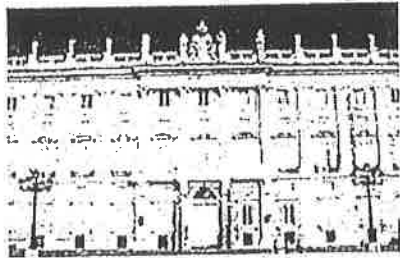


Nombre: _____ Apellido: _____
Culture: El Palacio Real (Madrid, España)

El Palacio Real: Madrid, España

Instructions: Read the following article about El Palacio Real in Madrid. Then, answer the questions that follow!

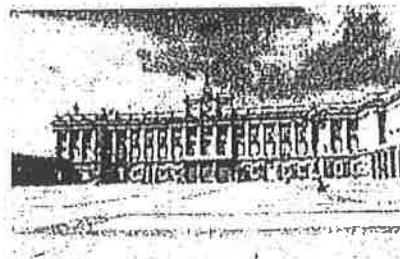
The Palacio Real or Royal Palace is the largest and certainly one of the most impressive palaces in Europe. It has more than 2000 luxuriously decorated rooms, 50 of which can be visited. It is located on the east of Madrid's historic center, within walking distance of the Plaza de España.



Royal Palace

History

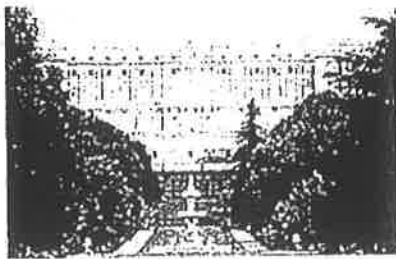
Soon after the Royal Fortress (El Alcazár) burned down on Christmas Eve of 1734, King Philips V wanted to replace the fortress by a palace, this time built from limestone and granite to make it fireproof. Construction of the new palace started in 1738. Twenty-six years and three kings later, the huge palace, was completed. It would take another 100 years before all the rooms were decorated.



Plaza de la Armería

The Palace

Visitors enter the Palace via the large Plaza de la Armería. Some of the sumptuous rooms accessible to visitors are the dining room, the Sala de Porcelana (Porcelain room) and the Salón del Trono (Throne room) with red velvet walls. The palace also includes the Arméria Real, the royal armory collection. It contains a beautiful collection of armory, including King Charles V's armour suit.



View from the Campo del Moro

Royal Residence

King Carlos III, son of King Philips V moved into the new palace in 1764. The Palacio Real would be the main residence of the Spanish kings until 1931, when king Alfonso XIII went into exile after republicans had won the elections and demanded him to step down. Today the royal family lives in the small Zarzuela Palace, a former hunting lodge outside Madrid. The Royal Palace is still used for official ceremonies and receptions. The Palace is bordered on the east by the Campo del Moro, a large park that goes uphill from the Rio Manzanares.

Nombre: _____

Key

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Plaza Oriente

Plaza Oriente

In front of the Palace is the Plaza Oriente, a beautiful square with an equestrian statue of Philips IV. The Royal Palace originally bore the same name as the square, Palacio Oriente, or East Palace. Statues of queens are all over the square. The intention was to put these statues on top of the palace but they were too heavy, so they were placed on the square in front of the palace instead.

1. El Palacio Real is the largest palace in Europe.

(T) F

2. How many rooms are in the Palacio Real?

2000

3. How many rooms can a visitor tour?

50

4. Why was the palace built?

1st one burnt down

5. What year did construction begin?

1738

6. How many years did it take to build El Palacio Real?

26 yrs

7. How many years did it take to decorate El Palacio Real?

100 years

8. What rooms of the palace does the article mention?

a. Armor Room b. Throne Room c. Dining Room

9. Who was the first King to live in the Palacio Real?

King Carlos III

10. When did he move in?

1764

11. When did the kings of Spain stop living in the Palacio Real?

1931

12. Where does the royal family live now?

Zarzuela Palace

13. What is the Palacio Real used for today?

Ceremonies / Receptions

14. What does "Palacio Oriente" mean?

East Palace

15. Where were the statues of queens supposed to go?

On top of palace