THE MIDDLE AGES: HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

- Objectives
- Castles and Alcazabas
- Religious Temples
- How Medieval People Lived

Hands on Activities
The Middle Ages

1. Castles and Alcazabas
2. Churches, Mosques, and Synagogues
3. Life in Medieval Times

Activities 1 and 2 will give the children the opportunity to locate in time and space important elements of the different cultures that co-existed in medieval Spain. Activity 3 will promote research as a means of learning.

- **Objectives: 1. To place the Middle Ages period on the time line. 2. To locate important medieval sites in Spain on a map. 3. To describe how a given element (dress, food and homes) changes throughout history.**

1. Castles and Alcazabas

Introduction

In this activity, children will use fact file 1 to locate important castles and alcazabas or Arab fortresses on a map of Spain. They will also indicate when these sites were inhabited on the timeline.

Development

In pairs the pupils should use the photocopiable fact file 1 and the map provided to locate the castles and alcazabas. More able children could then draw and annotate a timeline to indicate when these sites were inhabited or built.

Plenary

Once the children have completed the task, collect the children's ideas and locate the fact cards on a large map of Spain.

Castles and Alcazabas Fact File Sheet 1

Name: Castle of Chinchón
Situated: Chinchón, Madrid
Dated: 15th century A.D. Built over
former fortress.
Type: Christian fortress, crown of
Castile-Aragon

Name: Castle of Manzanares
Situated: Madrid
Dated: 1475 A.D.
Type: Christian fortress,
Crown of Castile-Aragon

Name: Castle of Malpica
Situated: Toledo
Dated: 1307 built over alcazaba.
Type: Initially Arab fortress,
reconquered by Crown of
Castile-Leon

Name: Castle of Alarcón
Situated: Cuenca
Dated: Before 11th century A.D.
Type: Initially Arab fortress, reconquered by Crown of Castile on 12th century.

Name: Castle of Peñarroya
Situated: Ciudad Real
Dated: Before 12th century A.D.
Type: Initially Arab fortress, Reconquered by Crown of Castile on 1198 A.D.

Name: Castle of La Guardia
Situated: Jaén
Dated: 8th century A.D.
Type: Initially Arab fortress for the kingdom of Granada. Reconquered in the 13th century by the crown of Castile-Leon

Name: Alcazaba of Almería
Situated: Almería
Dated: 10th century A.D.
Type: Arab fortress for the
kingdom of Granada

Name: Alcazaba of Málaga
Situated: Málaga
Dated: 11th century A.D.
Type: Arab fortress for the
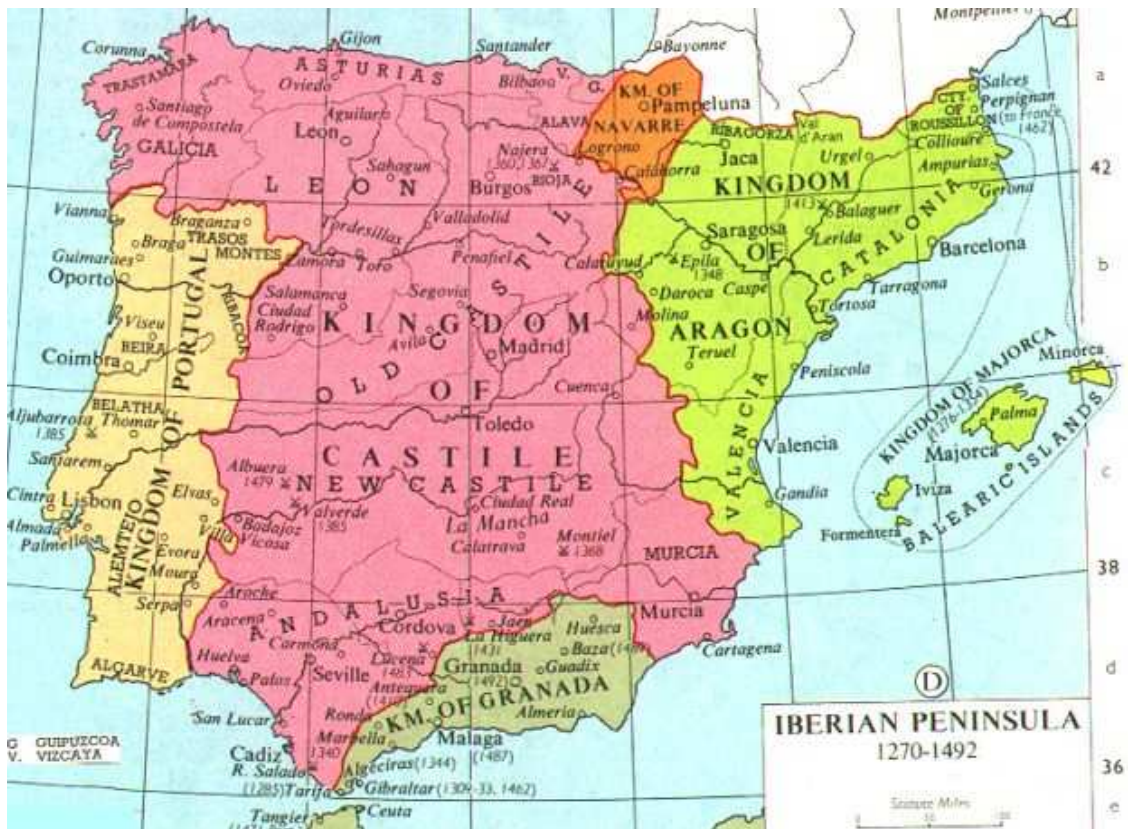kingdom of Granada

Name: Alcazaba La Alhambra
Situated: Granada
Dated: 13th century A.D.
Type: Arab fortress for the
kingdom of Granada

Locating Spain's Medieval Castles and Alcazabas

Use the fact file sheet and an atlas to locate the medieval castles and alcazabas.

2. Medieval Religious Temples:
Churches, Mosques, Synagogues

Introduction

In this activity, children will use the fact sheet 2 to locate on a map of Spain important religious temples from the three religions that co-existed in medieval times. They will also indicate when these temples were founded on the timeline.

Development

In pairs the pupils should use the photocopiable fact file 2 and the map provided to locate the religious temples. More able children could then draw and annotate a timeline to indicate when these sites were built.

Plenary

Once the children have completed the task, collect the children's ideas and locate the fact cards on a large map of Spain.

2. Churches, Mosques, and Synagogues
Fact Sheet 2

Name: San Pedro de la Nave
Situated: Zamora
Dated: 7th century A.D.
Type: Christian Temple.
Visigothic Church.

Name: Mosque of Córdoba
Situated: Córdoba
Dated: 8th century A.D.
Type: Muslim Temple

Name: Santa Maria La Blanca
Situated: Toledo
Dated: 12th century
Type: Synagogue. Jewish temple

Name: Santo Domingo de Silos
Situated: Burgos
Dated: **11th** century A.D.
Type: Romanesque Convent.
　　　　Christian temple

Name: Burgos Cathedral
Situated: Burgos
Dated: 13th century A.D.
Type: Gothic Cathedral.
          Christian temple

Locating Spain's Medieval Religious Temples

Use the fact file sheet and an atlas to locate the different religious temples.

Medieval Spain

France

Pamplona

Leon

Burgos

Valladolid

Kingdom Of Aragon

Saragossa

Barcelona

Kingdom Of Portugal

Salamanca

Madrid

Toledo

Valencia

Majorca

Kingdom Of Castile & Leon

Badajoz

Cordova

Murcia

Algarve

Seville

Granada

Malaga   Almeria

Algecira   Kingdom of Granada

3. Investigating How Medieval People Lived

Introduction
In this activity, the children will investigate one of the following themes: dress, food or homes, and will produce a poster of how these elements were used in medieval times. You can use the web sites provided as a source of information.

Development
Encourage the children to write some research questions to guide them in their search using why? who? what? where? and how? to start them off. Discuss the use of diagrams, drawings or photos to help them communicate their ideas.

Plenary
Once each group has completed the task, ask them to share their finished poster with the class. The posters can become part of the wall display on Medieval Times.

WEB SITES FOR ACTIVITY 3

- http://medievaleurope.mrdonn.org/index.html excellent site for children to research on medieval life and much more.
- http://www.historyonthenet.com/Medieval_Life/medievallifemain.htm comprehensive site on food, housing, clothing, and more on medieval times.
- http://karenswhimsy.com/medieval-clothes.shtm large illustration of medieval clothing
- http://www.teachnet.ie/mmorrin/resource/pupil.htm
- child friendly site featuring life in the Middle Ages.
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/anglosaxons/life/lifeind6.shtml illustrated information on Saxons, and other early Middle Ages settlers in the U.K.
- http://medievalcastles.stormthecastle.com/parts-of-a-medieval-castle.htm Parts of a castle. make a paper castle.
- http://www.mrdowling.com/703-plague.html information on the bubonic plague.
- http://historymedren.about.com/library/weekly/aa061898.htm medieval clip art.

Brainstorm
Write the element you are researching in the centre.
Write some questions to help you focus your research.

how?

where?

why?

_____

what?

who?