

History – Early Islamic Civilization

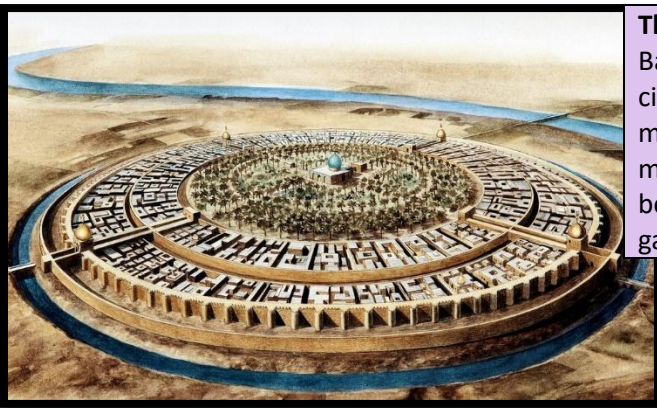
Caliphate	An area ruled by a caliph, the chief Muslim religious and political leader.
Culture	The ideas and social behaviour of particular people or society.
Empire	An extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy, or a sovereign state.
Middle East	A region that generally includes Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Cyprus, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq,, Israel, the West Bank, Libya, Jordan, Sudan, the Gaza Strip, Kuwait, Yemen, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.
Observatory	A building equipped for the study of the stars and planets.
Pagan	People who worship many gods
Quran	The Islamic sacred book, believed to be the word of God as dictated to Muhammad by the archangel Gabriel and written down in Arabic
Religion	The belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods
Scholar	A scholar is a highly educated person.
Trade	The action of buying and selling goods and services.

Early Islamic Civilisation

From the seventh to the thirteenth centuries CE, the Islamic Empire controlled vast stretches of Asia, Africa and Europe. Its extraordinary leaders, soldiers, scholars and scientists made the empire one of the most advanced civilisations the world had ever seen. This advanced society built the world’s first hospitals, universities and observatories. Meanwhile, Europe, who were in the Dark Ages, were under Viking influence. The story of Islamic civilisation started with the birth of the Prophet Muhammad.

Silk Road

The Silk Road was a vast trade network connecting Southern Europe, East Asia and East Africa via land and sea routes. It earned its name from Chinese silk, a highly valued commodity that merchants transported along these trade networks. The Silk Road was over 9,000 kilometres long. To the left is a map showing the major route that traders took along the ancient Silk Road.



The Round city of Baghdad
Baghdad was a huge circular city where great advances in mathematics and science were made. The city included beautiful palaces, mosques, gardens, libraries and parks.

House of Wisdom

The House of Wisdom was built primarily as a library. The writings of the Greeks, Romans and Arabs were collected here. Scholars and philosophers, such as Aristotle and Plato, had their ideas translated here.



Timeline of Early Islamic Civilization

- 570:** Birth of Muhammad
- 613:** Muhammad begins to spread the word of Islam
- 622:** The Hijra
- 624:** The Battle of Badr
- 630:** Muhammad founded the religion
- 632:** D-Day, the Allied invasion of Normandy, launches the liberation of Western Europe.
- 637:** Germany surrenders, and the war in Europe ends.
- 762:** Japan surrenders after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, officially ending World War Two.
- 786:** House of Wisdom is founded



The Early Islamic World was a period of rapid expansion for both the Islamic Empire and the religion of Islam. The religion of Islam was founded in 610CE by the Prophet Muhammad in the city of Mecca (modern day Saudi Arabia). The religion soon spread throughout the region and had a major impact on the culture of the Middle East.

Why did the divide between Sunni and Shi’a Muslims happen?

Sunni and Shi’a Muslims agree on the basic principles of Islam, such as believing in one God and the importance of the prophets. They also share the same holy book - the Qur’an.

The reason there has been a split into different branches is due to differences in belief about who was the rightful successor to the Prophet Muhammad as leader of the Muslim community after his death.

Many Muslims believed that Abu-Bakr, the Prophet’s closest companion would be the first Caliph (which means ‘deputy to God’s Prophet’). This is the Sunni viewpoint. A minority believed that Ali, the Prophet’s son-in-law should lead the community. These Muslims came to be known as Shi’a, which means ‘Party of Ali’

Rationing

- https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/history/muhammad_1.shtml
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/texts/quran_1.shtml
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/holydays/alhijra.shtml>
- <https://www.bbc.com/education/clips/zv6sb9q>

