4. EVOLUTION OF AL-ANDALUS

4.1-The Dependent Emirate (718-756)

- After the conquest, the Iberian Peninsula (Al-Andalus) became an emirate (province) of the Caliphate of Damascus (ruled by the Umayyad dynasty).
- The capital of the emirate was Córdoba. From this place, the emir governed the territory, but in the north of the Central System there were only some military garrisons to control the territory and collect taxes.

4.2-The Independent Emirate (756-929)

- After the murder of the Umayyads by the Abbasids (750), the only survivor, prince Abd al-Rahman I, fled to Al-Andalus and proclaimed the Independent Umayyad Emirate of Al-Andalus (756).
- He held all the political power but the only religious authority was still the Abbasid Caliph of Baghdad.
4.3. The Caliphate of Córdoba (929-1031)

- In the early 10th Century Abd al-Rahman III proclaimed himself the Caliph of Córdoba, so he got totally (politically and religiously) independent from Baghdad authority. The caliph had absolute power.

- This period is known as THE GOLDEN AGE OF AL-ANDALUS, because of its economic prosperity, its cultural and scientific splendour and because they could dominate the Christian Kingdoms militarily, specially during Al-Mansur’s (Almanzor) military expeditions.

*Evolution of Al-Andalus*

*Mosque of Córdoba*

*Medina Azahara (Córdoba)*
4.4. The Taifa Kingdoms (1031-1248)

- By the beginning of the 11th century the Caliphate broke up, because the aristocracy struggled to get the power from weak caliphs. As a result, in 1031 the territory was divided into 25 taifas or small kingdoms.
- These taifas were weaker to face the Christians, but they achieved prosperity.
- To stop the Christian advance, they asked for help from Northern African empires:
  - **Almoravids**, from the 11th to early 12th century.
  - **Almohads**, from the 12th to early 13th century. They were defeated by Christian armies in Navas de Tolosa (1212).

Aljaferia, Zaragoza, example of art during the period of taifas.

Torre del Oro and Giralda, examples of Almohad art.
4.5. The Nasrid Kingdom of Granada (1248-1492)

- It was the last taifa that survived to Christian advance since the 13th century.
- Its capital was Granada, where Alhambra and Generalife palaces were built for the royal family: Nasrid dynasty (Nazarí in Spanish)
- The Nasrid governors (sultans) used to pay “parias”, tributes to Castile to avoid Christian attacks.
- The last Nasrid sultan was Boabdil, who surrendered the capital city to the Catholic Monarchs in 1492.