



Where is Baghdad?

Modern day Baghdad can be found in Iraq. Iraq is a country within the continent of Asia. Iraq is in the west of Asia and the west of Asia is often referred to as the Middle East.



What was the Golden Age of Islam?

Between the 7th and 10th centuries, Baghdad was a place of great wealth. The city was positioned between great trade routes and made goods that were very desirable such as paper and ceramic tiles. It was also a centre of learning. Because of all of the wealth and achievements, this period was described as the Golden Age of Islam.



Timeline

c.600-700AD

- Prophet Muhammed spread the religion of Islam.
- Caliphs continued Muhammed's work.
- Caliphs conquered land to the north and west.

c.700-800AD

- Start of the Abbasid dynasty.
- Al-Mansur moved the capital city to Baghdad.
- Al-Mansur built the Round City next to the River Tigris.
- Baghdad was positioned well on the Silk Road for trade.
- Baghdad made many desirable items to trade like paper.



c.1000-1300AD

- The Crusades destroyed parts of the Islamic Empire.
- Seljuk Turks invaded Baghdad. Tughril Beg became the leader of Baghdad.
- Mongols attacked and completely destroyed Baghdad.

c.900-1000AD

- Because of its position near the river, Baghdad was a clean city to live in.
- Children in Baghdad had an education even if it was mainly boys.
- Baghdad was mostly peaceful and tolerant of all religions.

c.800-900AD

- Al-Khwarizmi made advancements in science and mathematics.
- Scholars were able to read, translate and improve knowledge.
- Al-Razi wrote many books on medicine that helped people better understand diseases years later.

Significant People and Places



The Round City of Baghdad

The Round City was built in 762AD. It took four years to build by around 100,000 craftsmen. It included an outer circle that was 32m thick and 27m high and was surrounded by a deep water-filled trench.



Tigris River

The Tigris River ran alongside the Round City of Baghdad. It was a vital source of water and an important transport link to the Persian Gulf.



House of Wisdom

The House of Wisdom was a type of library. Many scholars from around the world came to translate and preserve ancient texts.



The Middle East

The Middle East includes land from most of West Asia and parts of North Africa. Some of the countries that are part of the Middle East include Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, and Libya.

Glossary

1	algebra	a problem-solving system where letters and other symbols are used to represent numbers and quantities
2	allies	nations who choose to support each other
3	astrology	the study of the movements and relative positions of planets and stars and how they may have an influence on the world
4	astrolabe	a circular metal disc with pointers for measuring the angles of the stars
5	astronomy	a branch of science that studies space and the universe
6	caliph	the chief Muslim ruler, viewed as the successor of Muhammad
7	civil war	a war between citizens within the same country
8	drainage	the action of removing surface water or sewage to keep places clean
9	dynasty	a line of rulers of a country
10	Islam	the religion of the Muslims revealed through Muhammad as the Prophet of Allah
11	merchants	a person selling and buying goods with foreign countries
12	observatory	a room or building for scientific equipment to be used to study natural phenomena in the universe
13	papyrus	a plant that was stripped and used to make paper by the ancient Egyptians
14	prophet	a person seen as an inspired teacher spreading the word
15	Qur'an	the holy book of the religion Islam
16	scholars	a specialist in a particular subject
17	textiles	a type of cloth or woven fabric
18	territory	an area that is controlled by a country
19	translators	people who translate from one language into another as their job
20	wood pulp	a mixture of wood chips and chemicals that was compressed to make paper

Significant People and Places



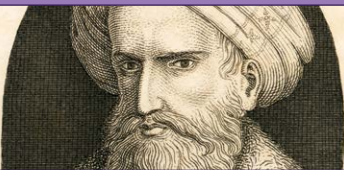
Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi

Al-Khwarizmi studied ancient Indian scientific books. He was one of the greatest astronomers creating a table to predict the position of the sun and planets. He also wrote many books on mathematics and calculation. His work is still used today.



Abu Ja'far Abdallah ibn Muhammad al-Mansur, 754AD

Al-Mansur was the second Abbasid Caliph. Because his brother died in 754AD, after only five years as caliph, Al-Mansur worked to establish the Abbasid caliphate. He removed all opposition and he moved the capital city to Baghdad where he had the most support. He created the Round City.



Harun al-Rashid 786AD

Harun al-Rashid was the fifth Abbasid Caliph. During his rule, there were many local revolts. However, it was also a time of great wealth and it is said that Baghdad flourished as he established the House of Wisdom and the Baghdad hospital.



Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariya Al-Razi

Al-Razi has been described as one of the greatest physicians. He is well-known for writing over 200 books on medicine and various areas of science. He became chief physician of Baghdad hospital.