

## Secondary School "Joaquín Romero Murube"

### SEVILLE (SPAIN)

**Geography:** Seville is located in the South of Spain and it is a provincial capital, seat of the government and parliament of the Regional Government. It has more than 700,000 inhabitants, almost half the population of the whole province. The city of Seville is located on the plain of the Guadalquivir River which crosses the city from North to South. During the ancient times, the port of Seville played an important role in commerce between Spain and the Americas and it still remains today one of the most active river ports of the Iberian Peninsula.

**History:** Seville's history is intimately linked to that of the river Guadalquivir. Archaeological excavations confirm that the first permanent settlements date back to the 9th century.



For centuries, analysts and chroniclers gave the honor of tracing Seville's limits to that



most popular of mythical heroes, Hercules. Julius Caesar would later found the city of Seville, calling the new city Iulia Romula Hispalis and granted it the status of colony to celebrate his victory over Pompey. In 206 B.C. Scipio Africanus settled a contingent of veteran soldiers in Itálica just outside Seville. Itálica, birthplace

of the Emperors Trajan and Hadrian, reached its apogee between the second and fourth century A.D. By the end of Imperial Rome, Hispalis was the eleventh most

important city in the Roman world and was even the centre of Christian activity in the Iberian Peninsula. In 426 Seville was taken by the Vandal king Gonderic, then the Visigoth replaced them.

Culturally, Seville basked in the intellectual light of Leander (Leandro) and Isidore (Isidoro), brothers, bishops and ultimately saints. Isidore's *"Etymologies"* was in its time regarded as the repository of all the knowledge of Antiquity and Isidore himself was universally celebrated as "Pride of Spain and Doctor of wisdom applauded by all nations".

During five hundred years Seville was occupied by the Moors. In 712 its Roman name, Hispalis, was changed to the Arabic Isbilya. With the fall of the Caliphate of Córdoba in 1035, Al-Andalus as a unified territory disappeared and smaller independent kingdoms called "taifas" arose in its place being Seville the capital of one of them, which extended from the Algarve in the West (Southern Pottugal), to modern-day Murcia in the East. King Fernando III of Castilla conquered the city on December 22nd, 1248 after a 15-month siege. After the conquest Seville became the second largest Jewish community in Spain after the one in Toledo.



In 1401 was taken the decision of constructing a new Cathedral, which is the largest Gothic church in the world and in area ranks third in all Christendom after Saint Peter's of Rome and Saint Paul's in London.

In 1481 the city became the first seat of the Holy Office, better known as the Inquisition, charged of prosecuting all kind of

religious dissidents.

1492 in the history of Spain is marked not only by the final conquest of the Moorish Kingdom of Granada and the political unification of Spain under the Catholic Kings, Isabella and Fernando. The Spanish Jewish community was banished and sent to exile. Some of them went to Turkey. America was discovered. In Seville, 1492 marked the beginning of two centuries during which the city would become gateway to the New World. Seville became a melting pot for European and American cultures. The boom generated by trade with the Americas transformed Seville into the center of European commerce becoming Spain's main city and one of the ten largest in Europe.

Christopher Columbus, Admiral of the Oceanic Seas (the Atlantic) visited Seville in 1492, 1493 and 1501. Centuries later, in 1899 his remains were brought to Seville from Havana and now lie in the Mausoleum in the transept of the Cathedral. In 1503, la Casa de la Contratación, the governing body of all commercial, scientific and legal aspects of trade with the Americas was formed in the Alcázares.



In the XVI century, the protestant community of Seville, together with that of Valladolid, were the most important in the country and were totally annihilated. Some of their most known representatives were Casiodoro de Reina y Cipriano de Valera, translator and reviser of the first Spanish translation of the Bible from its original languages, known as "Biblia del Oso" written in classical Castilian of the XVI Spanish Golden Century, published in Frankfort in 1569.

Inflamed by Counter-Reformation zeal, Seville

became what can only be described as a monastic city. No more proof is needed than the fact that in 1671 the city had 45 monasteries and 28 convents. This is the time when the religious parades called "procesiones" and the different brotherhoods developed, giving birth to the called "Semana Santa", a real living baroque exposition on the streets and a sample of Spanish religiosity. Religion was the prime move of seventeenth-century Seville. The infamous plague of



1649 left behind a terrible devastation. Half of Seville's population died by the plague, which was a heavy blow for the local economy. The town would never recover again.



In the XIX Century the worldwide known "Feria de Sevilla" has its beginning, from the original local kettle fair to the more than one million people attendance of today. In the XX Century Seville was the siege of two international expositions: the "Exposición Iberoamericana" of 1929, and the Expo 92. Both transformed the city, that has become the capital of the autonomous community of Andalusia, after the arrival of the democratic system.

### The Secondary School "Joaquín Romero Murube":



- ESO: Four levels: 11 courses.
- Professional: Hairdressing, 2 levels.
- Official Degree

**Sources:** For geography: <http://www.asiarooms.com/en/travel-guide/spain/seville/seville-overview/geography-of-seville.html> For History: <http://www.aboutsevilla.com/sevilla/history.asp>