

Spring | History: The Islamic Golden Age

Timeline

571	610	630	632	692	762	810	900	950	1258
Muhammed (pbuh) born in Mecca	Revelations of the Qur'an - Islam begins	Mecca (Saudi Arabia) becomes centre of Islam	Muhammed (pbuh) dies. Abu Bakr 1st Caliph	The Dome of the Rock completed in Jerusalem	Baghdad (The Round City) built	Baghdad is centre of education, science and maths	Paper arrives from China	The decline of the Abbasid caliphate	Baghdad destroyed by Mongols

Sticky Knowledge

Mathematics

Islamic scholars and inventors adopted the Hindi symbol for zero and style of numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc.) which we still use today. This enabled them to explore and develop new areas of mathematics such as algebra, algorithms and the tessellation of shapes. Major advances were made in science, maths and medicine that are still used today.

Baghdad

During the Golden Age, Baghdad became a centre of knowledge and culture, where people travelled to from all over the world. 'The Round City' was built as two large semicircles with a mosque at the centre and housed the Caliph's Palace, libraries, government and military buildings.



Trade

The bustling markets and shops around the mosque contained goods from everywhere due to Baghdad's position on the 'Silk Road' to the far-east. Connected to this, was the presence of traders from all across the known world who flocked to Baghdad to sell their wares helping to develop their civilisation, share stories and spread religions.

Why was the Islamic Golden Age so Significant?

During the Golden Age, Baghdad became a centre of knowledge and culture. Major advances were made in science, maths and medicine. Scholars travelled to the city from all around the world to study. Baghdad sits on the banks of the River Tigris. Sailors and merchants brought precious items from around the world to the city. As well as being a Muslim community, people with other beliefs lived there, including Jews and Christians. It is believed that during this period of prosperity, the population of Baghdad reached two million people at its peak! We will explore what life was like during the Islamic Golden Age and how much of an impact of this on the rest of the world and society today.

Key Vocabulary

Caliph	The ruler who led the Caliphate and was considered as the successor of the Prophet Muhammad
The Caliphate	The name given to the Muslim government which ruled the Islamic Empire during the Middle Ages
Mosque	Islamic place of worship
The House of Wisdom	A huge library attracting thinkers from around the world who translated texts into Arabic.
The Golden Age	From 762-1258 when art, architecture, science, philosophy and Islamic culture flourished.
Trade	Trade The action of buying and selling good to make a profit
Qu'ran	The central religious text of Islam (the recitation) believed to be the revelations from God.

Book that we will read for knowledge or pleasure...



Significant Places/ People

Muhammad (pbuh) (571-632)

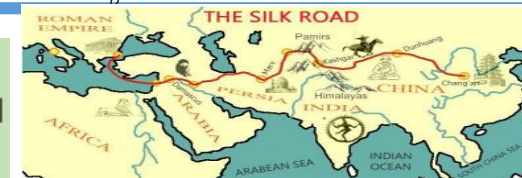
The founder of Islam. According to the Islamic doctrine, he was a prophet sent to present and confirm the teachings of preached previously by Adam, Abraham, Moses, Jesus and other prophets.

Literacy was highly valued with people expected to learn to read Arabic so they could understand the teachings of the Qur'an. The spread of literacy and paper making meant that new ideas could reach a wider audience. When the Mongols destroyed the city of Baghdad, they threw so many manuscripts into the Tigris that its waters were said to have run black with ink!



The Silk Road

The Silk Road was an ancient network of trade routes that started over 2,000 years ago. It was first used to carry goods from Asia to Europe and was called the Silk Road because silk was exported from China. This enabled China to sell this valuable material with other countries but brought many other benefits to the countries along its paths bringing in money and developing their civilisation. Although the Silk Road had many benefits for developing countries, unfortunately, many died due to diseases spread along the Silk Road- including the spread of the Bubonic Plague.



Abu Bakr (573-634)

Companion and father-in-law (through his daughter Aisha) of the prophet Muhammad (pbuh). He became the first Muslim Caliph after the prophet's death.

Haroun al-Rashid (766-809)

Caliph from 786-809 who defeated the Byzantines in battle (806). He made links with European Empires such as Charlemagne in France.

Al-Khwarizmi (c780-850)

A mathematician, astronomer and scientist who provided the foundations of algebra and other concepts.

Caliph Abbas (c854-902)

First Abbasid Caliph who moved Abbasid capital from Kufa to Baghdad.