

NAME: _____

GROUP: 5TH ____

1- Read the following text carefully. Answer the questions using full sentences.

THE GREAT MOSQUE OF CÓRDOBA

The Great Mosque of Córdoba today is a Roman Catholic Cathedral. It was built as a mosque on a Christian Visigothic Church. Córdoba returned to Christian rule in 1236 during the Reconquista, and the building was converted to a Roman Catholic church.



The building was begun in approximately 600 AD as the Christian Visigothic church of St. Vincent. Later the Emir Abd ar-Rahman I bought the church, and ordered the construction of the mosque.

The building is famous for its giant arches, with lots of columns. These were made from pieces of the Visigothic temple (which occupied the same site as other destroyed Roman building).

The most important part of the mosque is the mihrab. That place indicates where the Mecca is (the direction that Muslims have to pray). This mihrab is full of geometric, calligraphic and flowing designs of plants.

In Córdoba, the capital of Al-Ándalus, the Great Mosque was the heart of the capital.

Apart from religious purposes, the mosque was used as a school for teaching and as a town hall, to manage law and order. The mosque was built in four stages, because each Caliph contributed to it.

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Was the Mosque built with recycled materials?



Why was the Mosque so important?



What are its main characteristics?



Was it built at once? Why?



Is it true that over the years people from different religions have prayed in the same site but at different times? Find out information in Internet about it.
