



HEAP BRIDGE VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Islamic Civilisation.

Year 5 – Autumn Term



Unit overview

Children can be introduced to the idea that people from other civilisations have contributed to many ideas that impact on us still. They can learn about some of the differences in way of life between citizens of Baghdad and London c. AD 900. Links can be made with other cultures that contributed to the formation of theories that are still used within modern day Britain. Children will also be introduced to personalities who undertook challenges on a huge scale to leave behind fascinating legacies.

Links to prior/future learning

Allows pupils to make a comparison with the 'Viking and Anglo-Saxon struggle for the kingdom of England to the time of Edward the Confessor

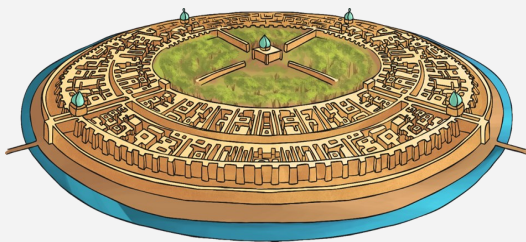
Key objectives: A non—European society that provides contrast with British history.

Period overview, a brief history of Baghdad

For around a thousand years (around AD 700), a vast Islamic civilisation spread from Baghdad, through North Africa and into Spain. Whilst Northern Europe was involved in many wars across its various Christian kingdoms, for the countries of the Islamic Empire this period was one of general peace and had a huge emphasis on scientific and mathematical knowledge. Learning and knowledge was placed at the centre of life in Baghdad, which became the cultural capital of the world. Many scholars travelled there to share, research and advance their knowledge. Baghdad began to attract people from all parts of the world to trade, study and work there.

What was it like to live in Baghdad and how was it different to London around 900AD?

Baghdad was built in a circle, about 1km in diameter, with the mosque and guard headquarters in the centre. Houses were built around the city walls. Baghdad's location was perfect for the city to succeed. It was close to water and established trade routes. Major roads crossed through the city, and many traders set up markets around the entrances.



The Islamic Empire c. AD 1000	Europe c. AD 1000
About one million people lived in Baghdad and its suburbs	About 20,000 people lived in London and its suburbs
Gathered and used books from the ancient Greeks/Romans	Ignored the writings of ancient Greeks and Romans
Millions of books and many thousands of readers.	Very few books and hardly any readers
Clean water and good drainage in cities	Unsafe water supplies and very little drainage in cities
Used advanced mathematics using Arabic numbers and zero	Very poor mathematics using Roman numerals and no zero
Religion tended to encourage scientific study	Religion tended to encourage "blind" faith
General peace across a huge Islamic empire	Many wars between Christian kingdoms

What was the house of wisdom and how did it become a centre for learning?

Bayt Al-Hikma, or 'The House of Wisdom', was built in AD 830 in Baghdad. It was founded by Caliph Harun Al-Rashid. He encouraged learning and invited scholars of different faiths to his court and treated them with great respect. The House of Wisdom was a library and research facility which collected and translated scientific writing from many languages including Persian, Indian, Ancient Greek and Roman texts. Scholars from the House of Wisdom would travel widely to collect texts from all over the world. They would bring them back to translate them into Arabic. By the second half of the 9th century, the House of Wisdom stored more books than anywhere else in the world and was attracting the most brilliant Arab and Persian minds to study there.

In 1258 Mongols from Asia attacked Islamic lands. They destroyed the House of Wisdom, burned Baghdad and killed thousands of people. They threw millions of books into the river which turned the water black with ink!

Chronological Understanding:

AD 637	AD 752:	AD 767:	AD 786:	AD 813:	AD 860:
Islam spreads to Persia, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt	Baghdad is built to be the capital of the Islamic Empire, under the rule of caliph Al-Mansur .	The Mansur Mosque is built.	Caliph Harun Al-Rashid comes to power. The House of Wisdom is founded.	Caliph Al-Ma'mun expands the House of Wisdom	House of Wisdom holds the largest collection of books in the world .

Who was Ibn Battuta and how did his Rihla help us?

Occupation: Traveller and Explorer

Born: February 25, 1304 in Tangier, Morocco

Died: 1369 in Morocco

Best known for: One of the greatest travellers in history

Ibn Battuta spent 29 years traveling the world during the Middle Ages. During his travels, he covered around 75,000 miles of ground which included much of the Islamic Empire and beyond. He is known as one of the greatest travellers in world history. When Ibn Battuta returned to Morocco near the end of his life in 1354, he told many tales of his fantastic journeys abroad. The ruler of Morocco wanted a record of Ibn Battuta's travels and insisted that he tell the stories of his journeys to a scholar. The scholar wrote the accounts down and they became a famous travel book known as the Rihla, which means "Journey."

Who was Al Zahrawi and what could we learn from Muslim medicine?

Al-Zahrawi, often referred to as, 'Abulcasis', was born in the year 936 CE at Madinat al-Zahra, situated close to the city of Cordoba in the Andalusia region of Spain which was then under Islamic rule.

Al-Zahrawi, was a medieval Arab Muslim physician and surgeon who lived and practiced during the golden era of Islamic Civilization. His best claim to fame is the 'Kitab-al-Tasrif'—a compilation of 30 separate books dedicated to medical practices. Kitab-al-Tasrif', comprised of 30 separate books, each focusing on a particular discipline or branch of medicine, and served as a ready reference manual for both practicing physicians and medical students. The book, for the first time in medical history, carried illustrative descriptions on the use of nearly 200 surgical instruments. Together with Ibn Sina and Al-Razi, Zahrawi is regarded as one of the most accomplished Arab Muslim medical practitioners of the 'Middle Ages' and is also looked upon as the 'Father of Modern Surgery'.



Historical vocabulary:

Subject specific vocab (T3)

Vocabulary –

Caliph - A religious and civil leader in a Muslim country.

Qur'an—The holy book where the sacred writings of Islam were revealed by God to the prophet Muhammad during his life at Mecca and Medina.

Mecca—The birthplace of Muhammad and the holiest city of Islam.

House of Wisdom—Also known as the Grand Library of Baghdad, this became a significant research centre for a wide range of subjects like mathematics, science and philosophy. It is thought of as one of the greatest intellectual centres in history.

Mongols—A group of tribes from the grasslands of central Asia that sacked Baghdad, killing thousands and destroying most of the great city.

Scholar- Someone who studies and becomes an expert in what they do. These were important jobs that were well respected.

Mosque—A place of prayer for Muslims, or followers of the religion of Islam.

Civilisation—the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area.

Kingdom—a realm associated with or regarded as being under the control of a particular person or thing.

Empire—an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state.

Baghdad—Also known as The Round City, this was a major city in the Early Islamic civilisation that linked Europe and Asia. It was important for trading and exchanging ideas.

AD 1258:

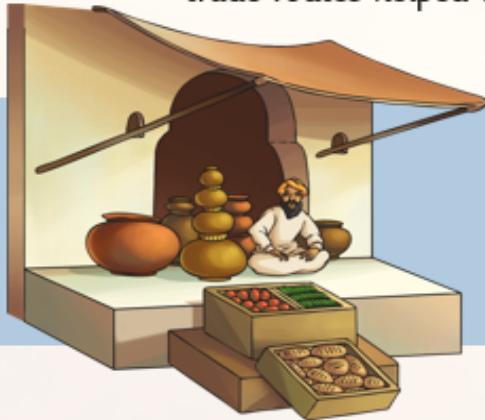
Mongol invasion of Baghdad; House of Wisdom is destroyed .

AD 1325:

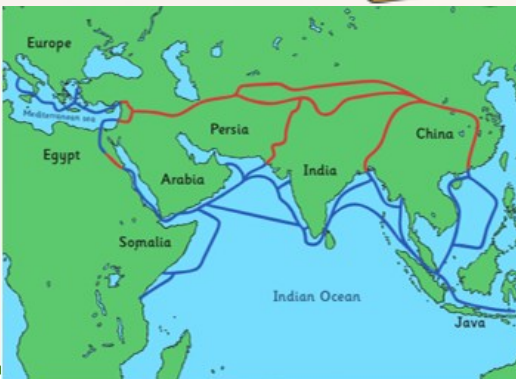
Ibn Battuta leaves Tangier on his 29 year journey

Agriculture, food & trade

During the Golden Age of Islam, from around the 8th century, trade and industry across nations flourished. Baghdad's position at the centre of the east to west trade routes helped the city to become a major power.



In Baghdad, specialised trades and products developed and officials were employed to make sure that craftsmen made quality products using the correct tools and techniques.



This map shows the ancient Silk Road trade route linking east to west. It is called the Silk Road because it was the first used to carry Chinese silk during the time of the Chinese Han dynasty (206 BC—AD220). Products invented or made by people from the early Islamic civilisation were highly valued by

Homes and shelters

The size and style of homes were different for the rich and the poor. Poor people lived in tents or mud huts, while the wealthy lived in large single family homes. The large homes usually had a courtyard in the center with a fountain where people could cool off from the desert heat. While some people lived in towns and villages, others were nomads. Nomads moved about the desert looking for new pastures and water for their animals. They lived in long, low tents that were easy to move about. Some of the first converts to Islam were nomads. They helped Islam to spread rapidly throughout the Middle East as they moved from place to place.

Science, technology and inventions

Science and Technology flourished during the Islamic Golden Age from around 780 CE to 1248 CE. During this time, scholars in the Middle East made great advances in the areas of mathematics, physics, geography, and medicine.

Astronomy was an important part of Islamic science. It was used for navigation, determining an accurate calendar, and for religious purposes (determining the direction of Mecca and prayer times).

Due to the scarceness and importance of water in the Middle East, much of the efforts of Islamic engineers went into ways to store and move water. They built dams, irrigation canals, water-wheels, pumps, aqueducts, and cisterns. They also invented various ways to measure water and control the flow of water.