

## GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: MOVEMENT

*The Reconquista*

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.

