



ELSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
HISTORY
KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

COMPARING EARLY ISLAMIC CIVILISATION IN BAGHDAD TO BRITISH SOCIETY

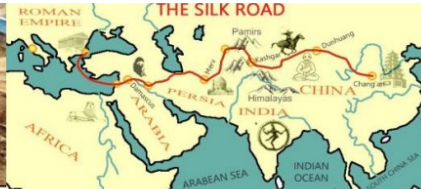
YEAR 5 SPR 2

BIG QUESTION:

'How did Early Islamic civilisation impact modern society?'

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

12000 BC	3100BC	2200 BC	800BC	700 BC	27BC	0	410	570	800	900	1000	2000	2020
Stone Age	Ancient Egyptians	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Ancient Greeks	Roman empire	2,020 years ago	Anglo Saxons	Early Islamic Civilisation	Viking Invasion	Islamic Golden Age	1,020 years ago	20 years ago	Present Day



The City Structure of Baghdad c.900-1200AD

The city was known as 'The Round City.' It was built as two giant semicircles with a mosque at the centre. It housed the caliph's palace, government and military buildings. Residential areas for common people were outside the city walls.

Key People in Early Baghdad

Caliph Al-Mansur - 714-775 AD
 Al-Mansur was the second Abbasid Caliph, who reigned from 754 to 775CE. He is thought of as the first real founder of the Abbasid Caliphate, for his role in growing and stabilizing the dynasty's rule. He is known for founding the 'Round City' of Madinat Al-Salam (now known as Baghdad). Al-Mansur assassinated several of his rivals.



The early Islamic doctor **Al-Zahrawi** is known as 'the father of surgery'.



Ibn Al-Haytham made the world's first camera or pinhole camera.



Al-Khwarizmi worked at the House of Wisdom. He is famous for his contributions to the development of algebra.



The early Islamic doctor **Muhammad Ibn Zakariya Razi** made a significant contribution to the history of medicine.

Ibn al-Haytham - c.965-c.1040 AD
 Hasan Ibn al-Haytham was an Arab mathematician, astronomer, and scientist of the Islamic Golden Age. He is sometimes referred to as the 'Father of Modern Optics' due to his contributions to the understanding of how humans and animals see.

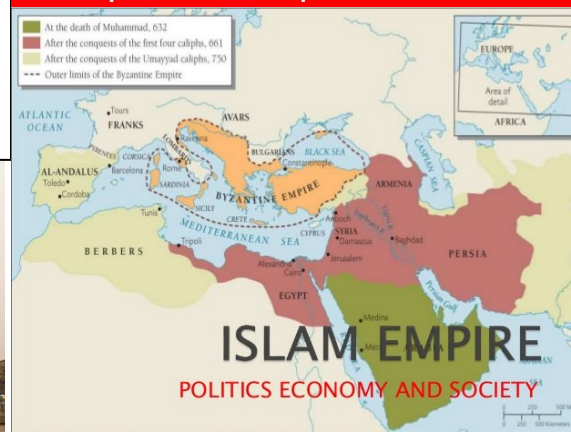
Al-Tabari - 839-923 AD
 Muhammad ibn Jarir al-Tabari was a scholar and historian, who composed all of his works in Arabic. He is best known for his knowledge of world history and understanding of the Qur'an, however he also wrote about subjects as diverse as poetry, grammar and mathematics. He was exceptionally gifted - he memorized the Qur'an at the age of 7 and was a prayer leader by 8!



Life in Early Baghdad

House of Wisdom	The House of Wisdom was a large library and intellectual centre throughout the Abbasid period during the Islamic Golden Age. It housed rare books, and was a leading location for translating old Greek texts into Arabic. Key Fact: Scholars from all over the world moved to Baghdad to study in the House of Wisdom.	Siege of Baghdad	The Siege of Baghdad lasted from January 29th until February 10th, 1258. Led by Hulagu Khan (brother of the ruler, Mongke) the Mongols held a 12-day siege of the city. The caliph, Al Musta'sim, then surrendered. The Mongols executed Al Musta'sim, destroyed the city, and massacred citizens. Key Fact: Mongke had planned to spare the city, until Al Musta'sim refused to submit to his power and provide troops to help him!
The Four Gates	The city had four gates: Bab al-Kufa, Bab al-Sham, Bab al-Khorasan and Bab al-Basra. The walls and gates were designed to protect the city from foreign invasions. Important buildings were all placed inside the gates. Key Fact: The four gates were all eventually destroyed, and new ones built elsewhere.	Literacy	Literacy was highly valued - people were expected to learn Arabic so that they could read the Qur'an. The spread of literacy meant that ideas could now reach a wider audience. Key Fact: The numbers system we use now was perfected at this time.
The Golden Gate Palace	At the centre of the city stood the two finest buildings, the Golden Gate Palace and The Great Mosque. Surrounding the palace was a promenade, where only the caliph was allowed. Key Fact: In the central part of the building was a dome 39 metres high.	Health	Hospitals of the time treated all patients without charge, and provided them with accommodation until they were cured. Studies of the anatomy led to improvements in surgical techniques. Key Fact: Modern hospitals have their origins in hospitals of this period.
The Tigris River	The Round City was built alongside the River Tigris. It is the easternmost of the two great rivers that define the Mesopotamia region. The river granted easy access to traders and travellers to and from the Persian Sea. Key Fact: The Tigris is about 1,750km long!	Art and Design	Islamic art and design flourished throughout this period. Complex geometric designs were fashionable, including tessellating patterns on roof and floors. Notable developments were also made in ceramics and calligraphy. Key Fact: Islamic decoration avoids using figures, so focuses on patterns.
Founding the City	The caliph Al-Mansur, with the intention of creating a new capital, founded the city; after defeating the Umayyads, the Caliphate wanted to rule from his own seat. Key Fact: Al-Mansur consulted astrologers before beginning construction!	Silk Road	Known as the Silk Road, this vast expanse of intercultural trade routes traversed Eurasia from the Mediterranean all the way to Japan, crossing into India on the way. Textiles, spices and even religions were all exchanged along the Silk Road. For much of this time, Islam was the dominant religion among Silk Road traders coming from western Eurasia. Key Fact: Islamic scientific and medical advancements also had significant impact on Silk Road travellers.
Siege of Baghdad	The Siege of Baghdad lasted from January 29th until February 10th, 1258. Led by Hulagu Khan (brother of the ruler, Mongke) the Mongols held a 12-day siege of the city. The caliph, Al Musta'sim, then surrendered. The Mongols executed Al Musta'sim, destroyed the city, and massacred citizens. The event is considered the end of the Islamic Golden Age. Key Fact: Mongke had planned to spare the city, until Al Musta'sim refused to submit to his power and provide troops to help him!		

Map of the Islam Empire 632AD - 750AD



Islamic Art



Vocabulary

caliph	the chief Muslim civil and religious ruler
Caliphate	The Islamic government
Muhammad	Founder of Islam
Baghdad	Modern city in Iraq that was once capital of the Abbasid Caliphate
Mosques	Islamic places of worship
Minaret	A tower that is used to call Muslims to prayer
Mecca	Most holy city of Islam
Umayyad	This caliphate ruled after the First Four Caliphs
Abbasid Caliphate	The Golden age of Islam
Arabesque	Arab decoration using scrolling patterns
Dinar	Gold coin used during the Islamic Empire

Recommended websites

- <https://www.ducksters.com/history/islam/>
- <https://www.factmonster.com/history/world/dk-history-islamic-civilization>