

The history of Spanish

Before the Romans 1/6

Narrator:

The history of Spanish in about 6 minutes. Chapter 1: Before the Romans or 'Ante Pasta'

Though Spanish is a Romance language, evolved from Latin... its history begins before the Romans ever set foot on the Iberian Peninsula.

Back in the Second Century BC – the peninsula had several civilisations and languages. Including Iberian, Basque, Celtiberian, Tartessian and Gallaecian. Though not all these civilisations lasted, many words remain today

From the Celts we probably got the words for beer and shirt. While the Basque language brought us cod and top hat and drizzle – which wasn't quite as welcome.

And if all these civilisations weren't enough then the Phoenicians and Carthaginians turned up – with their own languages founding places like Gadir and Malaca now known as Cádiz and Málaga.

Followed by the Greeks from the East – with great words like 'poem' and 'history' which were certainly not a 'problem' plus words like 'hysteria' which were.

But the main influence of Greek on the language didn't come until later – via Latin - and the Romans...