

Year 5 Knowledge Organiser- What was the Golden Age of Islam?

What will I learn?

In this topic we will learn:

- to understand the role of Baghdad in early Islamic Civilisation.
- to locate the countries in the surrounding area using maps.
- historical information about the House of Wisdom and its legacy.
- how life in Baghdad compared with that of Europe at the time of the Islamic Golden Age.
- about the inventions and discoveries of the Golden Age of Islam in science, engineering, maths and medicine.
- to describe and understand what the Silk Road was and how it was used for trade and the exchange of important information between cultures.

My name is Maryam and I am studying mathematics at the House of Wisdom in the centre of Baghdad. Only the other day, one of my colleagues proposed a new number system containing a digit called 'zero'. We think it will change mathematics forever. Baghdad is an amazing place to live with its many bazaars, universities and not to mention, the hospital - the first of its kind. It's also a very peaceful place to live, unlike the western world where there is much unrest.



Previous learning

Y4 topic

You should already know:

- About life in Anglo Saxon Britain
- About life in Viking Britain
- About the spread of the Roman Empire

Y5 topic

Vocabulary Dozen

algebra	The part of mathematics in which letters and other general symbols are used to represent numbers.
calligraphy	Decorative handwritten lettering.
engineer	a person who designs, builds, or maintains engines, machines, or structures
geometric	Repeating, interlaced or overlapped shapes or patterns.
invention	A creation or design that has not existed before
medicine	The science or practice of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.
millennium	A period of a thousand years
numerals	Figures or symbols denoting a number.
scholar	A person who has studied a subject thoroughly.
siege	The surrounding of a place in order to capture it or to force someone to surrender.
Silk Road	A network of trade routes linking China to the Middle east and Europe, first used to carry Chinese Silk.
vegetal	Consisting of foliage and flowers.

Timeline The early Islamic civilisation lasted from 622CE to 1258 CE and was particularly important following the creation of the city of Baghdad in 752CE.



Key Knowledge

Where in the world is Iraq?

- Iraq is one of the easternmost countries of the Arab world, located at about the same latitude as the southern United States. It is bordered to the north by Turkey, to the east by Iran, to the west by Syria and Jordan, and to the south by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

How did Iraq and Europe compare in the dark ages and what made Baghdad important?

Baghdad population: over a million

Millions of books, many thousands of readers.

Clean water and good drainage in cities.

Advanced mathematics used Arabic numbers and the concept of 'zero'.

General peace across a huge Islamic empire.

London population: approximately 20,000

Very few books, only very rich or educated people could read.

Very little drainage in cities, water supplies were unsafe.

Basic mathematics, with Roman numerals and no concept of 'zero'

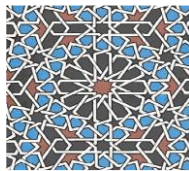
Many wars between Christian kingdoms.

What was the House of Wisdom and why would you visit it?

- The 'House of Wisdom', was founded by Caliph Harun al-Rashid. He encouraged learning and invited scholars of different faiths to attend, treating them with great respect. The House of Wisdom was a library and research facility which collected and translated writing from many cultures, including Persian, Indian, ancient Greek and Roman texts. By AD 900, the House of Wisdom stored more books than anywhere else in the world and was attracting the most brilliant minds to study there.

How did they use geometry?

- Islamic art includes architecture, calligraphy, painted glass, illustrated patterns, pottery, and textile arts based on geometric and vegetal patterns.



Geometric and Vegetal
Patterns



Useful Weblinks

[Islamic Civilisation](#)



What was the Silk Road and how did it make early Islamic cultures powerful?

- The Silk Road helped the early Islamic culture become powerful because it helped to generate trade and commerce between a number of different kingdoms and empires. This helped ideas, culture, inventions, and unique products to spread across much of the settled world through places such as Baghdad.