages? _____
8. was the father of Felipe II? _____
9. built the Alhambra? _____
10. overthrew the Spanish republic in 1939? _____