

Year 6: EARLY ISLAMIC CIVILISATION

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:



Islam and Civilisation:

As well as Islam being one of the major world religions, historically there has also been an Islamic civilisation

The Islamic civilisation spanned from 630 CE to 1924, when the caliphate was abolished.

The Golden Age took place between 750 and 1258. This was during the time if the Saxons and Vikings in Britain and continued until after the Battle of Hastings.

Muhammad:

Muhammad was born in 570 CE in Mecca.

He founded the religion of Islam in 610 when he received the first revelations of the Qur'an.

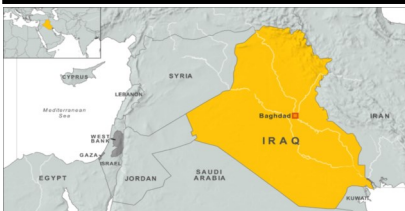
In 622, he and his followers migrated to Medina to avoid persecution.

Muhammad and his followers returned to Mecca in 630 and it became the centre of Islam.

Muhammad died in 632 and this was the start of the rule of the caliphs.

A caliph was a leader of an Islamic state and was the leader of the entire Muslim community.

Baghdad:



In 762 CE, Caliph Al-Mansur founded the city of Baghdad, which became the capital of the Islamic world.

It was at the centre of Mesopotamia on the Tigris River.

By 900CE Baghdad had become a significant city and people from all over the world visited. It was known as 'The City of Peace'

Between 900 and 1200 the population of Baghdad reached 2 million people. (The largest city in the world at the time).

Who?



Ibn Al-Haytham

965-1040 CE

An Arab mathematician, astronomer, and scientist.

Sometimes referred to as the 'Father of Modern Optics' due to his contributions to the understanding of how animals and humans see.

He was the first to identify that light bounces off an object and then travels to the eye.

He was the first to point out that vision occurs in the brain, not the eyes.

Baghdad was a world centre of learning and was the home of 'The House of Wisdom' - a large library and intellectual centre. It housed rare books and was a leading location for the translation of Greek texts into Arabic. It attracted many scholars from all around the world.

It was known as The Round City. In the centre was a mosque. The palace, government and military were inside the city walls and common people lived outside the city walls.



Al-Tabari

839-923 CE

A scholar and historian who wrote in Arabic.

He is best known for his knowledge of world history and understanding of the Qur'an.

He also wrote about poetry, grammar and mathematics.

He memorised the Qur'an at the age of 7 and was a prayer leader by 8!



Al-Farabi

872-950/951 CE

Known in Western Society as Alfarabius.

He was a well-known philosopher, who added a great deal of knowledge about politics, ethics and logic.

He was also a well-respected scientist, mathematician and cosmologist.

He preserved a number of original Greek texts through the middle ages.

KEY VOCABULARY:



CALIPH: a spiritual leader of Islam



CALIPHATE: an institution or place under the leadership of a caliph



COMMUNITY: a group of people living in the same place



INTELLECTUAL: a person of good intelligence



MESOPOTAMIA: a historic region of Western Asia



MIGRATED: move from one region to another



PERSECUTION: treated badly because of race, political or religious beliefs



PHILOSOPHER: a person engaged in learning



POPULATION: all the inhabitants of a particular place



PROMENADE: a paved public walkway



REVELATIONS: a surprising and previously unknown fact that has been told by others



STANDARDISATION: the process of making everything the same or similar



TRANSLATING: express in another language