Granada in Middle Ages:

Level: 2º ESO (Bilingual)
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THE BIRTH OF A KINGDOM

THE KINGDOM OF GRANADA
- POLITICS
- ECONOMY
- SOCIETY

THE ALHAMBRA

THE FALL OF GRANADA

EXERCISES

GLOSSARY

LINKS
THE BIRTH OF A KINGDOM

In 1212 an army of Spanish and European soldiers destroyed the Muslim Army at Navas de Tolosa. Fernando III ('The Saint') captured Cordoba in 1236 and converted the mosque into the Cathedral of Cordoba.

The ruler of Granada, Mohammed ibn-Alhamar, cooperated with Fernando III in the Conquest of Muslim Seville. Granada became independent, as a subordinate of Castile. The kingdom of Granada included modern day Granada, Almeria and Malaga.
POLITICS:

Granada was a vassal to Castile. The Nasrid sultans and kings paid a tribute to Castile.

The Nasrid dynasty or Banuu Nasri ruled in Granada.

Granada allowed commerce with the Muslim world, particularly the gold trade with the sub-Saharan areas south of Africa.

The Nasrids also provided mercenaries from North Africa to Castile.
Arabic was the official Language, and was the mother tongue of the majority of the population.

About the Government:

The ruler was the Sultan. The Sultan had religious and political power. He was the “Prince of Believers”. He lived isolated, without contact with other people.

The sultan used some viziers (burden-bearer, literally) as public servants, ministers.

One important ruler was Muhammad V. He was born in 1338. He ruled between 1354 and 1391, and is famous for completing the Alhambra with the Palace of the Lions and the Mexuar. He employed the poet and diplomat Ibn Jaldun in negotiations with Pedro “The Cruel.”
- ECONOMY:

Granada had, more or less, 50,000 inhabitants, Malaga 20,000 and other towns, like Almeria or Ronda, 10,000.

In Economy, the water became a very important element. All the towns were near the rivers, and it had a lot of infrastructures for using the water.

This meant a very good agriculture, with a lot of crops, like almonds, oranges, lemons, pears, apples, pomegranates...

So, in the Alpujarra and Axarquia there were silkworms, near the coast there was sugar cane and in the Almanzora valley there was honey...
Nasri Muslims extracted minerals too. They extracted marble from Macael, iron from Sierra de los Filabres, quicksilver from Bayarque...

Inside the towns “alcaicerías” (market for silks and manufactures) appeared. There were all kinds of craftsmen: jewellers, sculptors...

It was a good moment for art and science. Ibn Al-Jatib and Ibn Zamrak were important writers, and they wrote about History, Philosophy, Poetry, Literature and a lot of topics more. One good mathematic was Al-Qalasadi. He wrote several books on Arithmetic and one on Algebra.

Another wise man was Ibn Khaldun. Ibn Khaldun was a famous North African Arab polymath (an astronomer, economist, historian, Islamic scholar, Islamic theologian, hafiz, jurist, lawyer, mathematician, military strategist, nutritionist, philosopher, social scientist and statesman). He is the "father" of the Social Sciences in general.
- **SOCIETY:**

The population of the kingdom of Granada was about 300,000 people. 50,000 of them (approximately) lived in the capital.

Most of people were muslims. Some of them were descendants of arabs, syrians and berbers. But a lot of them were refugees from the Christian Kingdoms.

Jewish people were only 1% in the town. They were silk workers, jewellers and merchants.

There were a little Christians. Most of them were captives. But there were some Christian merchants: Genoese, Portuguese and Catalano-Aragonese.
THE ALHAMBRA:
Alhambra ("the red one"; the complete name is "Qal'at al-Hambra") is a palace and fortress complex of the Moorish rulers of Granada.
Moorish Poets described it as "a pearl set in emeralds" in allusion to the colour of its buildings and the woods around them.
Moors planted roses, oranges and myrtles in the park.

The park has a multitude of nightingales and is usually filled with the sound of running water from several fountains and cascades.

In the link below, you can hear the sound of a nightingale
http://www.freesound.org/samplesViewSingle.php?id=17185

In every case, the exterior is plain and austere.
The decoration consists on foliage, Arabic inscriptions, and geometrical patterns. Here you can see all things:
A tour of the Alhambra

The Tower of Justice (Torre de la Justicia) is the original entrance gate to the Alhambra. They constructed it in 1348.

The hand of Fatima, is on the exterior; a key, the symbol of authority, is on the interior.

When the key and the hand are united, it means the ruin of the Alhambra
The Alhambra has got three parts:

**The alcazaba or citadel**, is the oldest part. It has got a lot of walls and towers.

On the watchtower, the Torre de la Vela, 25 metres high, Ferdinand and Isabella raised their flag on January 2, 1492.
The Royal Complex. Consists of three main parts: Mexuar, Serallo, and the Harem.

In the Mexuar were the areas for business and administration. The ceilings, floors, and trim are made of wood.

Serollo contains the “Patio de los Arrayanes” (Court of the Myrtles). The pond divides the patio and receives water from two fountains.

The lateral sections were the women's residence.

The emir had a lot of women. They all lived in a section in the court of the Myrtles.
Harem is very decorated and contains the rooms for the wives of the Arabic monarchs. But this one was simply the king's home. The Harem was just his calm and normal home.

The Three Wives of the Sultan lived in this place. But, «the favourite wife» (sultans used to have four wives), lived separately.

It contains a bathroom and showering. The Harem also has representations of human forms, which is forbidden under Islamic law.

The third part is the **Royal Palace** (*Palacio Árabe*, or *Casa Real*) Some of the important rooms are:

The “Salón de los Embajadores” (Hall of the Ambassadors) This was the grand reception room, and the throne of the Sultan was here. There are a lot of decorative inscriptions on the walls. The decorative inscriptions are poems.

There are a lot of mocarabes or Honeycomb work.
The Court of the Lions, one of the strangest Islamic animal statues. In the centre of the court there is the Fountain of Lions, an alabaster basin with the figures of twelve lions in white marble.

The “Sala de los Abencerrajes” derives its name from a legend. The father of Boabdil, last king of Granada, invited the Abencerrajes family to a banquet, and massacred them here.
Palacio de Generalife: The “Palacio de Generalife” was the summer palace of the Nasrid Sultans of Granada. The Generalife is one of the oldest surviving Moorish gardens.

In 1492, the Conquerors began to alter the Alhambra.
In 1812, French Army destroyed some of the towers.

Napoleon tried to blow up the Alhambra. But a soldier defused the explosives and saved the Alhambra for posterity.

Special features:

The Alhambra has a special type of column.

One impressive decorative element is the mocarabe.

There are a lot of horseshoe archs.
THE FALL OF GRANADA.

Though there were periods of peace, Granada was in constant danger. Muslims evolved tactics to battle Christians.

The tactics were essentially defensive. The army was skilled and well organised. Infantry formed a majority. The discipline was strict and the training was rigorous.

Crossbowmen were the most important element in Granadian tactics, specially in ambush and guerrilla tactics.
The Fall of Granada: With the unification of Castile and Aragon under King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, Granada had an united enemy. Christians planned the extinction of Al-Andalus once for all.

The Christian army had a lot of artillery and a lot of handgunners. Gunpowder weapons made castle-strongholds more vulnerable. Cannon was the key.

In the War for Granada, Spanish Muslims and Christians used handguns.

The campaign was long and bitter. When the Muslim burned the Christian camp, the Christians built a permanent town called Santa Fe. But the defenders resisted.
Finally, Boabdil (the last Sultan) negotiated a private surrender against the wishes of his people. Christians entered secretly into the Alhambra Palace on 2th January 1492.

This was the end of Al-Andalus. All the muslims had to go out.
EXERCISES

Birth of a Kingdom

1- Colour in these maps:

**In red:** The Christian land.
**In green:** The Muslim area.

A) In this map, the situation before the Navas de Tolosa battle. (1212)

B) In this map, the situation after the Navas de Tolosa battle. (1236)

You can use your book and this link.
http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=ci2jTnl2gqk
Or maybe this:
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/ca/Spanish_reconquista.gif

2- Link the related ones

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ferdinand III</th>
<th>Vassal of Castile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muhammad Inb Al-Hammar</td>
<td>Kingdom of Granada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1212</td>
<td>Mosque of Cordoba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granada, Almería and Malaga</td>
<td>The saint king</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was converted into a Cathedral</td>
<td>Total victory for Christians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy:
3- The kingdom of Granada was useful to Castile because:

| It was a very good friend of Castile | The women from Granada were very beautiful. | It paid tribute. |
| It provided petrol and gas oil. | It provided mercenaries | Castile needed enemies. |
| Granada was a good ally against France. | It was very good at maths. | Granada was, in fact, a Christian kingdom. |
| The African gold came through Granada | Granada provided very good weapons. | Castile could sell in Granada a lot of fruits, wine and silk. |

4- Answer the questions:

a) What was the name of the last dynasty in Granada?
b) What was the name for the rulers in Nasrid Granada?
c) Who were the “burden-bearers”?
d) What was the language in Granada?
e) Name one famous poet and one famous ruler of Granada.

Economy:
5- Look for three recipes containing at least two ingredients produced by granadian agriculture. Write them briefly in your notebook. You can use this link. [http://allrecipes.com/](http://allrecipes.com/)

6- Name three things that you can do with:

Quicksilver (Mercury)

Iron.

Marble.

7- Look for the words in English in the dictionary, and draw them. Use the link:

- Acequia.
- Noria.
- Azafrán.
Alhambra:
8- Link the character with the definition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A very good mathematic.</td>
<td>The Catholic Monarchs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The first ruler of Nasrid Granada.</td>
<td>Al-Kalasadi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Important muslim writer, the father of social science.</td>
<td>Muhammad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They united Aragon and Castile.</td>
<td>Ibn Khaldun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The conqueror of Seville.</td>
<td>Muhammad Ibn Al Hammar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One important ruler of Granada, in the XIV century.</td>
<td>Fernando III</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9- Alhambra true or false:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>T</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is not plants in the Alhambra.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They killed the Abencerrajes family in the “Hall of the Abencerrajes”</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The decoration is outside.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The mocarabe is like a stalactite.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The french army constructed some towers in the Alhambra.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generalife was a summer palace.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The sultan used to have three wives.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fountain of Lions is made out of iron.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Spanish flag is raised in the main tower.</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Alhambra means &quot;a pearl set in emeralds&quot;</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10- Try to do this puzzle. You can see geometrical patterns as in the Alhambra inscriptions. [http://www.jigzone.com/puzzles/OD055D4F715B](http://www.jigzone.com/puzzles/OD055D4F715B)

11- Go to this link, create a puzzle of “The court of the Lions” and send it to the teacher. (Remember: tintoreprofe@gmail.com) [http://jigsawplanet.com/](http://jigsawplanet.com/) [http://jigsawplanet.com/?id=4cea5ce4dcc1de05](http://jigsawplanet.com/?id=4cea5ce4dcc1de05)
12- Wordsearch:

| There are a lot of these birds in the Alhambra | E B S A L E I A M R D |
| Typical islamic arch | L S L B E S B A N E E |
| When it touches the hand, the Alhambra will be destroyed | A Y S E N E R O O E I |
| The material for the Fountain of Lions | G E R N E B E H D E J |
| Massacred family | N L R C L K S N F N N |
| Isabella's husband | I R R E J E A E I R I |
| Colour of the Alhambra | T O D R S Y E E A S F |

13- Alhambra legends: Go to this link, read it and draw a comic with your favorite legend.

14- Point on the map to...
Tower of Justice.
Alcazaba.
Torre de la vela.
Mexuar.
Court of the Myrtles
Hall of the Ambassadors
Court of the Lions
Generalife
Charles V palace.

You can use this interactive map:
http://www.alhambra-patronato.es/index.php/Plano-del-recinto/216+M54a708de802/0/

The fall of Granada:

15- Fill the gaps:
* The key for the Christian victory was the ________________.
* In January 1492, Christians entered _______ ____ _____________ ________________.
* The ________________ was a very important weapon in the Muslim army.
* The Muslim army destroyed the Christian __________, but they built a permanent town in Santa Fe.
* Boabdil wanted a _______________ ________________, but the people in Granada wanted to __________.
* Granada had an united enemy with the _____________ of Castile and Aragon.
* Soldiers who use gunpowder weapons use a _________________.
* Christians planned the ________________ of Muslim Spain.
* The ________ - ___________ were very good defensive buildings.
16- Find in the picture: Handgunner, Granadan soldier, shield.

17- Link:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
<th>WORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A defensive building with walls, made out mainly of stone.</td>
<td>Ambush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very big gunpowder weapon, used to break walls.</td>
<td>Campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To surprise the enemy</td>
<td>Unification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Several military operations.</td>
<td>Castle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two kingdoms become one</td>
<td>Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary living quarters for the army</td>
<td>Cannon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18- Look for the words in the English text: Castillo, rendición, deseos, mayoría, ballesteros, habilidoso, amargo/a.

19- Write in four sentences maximum, the plot of the text.
20- Identify in this picture:

- Boabdil.
- Ferdinand.
- Isabelle.
- The Alhambra.
- The town keys.
- The Christian Army.
- The Muslim Army.
- The winners.
- The losers.
GLOSSARY

Alabaster: Alabastro (un tipo de mármol blanco)
Ambush: Emboscada.
Army: Ejército.

Banquet: Banquete.
Basin: Cuenco, pila.
Bearer: Portador.
Believer: Creyente.
Below: Debajo.
Berber: Beréber (del norte de África)
Bitter: Amargo/a.
Burden: Carga.
Bussines: Negocios

Campaign: Campaña (Serie de batallas)
Captive: Cautivo.
Ceiling: Techo.
Complex: Complejo.
Conquest: Conquista.
Courtyard: Patio.
Craftsman / craftsmen: Artesano / artesanos.
Crop: Cultivo.
Crossbow: Ballesta.

Emerald: Esmeralda.
Essentially: Esencialmente.
Fortress: Fortaleza.
Gate: Puerta.
Grand: Magnífico

Handgun: Arma de fuego (individual).
Hangunners: Tiradores (con arma de fuego).
Hidden: Escondido, oculto.
Horseshoe: Herradura. Se refiere a los arcos de herradura.

Independent: Independiente.
Jeweller: Joyero.

King: Rey.
Kingdom: Reino.

Link: Vínculo, enlace.

Majority: Mayoría.
Marble: Mármol.
Massacre: Masacre. To Massacre: Masacrar.
Merchant: Mercader, comerciante.
Modern: Moderno/a.
Muslim: Musulmán.
Myrtle: Arrayán.

Nightingale: Ruiseñor.

Once for all: De una vez por todas.

Palace: Palacio
Pattern: Patrón.
Pearl: Perla.
Plain: Plano, liso.
Pond: Estanque.
Power: Poder.

Quicksilver (or Mercury): Mercurio (el mineral)

Refugee: Refugiado.
Ruin: Ruina.
Ruler: Gobernante.

Servant: Sirviente.
Silkworm: Gusano de seda.
Silver: Plata.
Skilled: Habilidoso/a.
Soldier: Soldado.
Statue: Estatua
Strict: Estricto/a.
Subject: Vasallo (Tiene más acepciones, pero aquí se usa este sentido)
Successors: Sucesores.
Sugar cane: Caña de azúcar.
Surrender: Rendición.

Throne: Trono
Tongue: Lengua.
Tower: Torre.
Trade/To trade: Comercio, negocio, intercambio. Intercambiar, negociar.
Training: Entrenamiento.
Tribute: Tributo.
Trim: Adorno.

Valley: Valle.
Vase: Vasija.
Vassal: Vasallo.

Wall: Muro.
Wise: Sabio.
Wood: Madera.
**Verbs:**

To allow: Permitir.
To appear: Aparecer.

To become: Llegar a ser, convertirse, volverse, devenir.
To blow up: Volar (con explosivos)
To build / built / built: Construir.

To capture: Capturar.
To construct: Construir.
To contain: Contener
To convert: Convertir.
To cooperate: Cooperar.

To defuse: Desactivar.

To employ
To evolve: Desarrollar (se)

To fill: Llenar, rellenar. (Filled: Relleno, lleno.)
To forbid / forbade / forbidden: Prohibir.

To include: Incluir.

To mean/ meant /meant: Querer decir.

To Provide: Proveer, proporcionar.

To rule: Gobernar.