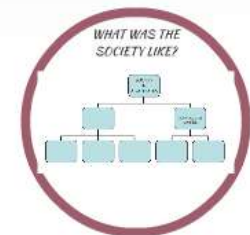
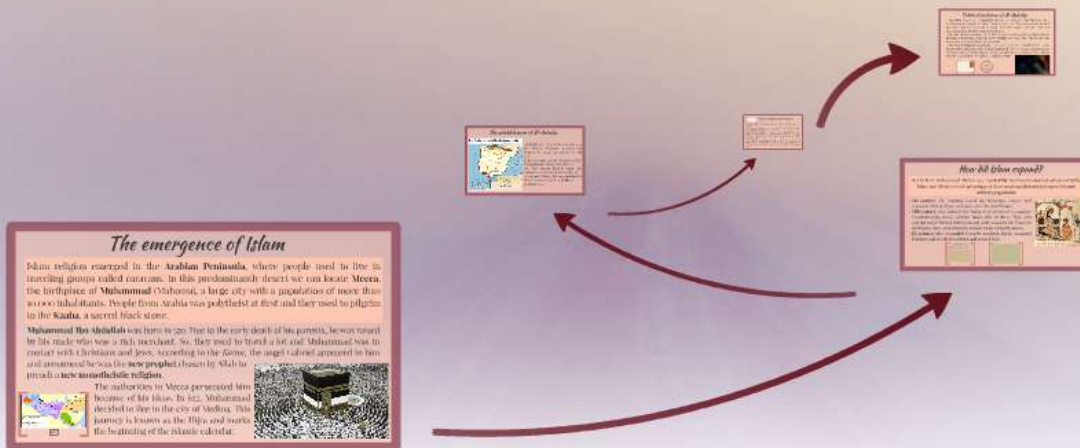
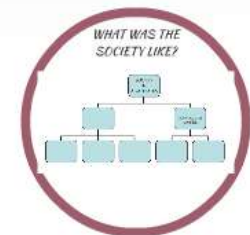
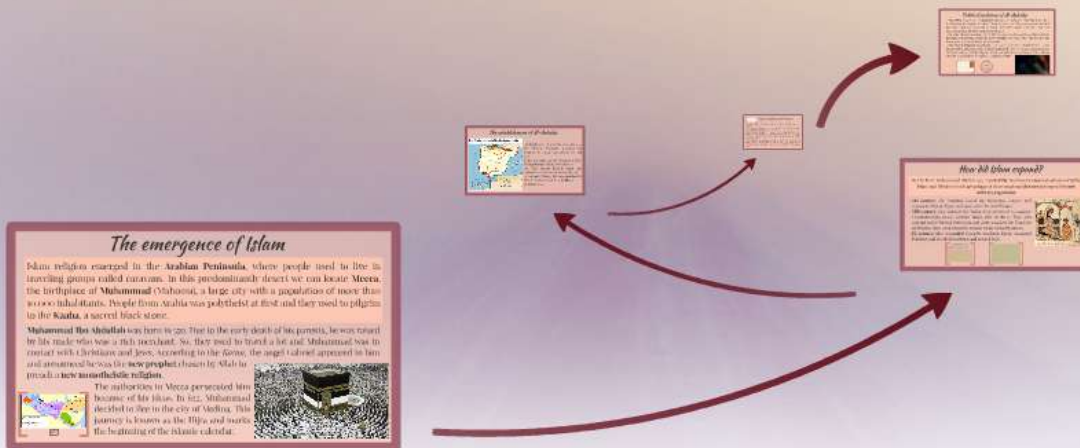


Unit 2: The Islam in Al-Ándalus



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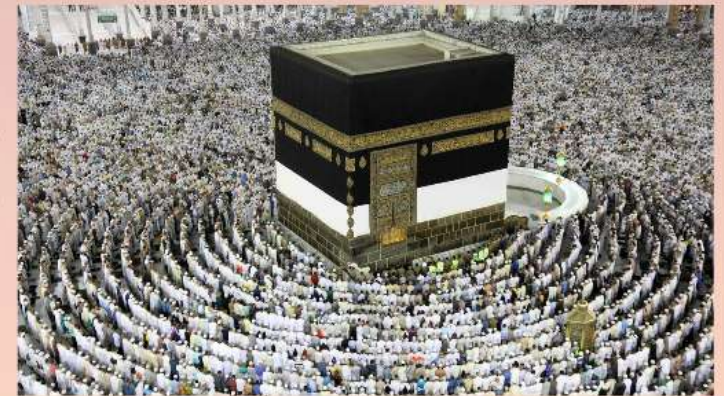


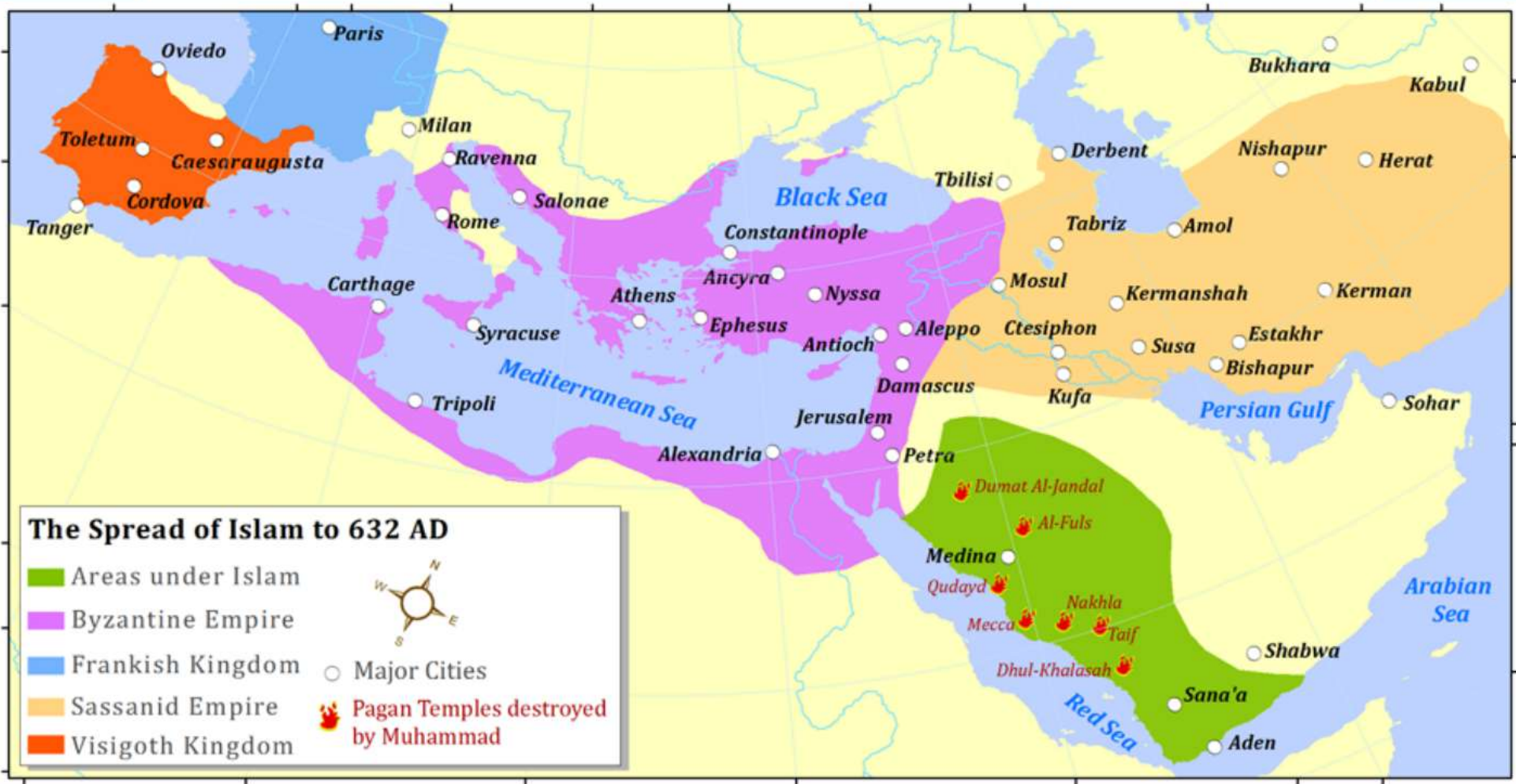
The emergence of Islam

Islam religion emerged in the **Arabian Peninsula**, where people used to live in traveling groups called caravans. In this predominantly desert we can locate **Mecca**, the birthplace of **Muhammad** (Mahoma), a large city with a population of more than 10.000 inhabitants. People from Arabia was polytheist at first and they used to pilgrim to the **Kaaba**, a sacred black stone.

Muhammad Ibn Abdullah was born in 570. Due to the early death of his parents, he was raised by his uncle who was a rich merchant. So, they used to travel a lot and Muhammad was in contact with Christians and Jews. According to the *Koran*, the angel Gabriel appeared to him and announced he was the **new prophet** chosen by Allah to preach a **new monotheistic religion**.

The authorities in Mecca persecuted him because of his ideas. In 622, Muhammad decided to flee to the city of Medina. This journey is known as the Hijra and marks the beginning of the islamic calendar.





What is Islam?

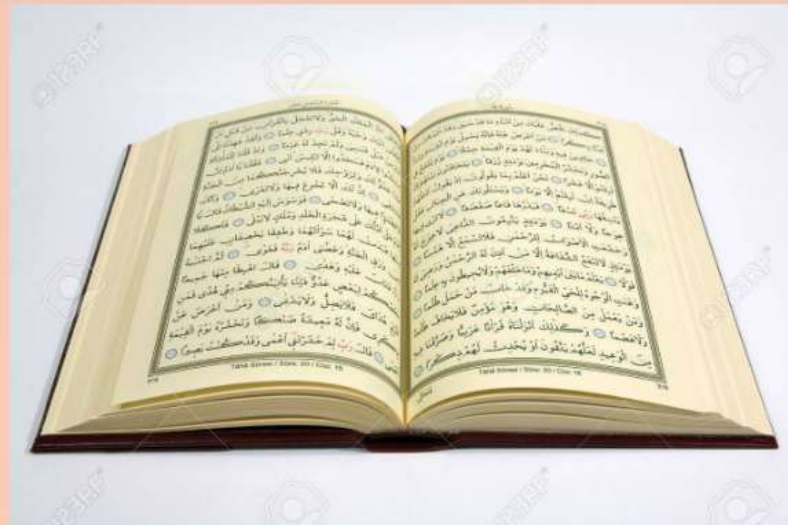
The writings of the prophets were collected in the Koran, the holy book of Islam. It contains religious ordinances, a code of laws, rules of behavior, a theory of religion, and details the activities of the prophet in the world.

The first mosque was built by prophet in the city of Mecca, 700, and the first mosque in the world was built in Medina in 622. It is a part of the Islamic religion.

Islam is the second largest religion in the world. It is a monotheistic religion that believes in one God, Allah, and Muhammad as his messenger. It is a religion of peace and justice.

Phonetic: /ɪsˈlɑːm/

What is Islam?



The teachings of Muhammad were collected in the **Koran**, the holy book for Muslims and it contains **religious obligations**. It also dictates codes of behaviour, it allows polygamy and defines the authority of the father in the family

The most important Muslim practices are **the Five Pillars of Islam**. They are the five obligations that every Muslim must satisfy in order to live a good and responsible life according to Islam:

- Sincerely reciting the Muslim profession of faith
- Performing ritual prayers in the proper way five times each day.
- Paying an alms (or charity) tax to benefit the poor and the needy.
- Fasting during the month of Ramadan
- Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lives.

How did Islam expand?

By the time Muhammad died in 632, most of the Arabian Peninsula had converted to Islam and Muslims took advantage of their weak neighbouring empire through **military expansion**.

- **VII century:** the Muslims faced the Byzantine empire and conquered Syria, Egypt and part of the Persian Empire.
- **VIII century:** they reached the Indus river and tried to conquer Constantinople twice, without being able to do it. They also arrived to the Iberian Peninsula and after attacked the Frankish in Poitiers, they were forced to retreat south of the Pyrenees.
- **IX century:** they expanded towards southern Egypt, occupied Palermo and invaded southern and central Italy.



Political organization

During the Middle Ages, the government and organization of the Islamic Empire went through different stages.

- 3.2 The Rashidun Caliphate
The Rashidun Caliphate began from the time of the Prophet Muhammad's death in 632. The Caliphate was divided into four regions: Syria, Egypt, Iraq, and Persia.
- 3.3 The Umayyad Caliphate
The Umayyad Caliphate began in 661. The Caliphate was divided into four regions: Syria, Iraq, Persia, and North Africa.
- 3.4 The Abbasid Caliphate
The Abbasid Caliphate began in 750. The Caliphate was divided into four regions: Syria, Iraq, Persia, and North Africa.



Political organization

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3.2 The Rashidun caliphate:

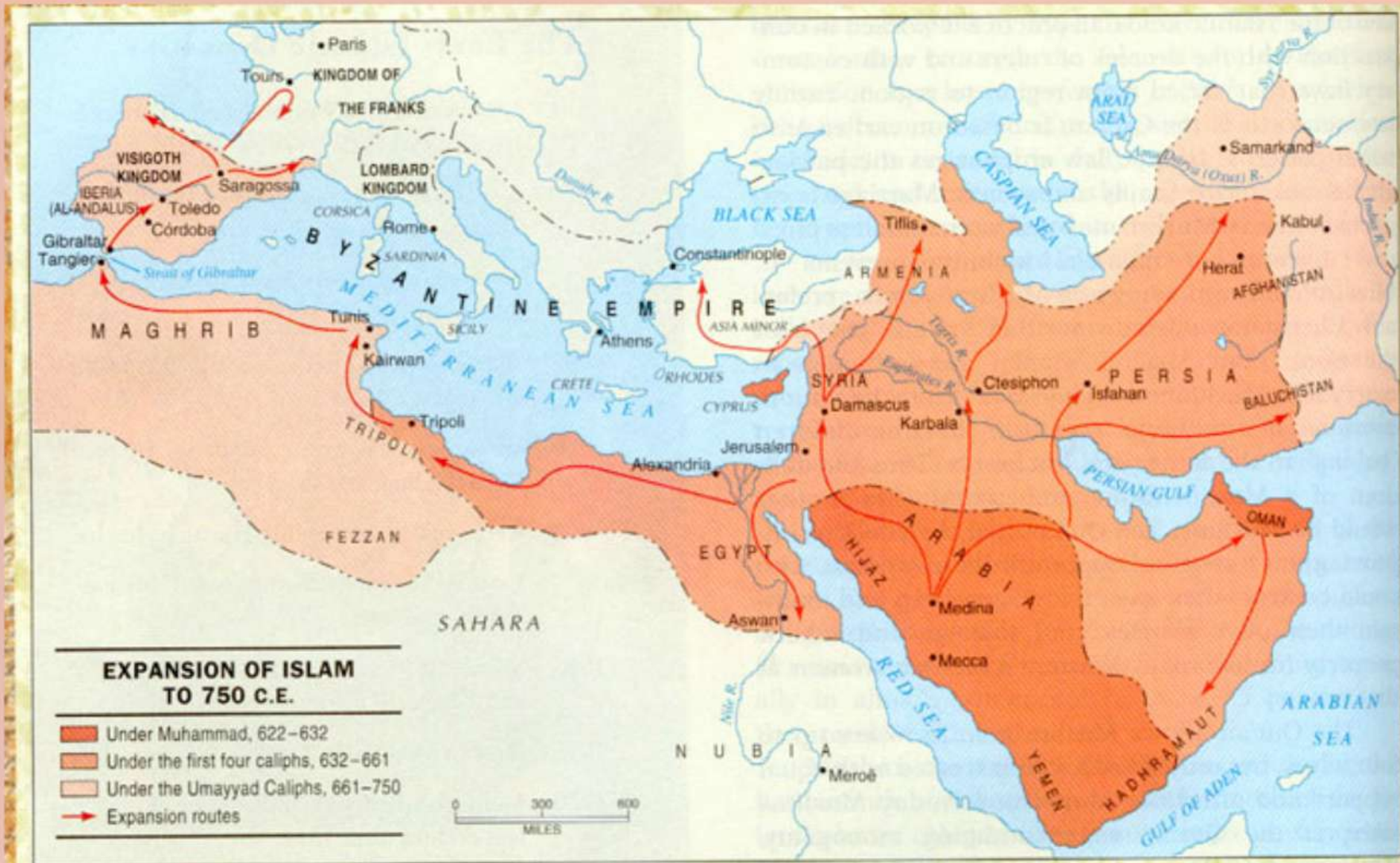
Muhammad's successors, chosen from his family and friends and named caliphs (successor of the prophet). The capital was in **Medina** and the Empire expanded its territory to Syria, Palestine, Egypt, North Africa, Mesopotamia and Persia.

3.3 The Umayyad caliphate:

The capital city was moved to **Damascus**. During this period, the empire reached its peak. It expanded its boundaries towards the Iberian Peninsula, Turkestan and Indus valley.

3.4 The Abbasid caliphate:

The capital city was moved to **Baghdad**. They conquered Crete and Sicily. In the 11th century the Turks conquered the caliphate and in 1258 was conquered by the Mongolians.



The Islamic conquests were rapid and far-reaching. By 750 Islamic monarchs controlled kingdoms stretching from central Asia to Spain.

The establishment of Al-Ándalus

The Muslim conquest of the Iberian peninsula



Al-Ándalus was the Arabic name given to the Iberian Peninsula governed by Muslims in the period between 711 and 1492.

Under the orders of the Umayyad Caliph, **Tariq's troops** landed at Gibraltar in 711. They spread through Spain and crossed the Pyrenees and occupied parts of southern France, but were defeated by Frank Charles Martel at the **Battle of Poitiers** in 732.



Political evolution of Al-Ándalus

As a political domain Al-Ándalus can be broken down into the following periods:

- **The dependent Emirate** (c.711-750): Al-Ándalus was ruled by governors (emirs) appointed by the Caliph in Damascus.
- **The Emirate of Cordoba** (c. 750-929): In 750, the Abbasids overthrew the Umayyads and the exiled prince established himself as the Emir of Cordoba. He refused to submit to the Abbasid caliph, as the Abbasid forces had killed most of his family.
- **The Caliphate of Cordoba** (929-1031): Abd-al-Rahman III, proclaimed himself Caliph, competing with the Abbasid caliph in Baghdad. This is considered the Golden Age, which ended because of civil wars at the beginning of the XI



La Península en 1031.



La Península en 1100.



La Península en 1200.



La Península en 1300.



Political evolution of Al-Ándalus

- **The taifas** (1031–1212) : Independent states as a result of Al-Andalus' break up - Sevilla, Granada, Badajoz, Valencia, Toledo, Zaragoza etc. They were governed by local dynasties. They were too weak to defend themselves against Christians, who had spread from their initial strongholds in Asturias.
- Over the following centuries, Al-Andalus became a province of the northern **African dynasties** (**Almoravids, Almohads and Marinids**) fragmented into a number of minor states, most notably the Kingdom of Granada.
- **The Nasrid Kingdom of Granada** (1238–1492): it became a tributary state to the Kingdom of Castile, then ruled by King Ferdinand III. In 1492, Granada surrendered to Queen Isabella I of Castile, who along with her husband were known as “The Catholic Monarchs”, concluding Al-Andalus as a political entity.

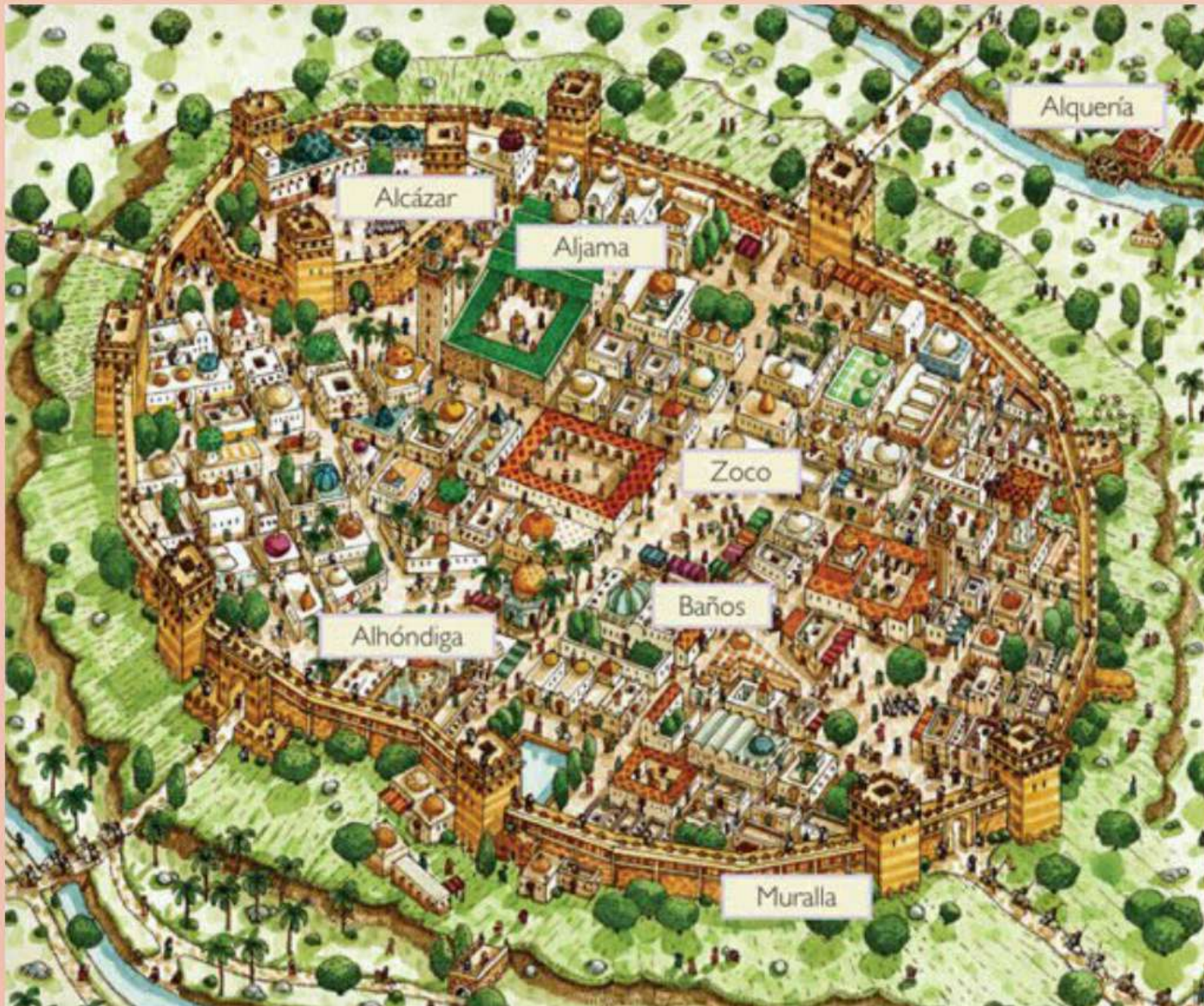


Society and economy

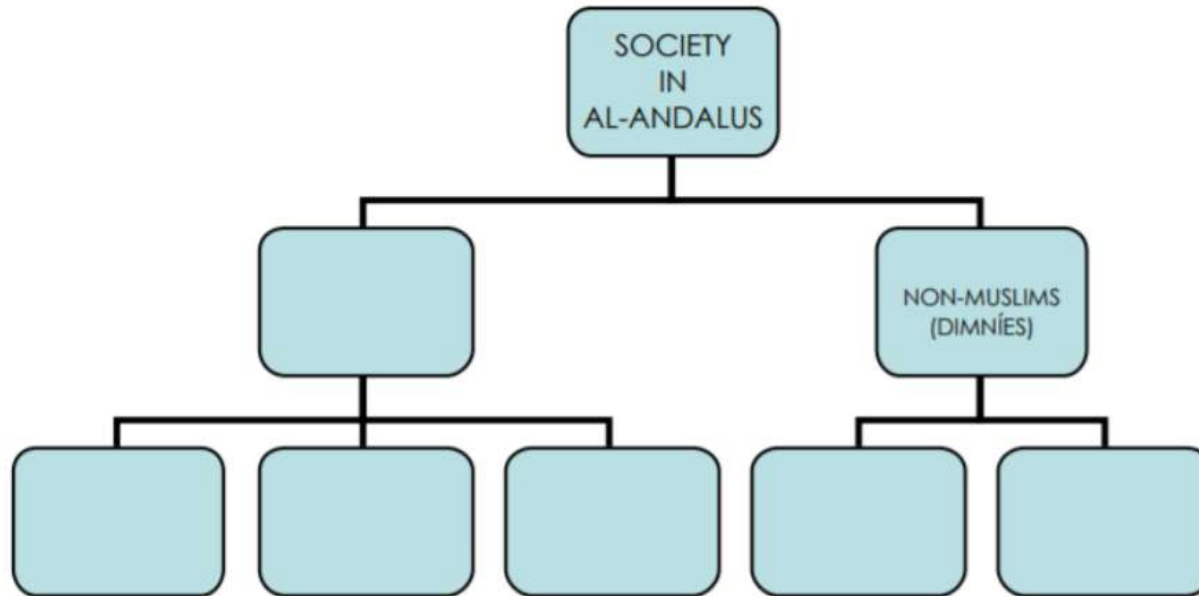
A **modern agricultural system** became central to economic life. The introduction of new crops (sugar cane, rice, citrus fruit, apricots, cotton, aubergines, etc.) and **extensive irrigation**, transformed private farming into a new global industry exported everywhere.

The real strength of Al-Andalus lay in its **cities**, with their productive economies, skilled labor, technological development, and learning. They excelled in the production of silk, ceramics, armaments, and some types of fine steelwork. Al-Andalus had proportionately more artisans in its cities than any other part of western Europe at that time.

Commerce flourished



WHAT WAS THE SOCIETY LIKE?



Unit 2: The Islam in Al-Ándalus

