In the medieval period, two powerful Berber Islamic empires rose in North Africa and left a strong mark on the history of Algeria: the Almoravids and the Almohads.

The Almoravids appeared in the 11th century. They began as a religious movement in the Sahara, focused on spreading a strict form of Islam. Their leader, Yusuf ibn Tashfin, united parts of the Maghreb (including Algeria) and expanded the empire into Spain (Al-Andalus). The Almoravids built cities, mosques, and supported Islamic learning. They made Marrakesh their capital.

In the 12th century, the Almohads rose to power and defeated the Almoravids. The Almohads were also a Berber movement, started by Ibn Tumart, who believed in religious reform and unity under strict monotheism. Their most famous leader, Abd al-Mu’min, expanded the empire across North Africa and southern Spain, including all of Algeria.

The Almohads supported science, philosophy, and architecture. They built great mosques and cities, such as the Kutubiyya Mosque in Marrakesh and the Giralda in Seville.

Both dynasties played a key role in spreading Islam, developing cities, and uniting North Africa. Their influence is still seen in Algerian culture, art, and Islamic traditions today.

# Activities

## Activity 1: Match the Key Words with Their Definitions

 Match the key terms from the text with their correct definitions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key Words: | Definitions: |
| 1. Almoravids | A. A great mosque built by the Almohads in Marrakesh. |
| 2. Almohads | B. The leader of the Almoravid dynasty who united parts of the Maghreb and expanded the empire into Spain. |
| 3. Yusuf ibn Tashfin | C. A religious reformer who founded the Almohad movement and believed in strict monotheism. |
| 4. Ibn Tumart | D. The capital of the Almoravid and Almohad empires, located in present-day Morocco. |
| 5. Marrakesh | E. A region in southern Spain that was part of the Almohad empire. |
| 6. Al-Andalus | F. A Berber dynasty that ruled North Africa and Spain in the 11th and 12th centuries. |
| 7. Abd al-Mu’min | G. A Berber leader who expanded the Almohad empire and promoted science and philosophy. |
| 8. Kutubiyya Mosque | H. The Almohad leader who oversaw the construction of many architectural works and cities. |

## Activity 2: True and False Statements

 Read the following statements and decide whether they are true or false.

1. The Almoravids were known for their support of art and architecture.
2. The Almohads were founded by Ibn Tumart, who advocated for strict monotheism.
3. Yusuf ibn Tashfin was the leader of the Almohad dynasty.
4. The Almoravids expanded their empire into southern Spain.
5. The Almohads built the Kutubiyya Mosque in Marrakesh.
6. The Almohads focused on promoting science, philosophy, and architecture.

## Activity 3: Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions based on the text.

1. Who was the leader of the Almoravids, and what was his role in the empire's expansion?
2. What was the primary belief of Ibn Tumart, the founder of the Almohads?
3. What contributions did the Almohads make to architecture and knowledge?
4. How did the Almohads differ from the Almoravids in terms of religious beliefs?
5. What impact did the Almoravids and Almohads have on the spread of Islam in North Africa and Spain?

## Activity 4: Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)

 Choose the correct answer from the options given.

1. Who was the founder of the Almohad dynasty?
 a) Abd al-Mu’min
 b) Ibn Tumart
 c) Yusuf ibn Tashfin
 d) Al-Mansur

2. Which city was the capital of both the Almoravid and Almohad empires?
 a) Seville
 b) Algiers
 c) Marrakesh
 d) Cairo

3. Which of the following was NOT a focus of the Almohads?
 a) Science
 b) Architecture
 c) Philosophy
 d) Expanding the empire to China

4. The Almohads and Almoravids were both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ movements.
 a) Persian
 b) Berber
 c) Arab
 d) Ottoman

5. What was one of the most significant architectural contributions of the Almohads?
 a) Alhambra
 b) Great Mosque of Algiers
 c) Kutubiyya Mosque
 d) Hagia Sophia

## Activity 5: Summary

Write a brief summary (3–4 sentences) of the text you read about the Almoravids and the Almohads.