

Year 5 & 6 History – Early Islamic Civilisation Knowledge Organiser

Key Vocabulary

AD: AD is used to show dates after the birth of Jesus.

Caliph: spiritual leader of Islam, former Muslim rulers of Baghdad.

Caliphate: the land ruled by a Caliph.

Concurrent: happening at the same time.

Conquer: to get/gain by force; to win by fighting.

Empire: a large area made up of different societies all ruled by one leader.

Mosque: a place of worship for

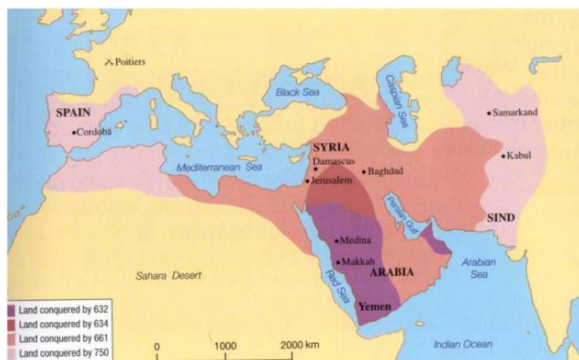
Scholar: a person who knows a great deal about a subject.

Silk Road: a network of historical trade routes that connected China and the Far East with countries in Europe and the Middle East.

Trade: the action of buying and selling goods or services.

The Golden Age of Islam

The religion of Islam began in 610AD when Muhammad received the first revelations of the Qur'an. Following Muhammad's death, the Rashidun Caliphate began. Soon after, the Umayyad Caliphate took over, but this ended in 750AD when the Abbasid Caliphate took control. The Abbasids remained in control until 1258AD. The period between 750AD and 1258AD was known as The Golden Age of Islam.



The growth of Islam across the world

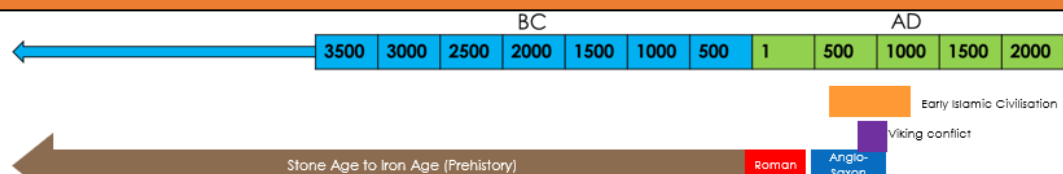
Early Islam began in Makkah (Mecca) but grew quickly, as shown in the map above. From the mid-600s, the Islamic Empire spread throughout the Middle East, west across North Africa and Spain, and east as far as present-day India. The Islamic Empire flourished with trade, invention and innovation.

What was Baghdad like?

Baghdad was a round city. It was built like this so that everywhere was the same distance from the Caliph at the centre. This was also where all the important buildings were. Situated between two rivers, it was at the centre of the world's great trade routes and therefore the Caliph was extremely wealthy. The rich had access to many of the luxuries we do today: libraries, schools, a wide variety of international food and well-lit streets due to links with other countries. They were able to take part in a variety of different activities for pleasure.

Why was Baghdad significant?

Baghdad was the largest city in the world, with a population of 1 million. It was the centre of culture and learning, one reason why it was named The Golden Age of Islam. The House of Wisdom was found in Baghdad, a place where classical works were translated into Arabic. It was at the forefront of medicinal, mathematical and scientific advancements of the age. The Baghdad scholars developed the number system we use today, with the use of zero and the decimal point. Algebra was also developed during this time.



610 AD

The religion of Islam begins.

630

Muhammad gains control of Mecca and it becomes the centre of the Islamic world.

632

Muhammad dies and is succeeded by Abu Bakr. The Rashidun Caliphate begins.

634-661

There are three more Caliphs known as the 'Rightly Guided'. The last is killed in 661 AD.

711

The Islamic army enters Spain, soon taking control of most of that area before pushing into France, where eventually they are defeated.

750

The Abbasid Caliphate takes control.

762

The city of Baghdad is founded and becomes the capital city.

786-809

Caliph Haroun Al-Rasheed reigned, and during this time, the House of Wisdom was constructed.

1025

Ibn Sina completes his encyclopaedia of medicine. This becomes the standard medical textbook in Europe and the Middle East for centuries.

1258 AD

The Mongol army sacks the city of Baghdad, destroying much of the city and killing the Caliph.