

Year 7 HT2 – Islamic Civilization

The Islamic Empire is typically considered to have spanned from the time of the Prophet Muhammad's death in 632 CE to the collapse of the Abbasid Caliphate in 1258 CE. This period saw the rise of the Muslim world as a political and cultural force, with great innovations in science, art, and philosophy. The Islamic Empire was a great civilization that existed a long time ago. It started in the 7th century when a man named Muhammad founded the religion of Islam. The empire grew and spread across many lands, including parts of Africa, Europe, and Asia. Muslims, the people who followed Islam, made important contributions in areas like science, medicine, mathematics, and art. They built beautiful mosques and cities, like Baghdad and Cordoba, and created magnificent works of literature. The Islamic Empire was known for its tolerance and respect for different cultures and religions, and it left a lasting impact on the world through its knowledge, trade, and cultural exchange.

During this time, the UK was not yet a unified country and there were concurrent events happening in different parts of the British Isles. One of the most significant events was the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons from mainland Europe in the 5th and 6th centuries, who went on to establish various kingdoms across the region. Another key historical event was the Viking invasions of the 8th and 9th centuries, which had a lasting impact on the history and culture of the British Isles.

Around the world, there were also significant events happening concurrent with the Islamic Empire. For example, in China during the Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE), there were great advances in medicine, astronomy, and other scientific fields. In South Asia, the Gupta Empire (320-550 CE) was an influential force in the region, known for achievements in mathematics and literature.

Returning to the Islamic Empire, some of the key events and developments that occurred during this period include:

1. The Rashidun Caliphate (632-661 CE): This was the first period of Muslim rule after the death of the Prophet Muhammad, during which the first four caliphs oversaw significant territorial expansion.
2. The Umayyad Caliphate (661-750 CE): This was a period of great prosperity and unity for the Islamic Empire, during which the capital was moved to Damascus and the Muslim world experienced significant economic growth and cultural exchange.
3. The Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258 CE): This period saw significant developments in fields such as science, art, and literature, particularly during the Golden Age of Islam (8th-13th centuries). The Abbasid Caliphate also saw the rise of Shi'ism as a political and religious force within the Muslim world.

Throughout these different periods, there were numerous historical events and developments happening in the Islamic Empire and around the world, highlighting the complex nature of chronology and historical interrelation. By studying these events and the time period as a whole, students can gain a better understanding of the impact that the Islamic Empire had on the wider world, as well as its contributions to fields such as science, art, and philosophy.

Further reading:

Fiction:

"The Arabian Nights" by Andrew Lang - This collection of tales from the Islamic Golden Age includes classic stories like "Aladdin" and "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves." It's an excellent introduction to Islamic literature

Non fiction:

"Islamic Empires" by Justin Marozzi - This book explores the history and culture of various Islamic empires, including the Abbasids, Ottomans, and Mughals. It's an excellent introduction to Islamic history