

Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. What are Castile, Navarre, and Aragon? _____

2. What is the shaded area of this map known as today? _____

3. About how much of the peninsula had been retaken from the Muslims by 1150? _____

4. Starting in 750, with the area of Christian lands in the extreme north, describe the progression of the war in stages to 1269. _____

5. The dates shown for four cities on the map refer to the years in which those cities fell to Christian forces. How long did it take Christian forces to capture Cordoba after taking Toledo? to capture Cadiz after taking Cordoba? _____

6. Why do you think the Reconquista was considered a success in 1269, even though Granada had not yet been taken? _____

7. When did Christian forces finally retake the kingdom of Granada? _____
Why is it logical that Granada was the last Muslim stronghold? _____

8. In what way did Muslim occupation of the Iberian Peninsula contribute to European knowledge? _____

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CHAPTER

14

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: MOVEMENT

The Reconquista

Section 1

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the peninsula of modern-day Spain and Portugal—the Iberian Peninsula—became a collection of kingdoms: Castile, Navarre, Aragon, and many others. Of these kingdoms, only some tiny ones in the extreme north of Spain were Christian domains; by 750, the rest of the region had been conquered by the Muslims.

These Christian kingdoms wanted to recover the rest of the peninsula, and so they began a 500-year-long military campaign known as the Reconquista—the Reconquering. (The religious tone of this effort to drive the Muslims out, some believe, provided an incentive for the Crusades.) It was during this prolonged warfare, around 1140, that Portugal became

a separate country. By 1269, the Reconquista was considered a success, even though the Muslims still controlled Granada. Finally, in 1492, the Muslims in this last kingdom were defeated.

Lands retaken from the Muslims were repopulated mostly by northern Spaniards and French Christians. As they took control of the region, Europeans gained access to Greek thought. Greek knowledge had been preserved in Muslim libraries in eastern lands for centuries and was brought by Muslim scholars to the Iberian peninsula. Eventually Christian scholars absorbed this Greek learning as the Reconquista replaced Muslim rule.

