

Knowledge Organiser

Year Group	Subject	Topic
4	Humanities	The Islamic Golden age

The Big Picture

What is the Islamic Golden age? The Islamic golden age refers to the Islamic empire during the middle ages which later became one of the largest empires in history. 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 2 million people at its peak! The Golden Age ended in 1258 CE when the Mongols defeated the Abbasids. The Abbasids fled to Egypt. The children will explore what life was like during the Islamic golden age and how much of an impact they had on the rest of the world. Baghdad became the centre for learning where people travelled all over the world.

Key Vocabulary

The 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.
Round City	Baghdad was named the 'Round city' As it was built as two large circles and a mosque in the centre.
Mosque	Islamic place of worship
House of wisdom	This was a place which acted as a library, translation centre and school
Mongols	A tribe of nomads who rode on horseback across central and northern Asia. One army of Mongols, led by Hulagu Khan, were set a target of conquering Syria, Persia and Egypt
Trade	The action of buying and selling good to make a profit
Dinar	A gold coin used by the Islamic Empire.
5 pillars of Islam	The main framework of the Islamic religion: 1) Shahada (profession of faith) 2) Salah (prayer) 3) Zakat (charitable giving) 4) Fasting 5) Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca)

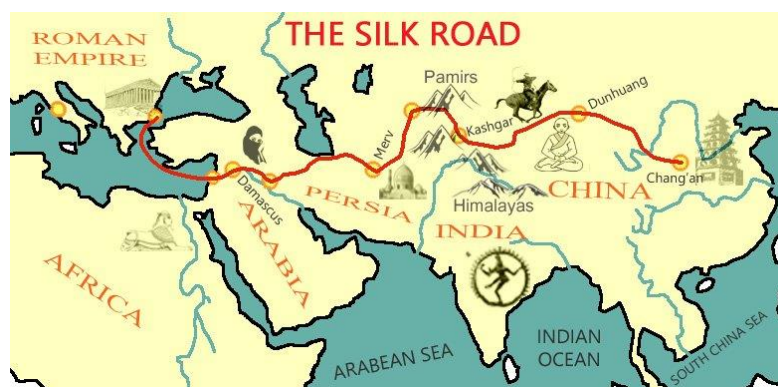
Enquiry Questions

What was the Islamic Golden age?
 What are the similarities and differences between The Islamic Empire and Europe AD 1000?
 How did Baghdad have an impact on the rest of the world?
 What is the House of Wisdom and what was its significance?

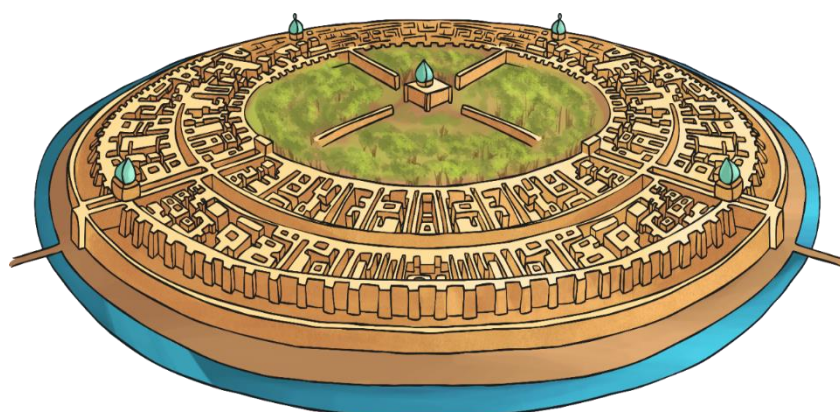
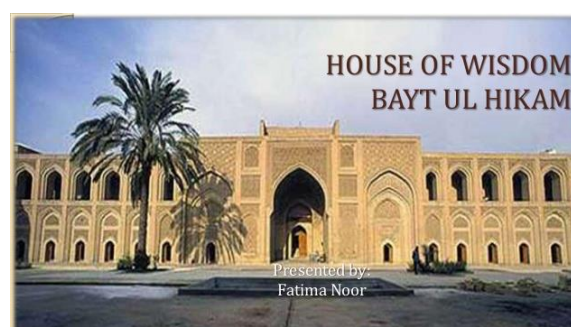
Key Places

House of Wisdom	The House of Wisdom was built in Baghdad as the centre of learning and knowledge. Many scholars travelled there.
Bagdad	It 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.
Silk Road Trade Route	The route which traders used to carry goods, it was called silk road because it was first used to carry silk.

Important Dates	
AD 637	Islam spreads to Persia,
AD 752	Baghdad is built to be the capital of the Islamic Empire.
AD 936	Al-Zahrawi is born. He refines the science of surgery and invents many surgical instruments
AD 786	The House of Wisdom is founded.
AD 1258	Mongol invasion of Baghdad; House of Wisdom is destroyed



Key People	
The Caliph	The ruler who led the Caliphate and was considered as the successor of the Prophet Muhammad
Al-Zahrawi	Al-Zahrawi refined the science of surgery and invents many surgical instruments
Harun Al-Rashid	AD 786 became Caliph
Abu Bakr	Caliph during AD 632 – 634
Umar	Caliph during AD 634 – 644
Uthman	Caliph during AD 644 – 656
Ali	Caliph during AD: 656 - 661
Muhammad	Founded Islam when he believed he was hearing messages from God.



Bagdad AD 752

