




Year 5 - Autumn 2 - Early Islamic Civilisation

Why was Baghdad 900 AD so important in its time period and beyond?

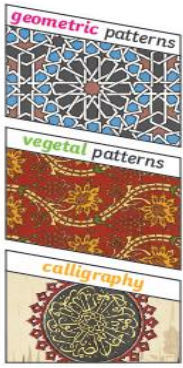
Key Vocabulary	Definition
calligraphy	A form of artistic, decorative writing. It allowed early Islamic artists to communicate a text in decorative ways.
caliph	A caliph is the leader of a caliphate - a political-religious form of government of a Muslim community. A caliph had to be Muslim, male, sane, fair, just and law-abiding.
The House of Wisdom	A library and research facility which collected and translated writing from many cultures. By AD 900, the House of Wisdom had more books than anywhere else in the world. It was founded by Caliph Harun al-Rashid. 
scholar	A person dedicated to learning, often at a high level and in a particular area of study. Early Islamic scholars made many discoveries and inventions. These discoveries include perfume, algebra, treatments of diseases such as small pox and surgical techniques and tools.
concurrent	Historical events that occur at the same time.



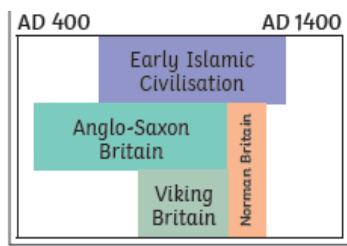
The Early Islamic Civilisation began AD 570 and ended in AD 1258. It spread from the Middle East to North Africa, Spain and India

Important Islamic cities were **Baghdad**, Córdoba and Cairo. Baghdad was the largest city in the world in AD 900.

Islamic Art

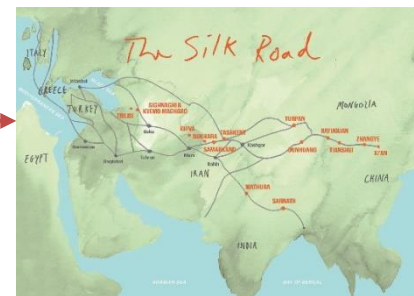


Baghdad and the Islamic Empire	London and Europe
Baghdad population: over a million	London population: approximately 20,000
Millions of books, many thousands of readers.	Very few books, only very rich or educated people could read.
Clean water and good drainage in cities.	Very little drainage in cities, water supplies were unsafe.
Advanced mathematics used Arabic numbers and the concept of 'zero'.	Basic mathematics, with Roman numerals and no concept of 'zero'
General peace across a huge Islamic empire.	Many wars between Christian kingdoms.



This is a history topic. We will be working as historians.

Baghdad was located on the Silk Road so was a centre for trade. The city of Baghdad was built on the banks of the River Tigris. The river provided a great water supply and fertile land.





Must Knows Year 5 – Early Islamic Civilisation

Key Facts

- *Early Islamic Civilisation began around AD 570.
- *The Islamic Empire spread from the Middle East to North Africa, Spain and India.
- *Important early Islamic cities were Baghdad (in modern-day Iraq), Córdoba (in Spain) and Cairo (in Egypt).
- *During Early Islamic Civilisation, the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings settled in Britain.
- *In AD 900, Baghdad was the largest city in the world.
- *The House of Wisdom in Baghdad contained wonderful libraries which preserved knowledge from the Ancient Greeks and the Romans that would otherwise have been lost.
- *It contained the largest collection of books in the world and encouraged great developments in mathematics and science.
- *In Baghdad, there was free education, free health care, public baths and sewage systems.
- *Baghdad was located on the Silk Road so was a centre for trade.
The city's location on the Tigris River meant a great water supply and fertile soil too.