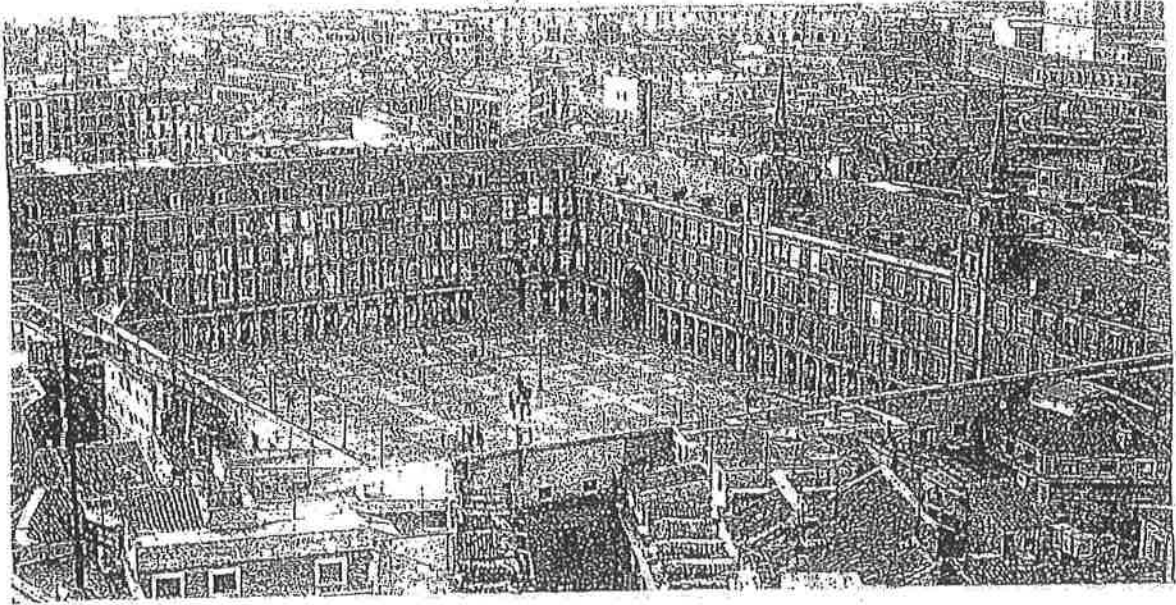


Nombre: _____

Apellido: _____

The Plaza Mayor (Main Square)

Instructions: Read the following article about The Plaza Mayor in Madrid. Then, answer the questions that follow!



The History of the Plaza Mayor

The Plaza Mayor was once known as the Plaza de Arrabal, which means the square of the poor neighborhood. The square was strangely shaped and was surrounded by poor, run down houses. During the reign of King Philip the III (the third), the Council asked architect Gómez de Mora to build a brand new plaza. They asked him to follow the model set by the square in Valladolid, which was the first regular square in Spain.

The Construction

The buildings in the Plaza Mayor were built using brick fronted wooden frames and lead roofing. The square was built in 1620, and the first celebration to take place there was the honoring of St. Isidore. 4,000 people lived in the houses around the Plaza Mayor, and the square itself could hold 50,000 people!

Celebrations and Events in the Plaza Mayor

The Plaza Mayor used to be used for all Court and special occasions, including Royal receptions, executions, bullfights, and jousts. The main commercial activity in the square came from butchers' and bakers' shops and clothing stores. Today, the shops around the Plaza sell souvenirs, coins, and food.

1. The Plaza Mayor was once located in a poor neighborhood.

2. What king was in power when the Plaza was rebuilt?

3. Who rebuilt the Plaza Mayor?

4. What was the new plaza modeled after?

5. The buildings in the Plaza were built using brick fronted wooden frames and lead roofing.

6. When was the new Plaza Mayor built?

7. How many people can fit inside the Plaza?

8. Name three types of events that once took place in the Plaza?

receptions, executions, bullfights, jousts

9. What commercial activity (businesses/shops) took place in the Plaza Mayor in the past?

butcher baker clothing stores

10. What do the shops in the Plaza sell today?

souvenirs coins food

(T) F
King Phillip II
Gómez de Mora

Valladolid

1620

50,000