

The Roman conquest and Romanisation

At the end of the 3rd century BCE, the Romans began their final conquest of the Guadalquivir Valley.

In 206 BCE, with the fall of the Carthaginian city of Gadir (Cádiz), all of Andalusia was under Roman rule.

Romanisation happened more quickly in Andalusia than in the rest of the Peninsula. Most of Andalusia was integrated into the Roman province of Baetica.

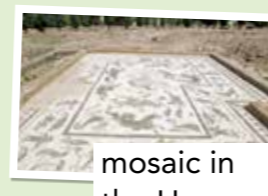
The Romans founded the cities of Hispalis (Seville), Corduba (Córdoba), Baelo Claudia (Tarifa, Cádiz) and Italica (Santiponce, Seville).

The Roman city of Italica was at its most powerful during the reigns of emperors Trajan and Hadrian, in the 2nd century CE.

It had many public buildings (an enormous amphitheatre, a theatre and several public baths), an aqueduct and big houses decorated with magnificent mosaics.



Roman theatre



mosaic in the House of Neptune



mosaic in the House of the Birds



the Goddess Fortuna



dancing priestess

They built public buildings and other constructions, such as the Acinipo Theatre (Ronda, Málaga) and the Cordoba bridge.



Basilica of Baelo Claudia (Tarifa)



Acinipo Theatre (Ronda la Vieja)

They also built very good roads. For example, Via de la Plata and Via Augusta.

These roads allowed trade and transport with the other cities of the Empire.



1 Find words in the texts that mean the following:

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| a) started | c) established | e) permitted |
| b) occupation | d) constructed | f) territory ruled by an emperor |

2 Find and write the past simple tense of these verbs in your notebook:

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------|-------------|
| a) begin | c) happen | e) found | g) decorate |
| b) is | d) integrate | f) build | h) allow |

3 Answer the questions in your notebook:

- What was the name of the Roman province that covered nearly all of modern Andalusia?
- Look at the map of the Roman roads. Where did the main routes begin and end? Where was Italica located?

4 In your notebook, complete the following sentences:

- The Romans completed their conquest in...
- The Romans founded the cities of ...
- The Romans built ...