

## **TASK 3. Text Analysis: "Year 711"**

### **TALE: "YEAR 711"**

Many centuries ago, in the year 711, a mysterious shadow loomed over the Iberian Peninsula. The lands vibrated with the arrival of the Muslims, led by Tariq ibn Ziyad. They crossed the Strait of Gibraltar, joining their destinies with the history of a land full of diversity.

Tariq, taking advantage of the internal disputes of the Visigothic kingdom, led his men to the peninsula with the aim of expanding the Islamic caliphate. His troops advanced cautiously, exploring the lands that stretched before them. The Iberian mountains and valleys, with their mysteries and wonders, opened before the eyes of the conquerors.

The first crucial encounter occurred at the Battle of Guadalete. The Muslims, brave and disciplined, faced the Visigothic army led by King Rodrigo. The setting sun illuminated the contest, painting the sky in orange and red tones while a battle that would change the destiny of the region was fought.

In the midst of the fray, Tariq demonstrated his tactical prowess. With courage and strategy, he achieved a victory that would resonate through the centuries. News of the conquest spread like the wind, transforming the peninsula into a melting pot of cultures.

With the Visigothic defeat, coexistence began to weave itself into the Iberian lands. The Muslims, contrary to imposing their will, sought to understand and respect the different communities that inhabited the region. The cities, previously governed by Visigothic kings, saw the rise of a new era of coexistence.

Córdoba, becoming the heart of the caliphate, stood as a cultural beacon. Arts, science, and philosophy flourished under Muslim rule, attracting wise men and thinkers from all parts of the known world. The Caliphate of Córdoba became a center of cultural exchange, where Christians, Jews, and Muslims coexisted, each contributing their traditions to the city's splendor.

But peace was fragile in those distant times. Despite efforts for coexistence, underlying tensions arose in different regions of the peninsula. Changes in domain and power struggles left scars on the land and in the coexistence between communities.

## *SITUACIÓN DE APRENDIZAJE: “La península entre la cruz y la media luna”*

The changing territories and alternation in political control led to episodes of persecution and religious conflicts. Tolerance became an ephemeral luxury, oscillating between moments of understanding and periods of unrest.

As the decades passed, the Iberian Peninsula transformed. The Christian kingdoms of the north resisted and united in the Reconquest, a long process to recover the lost lands they considered their ancestors'. History intertwined with war and peace, with coexistence and discord, shaping a complex narrative.

In the shadows of history, the arrival of Muslims in 711 left an indelible mark on the culture and development of the Iberian Peninsula. A complex chapter, where the shadows of conquest intertwined with the light of coexistence and conflict, forging a legacy that still endures in the multicultural heritage of these lands. The Iberian Peninsula, marked by a history of encounters and challenges, became a crucible where cultures mixed and clashed, shaping the region's identity to this day.

### **Questions to Answer:**

1. What was the crucial event that marked the beginning of the Muslim arrival in the Iberian Peninsula in 711 according to the story?
2. How does the story describe the Battle of Guadalete and what consequences did it have for the region?
3. What was the Muslims' approach toward the communities inhabiting the peninsula after the victory at Guadalete?
4. How is the coexistence between Muslims, Christians, and Jews characterized in the narrative? Were there moments of tolerance?
5. Which city stands out for its cultural splendor under Muslim rule, and what role did it play in the peninsula's history according to the story?

***\*Text created with ChatGPT and reviewed and corrected by Moisés Sánchez-Prieto Jiménez.\****