

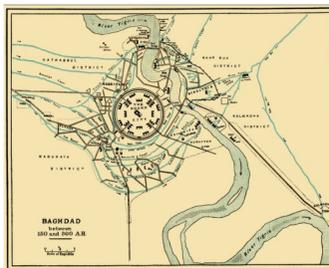
Islamic Civilisations: A Study of Baghdad c. AD 900

Vocabulary

civilisation	A group of people with their own languages, culture and way of life.
Golden Age	An important time of prosperity (success and wealth) and discovery.
Dark Ages	The time when European civilisation went into decline after the fall of the Roman Empire. There was a loss of the culture and knowledge which the Romans had.
invention	Something new that has never been made before.
innovate	To introduce changes or new ideas. To do something in a new way.
Caliph	The chief Muslim civil and religious ruler.
scholar	Someone at university who studies and knows a lot about a subject.
trade	Buying and selling or exchanging items.
Silk Road	A network of trade routes linking China to the Middle East and Europe, first used to carry Chinese silk.
Mongol Empire	The empire included land stretching from Mongolia to parts of Eastern Europe. Genghis Khan was the ruler from c. 1162-1227.

Key facts

- At the time, Baghdad was the largest city in the world with a population of about 1 million.
- It was a perfectly round city with all the important buildings in the centre.
- Baghdad was built between two rivers which meant that it could trade with countries all over the world and the caliph was very rich.



- The House of Wisdom was a research and educational centre which attracted scholars from many countries.
- Many things we still used today were invented e.g. pharmacies, decimal counting system

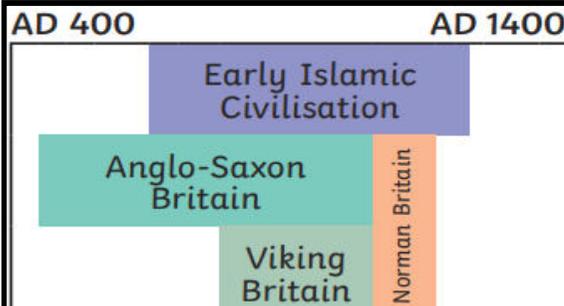
Timeline of events

AD 634	Under the second Caliph, Umar, the Islamic Empire expands to include much of the Middle East (including Iraq, Egypt, Syria and part of North Africa).
AD 750—1258	The new capital city in Baghdad is built and the Islamic Empire experiences the Golden Age.
AD 830	The House of Wisdom is built in Baghdad.
AD 859	Fatima al-Fihri founded the Al-Qarawiyyin Mosque which developed into a teaching centre and university. It is one of the oldest universities in the world.
AD 1000	Al-Zahrawi finishes his medical book, Al-Tasrif. It was used by doctors for another 500 years.
AD 1025	Ibn Sina completes his encyclopaedia of medicine—The Canon of Medicine. It was used as the main book in universities for another 700 years.
AD 1258	The Siege of Baghdad— the Mongol army attacks Baghdad and destroys much of the city.

What you will learn by the end of the unit:

- Draw a timeline showing The Golden Age of Islam in relation to other periods studied – Romans/Anglo-Saxons/Vikings.
- Understand why/how Baghdad could have a 'golden age' and Britain have a 'dark age' at the same time.
- Know about some achievements and inventions in Baghdad during the Golden Age of Islam.
- Compare events and life in Anglo Saxon/Viking England during the Dark Ages with Baghdad during the Golden Age of Islam.
- Explain how Britain may have learned from other countries/civilisations and some of the ways in which the Golden Age of Islam has influenced our lives today.
- Use primary and secondary sources to understand that historical sources may reflect different viewpoints.

Timeline



Map of modern Iraq and its capital, Baghdad